

Art and Design – (specification Fine Art)

Examination Board: AQA

Why Art and Design?

In Art and Design the creative process gives students opportunities to understand art as something that matters in their lives. It gives students more choice, autonomy and empowerment. In Art the individual journey of discovery, risk taking and learning leads to an imaginative, self-aware learner. Students will work under the endorsement Fine Art and should produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas of study, for example, drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed-media, sculpture, ceramics, installation, moving image (video, film, animation) and photography. **NB: Students can choose to study A Level Photography as a stand-alone course within the art department.**

Subject Entry Requirements

A minimum grade of 7 or above is required in GCSE Art. The A level Fine Art course is recommended for those students who will apply for an Art Foundation or an art related degree course.

Course Content

A level:	Component 1 Personal investigation	Students will complete a skill building introduction course during the Autumn term, based on a broad theme such as ‘Natural/ Mechanical’. In February they will begin their <u>Component 1</u> , where students are required to conduct a <u>Personal Investigation</u> , into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the student and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Around 1 hour of independent work and homework is expected for every taught hour, in order to meet the demands of the course. Life drawing is offered as an extra-curricular course during Autumn and is strongly recommended to support the portfolio.
	Component 2 Externally set assignment	Students will be provided with AQA examination papers on 1 st February during the second year of the course. AQA set a choice of eight questions to be used as starting points. Students are required to select one. The preparatory period is 8 weeks from 1 st February. In May, students will complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time during which they must produce a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes, informed by their preparatory work.
Assessment level	Component 1: 60% Component 2: 40%	

Commonly used modes of learning

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of two-dimensional and/or three-dimensional media, processes and techniques. Students will explore the use of drawing for different purposes, using a variety of methods and media on a variety of scales. Practical work will be informed by the work of other artists, designers and photographers, including work from primary sources during visits to galleries and museums. There is an emphasis on risk-taking and exploring the wider issues and concepts of art and design. All work will be documented in sketchbooks, including self-assessment and critical analysis.

What opportunities will studying Art provide?

This subject covers many disciplines and is particularly suitable for those who wish to pursue degree courses and related careers in fine art as well as design (graphic, 3D, fashion and textile, jewellery), photography, film and animation, architecture, games design, advertising, marketing and illustration. Many of our students progress onto Art Foundation courses in preparation for degree courses. A lot of our students also pursue architecture and medicine.

Biology

Examination Board: Edexcel, SNAB (Salters Nuffield 'A' Level Biology)

Why Biology?

Biology is an incredibly interesting subject. How many subjects teach you about things that are actually happening around you as you learn about them? If you like problem solving, intellectual rigor and application of mathematical skills then biology is a great way to satisfy these needs. A keen interest in the subject is required as well as the ability to show resilience when solving problems and applying knowledge to a wide range of subjects. Do not apply if you are not prepared to show an excellent attitude to your studies in and out of the classroom.

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE Biology.

Course Content

Topic 1	Lifestyle, health and risk
Topic 2	Genes and health
Topic 3	Voice of the genome
Topic 4	Biodiversity and natural resources
Topic 5	On the wild side
Topic 6	Infection, immunity and forensics
Topic 7	Run for life
Topic 8	Grey Matter

These topics are then tested across 3 papers.

A level	9BN01	The Natural Environment & Species Survival
	9BN02	Energy, Exercise & Co-ordination.
	9BN03	General and Practical Applications in Biology
Assessment	Written exam	2 hrs. for each paper

Students will also be working towards a Science Practical Endorsement which will be internally assessed and externally moderated. It will appear on the exam certificate as a pass or fail, but will not contribute the A Level grade.

Commonly used modes of learning

Practical work, independent learning (interactive), discussions, debates, group work, field visits, data analysis and presentation. 15% of the marks awarded are for Mathematics so this will also be a regular component of lessons.

What opportunities will studying Biology provide?

Biology links to a wide range of courses and careers that include life-sciences, medicine, veterinary science, environmental and forensic science, biological testing, biotechnology, research and the food industry. It also sits well at A Level with all the Sciences and Mathematics. There is also cross over with subjects such as Geography, PE, Psychology and Food Technology.

Chemistry – A Level

Examination Board: AQA

A-level Chemistry is a rigorous, challenging and ultimately rewarding course that develops students' scientific skills and knowledge. The AQA course followed at Wallington High School for Girls ensures that the subject content is relevant to real world experiences and is interesting to teach and learn. This Chemistry specification is a stepping stone to future study, which has been designed in consultation with universities, to ensure this specification allows students to develop the skills that they want to see. This approach has led to a specification that will help you to inspire students, nurture their passion for chemistry and lay the groundwork for further study in courses such as chemistry, medicine and pharmacy.

This qualification is linear with three external examinations as well as a practical assessment unit.

Why Chemistry?

A-level Chemistry is a requirement for many University courses – particularly Science-related courses. It demonstrates that you are numerate and good at problem-solving. It is also a great deal of fun.

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry.

Course Content

The exams will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives.

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, and techniques.

AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures

AO3: Analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence

Component	Maximum raw mark
Paper 1	105
Paper 2	105
Paper 3	90
Total mark:	300

Commonly used modes of learning

Practical work (individually, in pairs and larger groups), research, presentation skills, calculations, problem-solving, analysing information, data-handling and report-writing.

What opportunities will studying Chemistry provide?

Entry into medicine, veterinary science, pharmaceuticals, biology courses. Problem-solving and planning skills feature in various fields.

Classical Civilisations

Examination Board: OCR

Why Classics?

Perfect for enquiring minds that like to come to their own conclusions and enjoy reading and thinking. This course has clear links to Drama and Literature, Philosophy, History, Politics, Psychology, Art & Architecture, etc.

The multi-disciplinary nature of Classical Civilisation means that students will be developing highly sophisticated transferable skills that have universal application in a variety of fields.

A high percentage of students who take this course go on to study Classics and/ or Classics-related subjects (i.e. Combined English/Classics, Ancient History, Archaeology, etc.) at top universities; Classics students have also studied Classics beyond undergraduate level (i.e. MA, PhD).

Subject Entry Requirements

No additional requirements

Course Content

A Level	Component 1 The World of the Hero	Ancient Epic: <i>Homer's Iliad</i> AND <i>Vergil's Aeneid</i>
	Component 2 Culture & the Arts	Greek Theatre (including): <i>Sophocles' Oedipus the King</i> , <i>Euripides' Bacchae</i> , AND <i>Aristophanes' Frogs</i>
	Component 3 Beliefs & Ideas	Love & Relationships (including): Women in Greece and Rome Plato Seneca Sappho Ovid
Assessment	Three written examinations	

Commonly used modes of learning

Lectures, presentations, group / individual research, seminars, discussions, conferences / visits.

What opportunities will studying Classics provide?

Classics complements other literary and historically based subjects (see above). It gives excellent preparation for university and beyond, as the analytical skills required anticipate thinking at a far higher level.

More importantly, Classical Civilisation is an extremely thought-provoking discipline that explores complex ideas and themes in fascinating and fun ways.

Computer Science

Examination Board: AQA

Why Computer Science?

Computer Science is an important, fundamental, academic discipline underpinning other subjects. This will enable students to:

1. Develop problem solving skills
2. Exercise creativity
3. Explore interests

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE Computer Science.

Course Content

- Fundamentals of programming
- Fundamentals of data structures
- Fundamentals of algorithms
- Theory of computation
- Fundamentals of data representation
- Fundamentals of computer systems
- Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture
- Consequences of uses of computing
- Fundamentals of communication and networking
- Fundamentals of databases
- Big Data
- Fundamentals of functional programming
- Systematic approaches to problem solving

Assessment

A level	Paper 1	40% of A level (on screen exam)
	Paper 2	40% of A level (paper exam)

NEA*: 20% of A level

*NEA = Non-Examined Assessment (full A level only)

Paper 1 will be a programming task following preliminary materials

Commonly used modes of learning

Self-assessment, discussion, coding, computer based programming and testing. emphasis on risk-taking and exploring the wider issues and concepts of computing and the effect on society for example Artificial Intelligence, independent learning and development.

What opportunities will studying Computer Science provide?

This subject links well with all areas of Computing for example, Aerospace, Software developer, Games developer, medical tech etc. It is also well accepted into a much wider range of different subject/ careers such as engineering.

Dance

Examination Board: AQA

Why Dance?

Dance is for those of you that love choreography, enjoy the performance nature of Dance and enjoy learning about dance in the professional world from history to date.

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE Dance. If Dance was not taken at GCSE then students will be considered on their dance experience outside of school and an audition will be given.

Course Content

A level	Performance & Choreography (50%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Solo Choreography and Performance – Based on a specific practitioner within one of the areas of study i.e Christopher Bruce, Akram Khan- Performance in a quartet- Group choreography – Based on student choice from a range of 4 stimulus questions
	Critical Engagement (50%)	Section A: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of the professional dance work 'Sutra' by Sidi Larbi Cherkoui- Critical analysis of the British independent dance scene 2000-current Section B: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of the professional dance work 'Rooster' by Rambert- Critical analysis of Rambert Dance company and its contributing choreographers

Commonly used modes of learning

Heavily practical, group work, discussion, research, presentation, independent study.

What opportunities will studying Dance provide?

Complements Drama, Music, Media Studies, Psychology, History and English. A wide range of skills will be developed including choreography, performance and critical evaluation. This course would lead to a wide range of careers including those in the Dance or performing arts industry. Students will continue with practical lessons and will attend a range of trips to watch professional dance works. Students will also be given many opportunities to take part in performances in and out of school as well as attending a range of dance workshops.

Design and Technology – Product Design

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why Product Design?

If you have an interest in Design and how it is present in our everyday lives, this is the course for you. This course is highly suited to those who enjoy the practical elements of design. New materials and technologies are explored along with modern industrial practices. CAD/CAM will be involved in all coursework elements and students who enjoy exploring various solutions to practical briefs will find this a highly motivating and stimulating course to follow. If you are fascinated by the detail, the new technologies available and how products are promoted, you will enjoy this course. An eye for design and a willingness to be creative are more essential than artistic talent.

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE Design & Technology, Product Design.

Course Content

The A-level course will cover materials and manufacture across the very broad area of product design. You will study existing product solutions, design history and practical techniques to realise your ideas. The course also links strongly with other subject areas and imbeds techniques and practices from art and design, business, computer science, maths, physics and geography.

Assessment

There are three coursework elements – an investigation study and research into a design problem, the creative design of a prototype and a practical skills assessment of the final made prototype. This will account for 50% of the final grade plus a 2 hour 30 min written examination for the other 50%.

Commonly used modes of learning

A hands on approach to all practical elements, defined theory lessons, group presentations, lecture and research topics, visits where possible.

What opportunities will studying Product Design provide?

Careers in product design and manufacture, architecture, interior design, engineering in all its various elements, graphic design, arts and the media, computer graphics, theatre and TV set design.

Drama and Theatre Studies

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why Drama?

You will experience a wide range of dramatic activities that can prepare you for Degree level study or conservatoire training in Theatre. You will also develop your leadership, team work and public speaking skills as well as your ability to think creatively, problem solve and produce creative projects to a deadline.

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE Drama.

Course Content

- Exploration of published scripts through practical exploration and written evaluation
- Directed performance of a published play for an audience
- Directed performance of a monologue for an examiner
- Analysis of professional performance as a commercial review
- Creation of own devised material and performance for an audience

Assessment

Component 1 - worth 40% of the A Level

Students devise a piece of theatre which they then perform. They will record the process and create a portfolio, which is internally marked and externally moderated.

Component 2 - worth 20% of the A Level

Students are directed in a group performance from a set text.

Students are directed in a monologue or duologue from a different set text.

Performances are externally assessed by a visiting examiner

Component 3 – worth 40% of the A Level

Students explore, through practical workshops, a set text from the viewpoint of an actor.

Students explore, through practical workshops, a set second set text from the viewpoint of a theatre director.

Students evaluate a piece of live, professionally performed theatre.

Written examination paper. 2 hours 30 minutes. Externally marked by Edexcel.

Commonly used modes of learning

Actors workshops and practical work, individual written work, visits to the theatre, master classes by visiting professionals.

What opportunities will studying Drama provide?

This course will provide you with the skills and knowledge to move on to academic and vocational performing arts courses. The interpersonal skills developed transfer to all other subjects studied but this course particularly works well with Classical Civilisations, Law, Psychology, History, English and Media courses.

Economics

Examination Board: OCR

Why Economics?

This is a subject that is constantly changing. It appeals to students who are fascinated by what is going on around them and want to discover the contribution economics makes to the world. The course will show you how individual markets, the UK and Global Economy function. If you have an enquiring, logical and critical mind, this subject will help equip with you with the knowledge and theoretical foundations needed to understand the complex economic and social environment in which we all operate.

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics **and** English Language **or** Literature.

Course Content

A level	Component 1	Microeconomics
	Component 2	Macroeconomics
	Component 3	Themes in Economics
Assessment	Exam 3 x 2 hrs	

Commonly used modes of learning

Real life case studies, simulations, discussions, problem solving exercises.

What opportunities will studying Economics provide?

Economists are employed by a wide range of organisations including investment and commercial banks, large corporations, media companies, government departments (including the Treasury), the Bank of England, pressure groups and institutional investors.

Economics and Business Studies

Examination Board: Edexcel (Economics B)

Why Economics & Business Studies?

This is a course that appeals to students who are fascinated by what is going on in the Economy and in particular the Commercial Sector. The course will show you how firms are set up and why some succeed and others fail. It will also focus upon how a business is affected by the working of the wider economy. If you have an enterprising mind this subject will help equip you with the knowledge and skills needed for the business world.

Subject Entry Requirements

No additional requirements

Course Content

A level	Theme 1	Markets, consumers and firms
	Theme 2	The wider economic environment
	Theme 3	The global economy
	Theme 4	Making markets work
Assessment	Exam 3 x 2 hrs	

Commonly used modes of learning

Real life case studies, simulations, discussions, problem solving exercises.

What opportunities will studying Economics and Business Studies provide?

The course is aimed at those who want to work in the commercial world. This could either involve achieving a management position in an existing business or setting up and running their own enterprise.

English

The English department offers two A level courses: English Literature and English Language and Literature. Both are recognised as 'facilitating subjects' by the Russell Group.

What is the difference between A level English Literature and A level English Language and Literature?

A level English literature develops skills of literary analysis, contextual study and independent reading and focuses on literary texts. At A level you will study 8 set texts from Milton to the 21st Century and will complete a piece of extended coursework comparing Jane Eyre with a post 2000 novel of your own choice.

A level English Language and Literature requires the study of fiction and non-fiction texts and places greater emphasis on using linguistic terminology of the analytical process.

English Literature

Examination Board: Eduqas (WJEC)

Why English Literature?

Students typically choose A level English Literature because they value literature and love reading. This course offers the opportunity to develop reading skills and places literary texts in their wider contexts. You will also acquire the ability to approach literature critically, and to continue learning how to analyse form and technique.

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE English Language **and** English Literature.

Course Content

The course consists of 4 components:

A level	Component 1	Poetry – <i>30 % of qualification</i> Pre -1900 – Milton Paradise Lost Post 1900 – Ted Hughes & Sylvia Plath
	Component 2	Drama – <i>30% of qualification</i> Shakespeare – King Lear Drama – Comparison of The Duchess of Malfi and A Streetcar Named Desire
	Component 3	Unseen texts – <i>20% of qualification</i> Analysing unseen passages of prose and poetry
	Component 4	Prose Study – <i>20% of qualification</i> 2500-3500 word assignment based on two prose texts (one pre-2000 and one post-2000); these can be chosen independently by the student (20%; coursework)
Assessment	Three 2 hour exams (80% of qualification) One comparative coursework essay (20% of qualification)	

Commonly used modes of learning

English Literature classes are primarily concerned with reading the text. Modes of learning include independent reading, discussion, essay-writing and wider reading of critical approaches and context.

What opportunities will studying English Literature provide?

English Literature students use their communication and analytical skills for a wide range of careers from advertising, law, publishing and journalism to management consultancy and finance. Recent graduates of A Level English Literature at Wallington have gone on to study Literature, Law, Politics and Psychology at universities such as Cambridge, Oxford and a range of Russell group institutions.

English Language and Literature

Examination Board: OCR

Why English Literature & Language?

Students choose A level English Language and Literature who are interested in approaching literary texts with a focus on linguistic terminology.

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE English Language **and** English Literature.

Course Content

A level	Component 1	Exploring non-fiction and spoken texts – 16% of Total A Level
	Component 2	The language of poetry and plays – 32% of total A Level Carol Ann Duffy: <i>Rapture</i> OCR anthology of texts
	Component 3	Reading as a writer, writing as a reader – 32% of total A Level F Scott Fitzgerald: <i>The Great Gatsby</i>
	Component 4	Independent study – 20% of total A Level
Assessment	Three separate examinations – C1 = one hour, C2 = 2 hour & C3 = 2 hour (80% of qualification)	
	One piece of independent study (20% of qualification)	

Commonly used modes of learning

Creative writing; analysis of professional writing styles; analysis of texts; whole class/group and pair work; individual presentations; research and reading. Exploration of film/radio dramas/theatre productions.

What opportunities will studying the Combined Literature and Language course provide?

This course is valued highly for essay-based subjects and/or Creative Writing degrees as well as linguistics.

French

Examination Board: AQA

Why French?

Studying a modern language is extremely well-respected in higher education as well as by employers. The course not only allows you to further your linguistic knowledge, but also foster the ability to express yourself in a clear, logical and well-reasoned way on a wide variety of topics at an academic level. Languages combine well with almost any other range of subjects. French is spoken in many countries throughout the world and remains one of the working languages of the UN.

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE French.

Course Content

A Level	<u>Aspects of French-speaking society; current trends</u> family and values, the “cyber society” the place of voluntary work <u>Artistic Culture in the French-speaking world</u> culture contemporary music cinema <u>Aspects of French-speaking society; current issues</u> positive aspects of a diverse society life for the marginalized crime and how criminals are treated <u>Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world</u> teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment, demonstrations and strikes – who holds the power? politics and immigration <u>Cultural Topic</u> students study 1 book and 1 film <u>Individual Research Topic</u> students conduct individual research on a subject of personal interest, relating to France (for oral only) <u>Grammar</u> students study the grammatical system and structure of French.	
Assessment	Unit 1	Listening, reading, translation and writing assessment – 2 hrs 30 minutes – 40% of A Level (Should be 50%)
	Unit 2	Writing assessment on the book and film studied – 2 hrs – 30% of A Level (should be 20%)
	Unit 3	Speaking Assessment – approximately 20 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time) – 30% of A Level

Commonly used modes of learning

Reading and listening to authentic materials in class, written tasks, discussion in the target language, debate and conversation, regular tutorial sessions with the French Language Assistant, online materials

What opportunities will studying French provide?

Studying French will provide you with the opportunity to develop your interpersonal, reasoning, communication and presentation skills. Students of French are often praised & appreciated by both universities and employers for their highly developed communication skills. Employers relish the opportunity to take on linguists and there is currently a gap in the workplace for speakers of other languages.

Geography

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why Geography?

Geography is one of the most popular A level subjects taken in the UK, and the number of students choosing to study it is increasing year on year. This may be due to the fact that the subject covers a wide variety of topics which appeal to many - from natural hazards to globalisation. It is also one of the few subjects that deals with a range of contemporary and pressing issues that we are currently facing in the world today. Geography at WHSG is a dynamic subject, which helps you to understand the world around us. It provides opportunities to study many local, national and global issues from climate change to migration. It will also offer you the chance to develop your independent thought and valuable skills for the future.

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE Geography.

Course Content

A level	Area of study 1	Dynamic Landscapes (including Tectonics and Coasts)
	Area of study 2	Dynamic Places (including Globalisation and Regenerating Places)
	Area of study 3	Physical Systems and Sustainability (including climate change, the water cycle & water insecurities, the carbon cycle and energy security)
	Area of study 4	Human Systems and Geopolitics (including superpowers and migration)

Assessment

There will be three exam papers completed in the summer after two years of study, accounting for 80% of the whole A level:

Paper 1	Exam covering all areas of study relating to physical geography	2 hours, worth 30% of the whole A level
Paper 2	Exam covering all areas of study relating to human geography	2 hours, worth 30% of the whole A level
Paper 3	Exam includes a synoptic investigation linking the three themes (Players, Actions & Attitudes, Futures & Uncertainties) across all areas of study.	2 hours 15mins, worth 20% of the whole A level

The final 20% of the A level is comprised of coursework-an independent investigation. The topic of this is chosen by the student, based on any part of the geography A level syllabus. Past titles have included: How has the perception of crime changed in Stratford since regeneration? How does beach sediment vary along Durdle Door beach on the Dorset Coast?

Commonly used modes of learning

Discussion; field trips & visits; group work; research; role plays; structured independent study.

What opportunities will studying Geography provide?

This course links well with most A level subjects – particularly History, Economics, Science, Philosophy and Ethics, as the skills acquired studying geography A level are particularly transferable here. Past geography A level students have gone on to study a range of topics at university including Medicine, English Literature, Mathematics, Politics and of course Geography! Looking forward to career prospects-Geography graduates are very employable, as the skills, knowledge and understanding gained during a geography degree are held in high regard by many businesses. Geographical data is prized, and it is estimated that 80% of all data now collected has some geographical feature; geographers being best placed to interpret it (rgs.org).

German

Examination Board: AQA

Why German?

Studying a modern language is extremely well-respected in higher education as well as by employers. The course not only allows you to further your linguistic knowledge, but also foster the ability to express yourself in a clear, logical and well-reasoned way on a wide variety of topics at an academic level. Languages combine well with almost any other range of subjects. German is the most widely spoken language in Europe, and Germany is the UK's biggest trading partner.

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE German.

A Level	<u>Aspects of German-speaking society; current trends</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the changing state of the family the digital world youth culture: fashion and trends, music, television <u>Artistic Culture in the German-speaking world</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> festivals and traditions art and architecture cultural life in Berlin, past and present <u>Multiculturalism in German-speaking society</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> immigration integration racism <u>Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany and the European Union politics and youth German reunification and its consequences <u>Cultural Topic</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> students study 1 book and 1 film <u>Individual Research Topic</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> students conduct individual research on a subject of personal interest, relating to Germany (for oral only) <u>Grammar</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> students study the grammatical system and structure of German 	
Assessment	Unit 1	Listening, reading, translation and writing assessment – 2 hrs 30 minutes – 40% of A Level (Should be 50%)
	Unit 2	Writing assessment on the book and film studied – 2 hrs – 30% of A Level (should be 20%)
	Unit 3	Speaking Assessment – approximately 20 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time) – 30% of A Level

Commonly used modes of learning

Reading and listening to authentic materials in class, written tasks, discussion in the target language, debate and conversation, regular tutorial sessions with the German Language Assistant, online resources

What opportunities will studying German provide?

Studying German will provide you with the opportunity to develop your interpersonal, reasoning, communication and presentation skills. Students of German are often praised and appreciated by both universities and employers for their highly developed communication skills. Employers relish the opportunity to take on linguists and there is currently a gap in the workplace for speakers of other languages.

Government and Politics

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why Government & Politics?

This is a subject that is fast moving and dynamic. It is for students who are fascinated by what is going on in the world around them. The course will show you how the UK political system works and make you ask questions about how it might be improved upon. If you enjoy thinking for yourself and not following the crowd; this subject will help to give you knowledge and an intellectual framework around which to develop your own ideas on a range of important political issues.

Subject Entry Requirements

No additional requirements

Course Content

A level	Component 1	UK Politics and Core Political Ideas
	Component 2	UK Government and Optional Political Ideas
	Component 3	Comparative Politics
Assessment	Exam 3 x 2 hrs	

Commonly used modes of learning

Discussions, formal debates, construction of political arguments, experiments, and simulations.

What opportunities will studying Government and Politics provide?

Apart from going into politics, students often have careers in law, journalism, broadcasting, business or the public sector.

History

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why History?

This varied and exciting course will develop your understanding of past societies and our rapidly changing world today. It will also help to develop essential transferable core skills, highly valued by employers. History is a distinctive subject which combines a sense of the past with understanding of the present, increasing awareness of different values and cultures and enhancing qualities of perception, analysis and judgement.

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE History.

Course Content

A level	Unit 1	Russia 1917-91: from Lenin to Yeltsin (30%)
	Unit 2	Mao's China, 1949-1976 (20%)
	Unit 3	Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603 (30%)
	Unit 4	Coursework essay (20%)
Assessment	Three timed exams and one coursework essay (3000 to 4000 words)	

Commonly used modes of learning

Lessons will consist of paired and group activities as well as individual tasks. Reading will be expected to be done outside of lessons, alongside additional research to develop a depth of knowledge essential to success across all four units. Class time will include discussions, role plays, presentation tasks as well as essay analysis and planning, allowing you to develop the skills required of a young historian.

What opportunities will studying History provide?

Historians go on to become lawyers, teachers, civil servants, journalists, political advisors and speech writers as well as politicians. They work in local government as well as in the arts and charity sectors. In fact, the opportunities are almost limitless.

Latin (GCSE)

Examination Board: OCR

Why Latin?

Latin is useful if you are considering studying a modern foreign language or English in higher education. Similarly, are you considering becoming a doctor, lawyer or perhaps a vet? Maybe a computer programmer, archaeologist, historian, museum curator or librarian? In fact Latin is useful in any area of study and is a well-respected subject in the workplace and in higher education.

Subject Entry Requirements

At least a grade 7 in another Modern Foreign Language at GCSE. A commitment to an additional course taught after school.

Course Content

The course is based on the Oxford Latin books which tell the story of Horace, a famous Roman poet, who lived during one of the most exciting periods of history. The story is told in Latin so that you quickly learn to read the language.

Assessment

There are no coursework or controlled assessments.

Four equally weighted units

Unit 1: Mythology and Domestic Life: translation into English and comprehension

Unit 2: History: translation into English and comprehension

Unit 3: Latin prose literature: comprehension and appreciation

Unit 4: Latin verse Literature: comprehension and appreciation

Commonly used modes of learning

Reading materials in class;

Written tasks, including translation;

Discussion and debate of grammar, historical and cultural aspects.

What opportunities will studying Latin provide?

A qualification in Latin is extremely well-respected both in the workplace and by those in higher education.

Mathematics

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why Mathematics?

Mathematics is widely regarded as an exacting academic subject, showing that the successful student is intelligent and capable of abstract thought. It teaches the skills of thinking logically and independently, developing valuable transferable skills. Mathematics is challenging and rewarding and significantly increases the opportunities to access competitive university courses and the highest earning jobs.

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.

Course Content

Structure	2 modules in Pure Maths and 1 module in Applied
Assessment	3 Timed 2 hour exams, no coursework

Commonly used modes of learning

Teacher led discussion of concepts to develop understanding, independent study, whole class academic sessions and examination question practice.

What opportunities will studying Mathematics provide?

Mathematics can be combined with any other subject choice. It is particularly helpful to those wishing to study Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Sciences, ICT, Technology, Psychology, Geography, and Business Studies / Economics at university.

Further Mathematics

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why Further Mathematics?

Further Mathematics is regarded as one of the premier A-level courses. It marks out the successful student as an excellent Mathematician, capable of high levels of abstract thought and problem solving. Further Maths is a rewarding and intellectually demanding course. It extends talented students, introducing them to the more complex abstract ideas of Mathematics.

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 9 in GCSE Mathematics.

This course can only be taken alongside Mathematics and together, they will, therefore, take up **TWO** of your A level options. Students taking Further Mathematics must do this as their fourth A Level option.

Students must show a good level of progress in Year 12 in order to continue onto the Year 13 course.

Course Content

A levels	2 modules in Pure Maths and 1 module in Applied 2 modules in Further Maths and 2 modules in Further Applied Maths
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Assessment

A levels	3 Examinations for A Level Maths at the end of Year 13. Timed papers 2 hours each. 4 examinations for A Level Further Maths at the end of Year 13. Timed papers 1½ hours each. No coursework
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Commonly used modes of learning

Teacher-led discussion of concepts to develop understanding, independent study, whole-class academic sessions and examination question practice.

What opportunities will studying Further Mathematics provide?

This course complements all subjects (although it occupies two option choices at A level). It will test you beyond the normal A Level course and, as such, is a great asset if you are thinking of applying for highly competitive university places.

Media Studies

Examination Board: OCR

Why Media Studies?

The Media, in its many forms, is a vital aspect of society. Media inundates us on a daily basis and this course will consider how these formats work on us, how we can produce texts ourselves and the impact these platforms have on society itself. Studying Media will equip you to make, understand and analyse the way that the media works on a variety of different audiences.

Subject Entry Requirements

No additional requirements.

Course Content

Component 1 1 hr 45 min examination 30% of the A level	Media Products: Students employ textual analysis skills while using their knowledge and understanding of media representations to respond to unseen sources They will be taught to construct a theoretically-based evaluative analysis of their cross-media production.
Component 2 2 hr examination 40% of the A level	Media in a digital age: Students will study: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the changing media platforms for film, radio and magazines (a study of both historic and contemporary media products)• the emerging visual forms of music video and video games in the digital age
Component 3 Non-exam assessment 30% of the A level	Making media: Students have the opportunity to create a cross-media production that comprises three linked products. Learners will choose from three different briefs set by OCR that explore a wide range of media forms. This NEA (non-exam assessment) component allows learners to demonstrate their creativity as they apply their practical understanding of the theoretical framework.

Commonly used modes of learning

Practical activities, workshops, group work, question and answer sessions, student-led seminar work, and teacher/student-led discussions

What opportunities will studying Media Studies provide?

Careers encompass Journalism, Advertising and marketing, presenting for TV and Radio, public relations, editing, promotion and production in a number of fields.

Music

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why Music?

A level Music gives students the opportunity to develop skills to a high level while developing creativity and musicality. It is highly regarded by universities as an academic subject and provides an excellent balance with other academic subjects in terms of the practical elements of the course and the wide range of skills needed. The A level in Music will prepare students for a University degree and/or a career as a professional musician or composer.

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE Music and minimum of Grade 6 standard on an instrument or voice.

Course Content

Unit 1	Performing (30%) – a public performance in the form of a recital with a minimum performance time of 8 minutes. Performances to be recorded after March 1 st in the year of certification. It is recommended that the minimum entry level for performance is Grade 6 or equivalent.
Unit 2	Composing (30%) – two compositions. One is a free brief and the other is a brief set by Edexcel. The total time across both compositions must be a minimum of 6 minutes.
Unit 3	Appraising (40%) – Application of knowledge through 6 areas of study each with 3 set works. The areas of study are: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions, New Directions. Assessment overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">● One written paper of 2 hours, with a total of 100 marks.● One audio CD with the extracts to accompany questions on the paper will be provided per student.● This paper comprises two sections: A and B. Section A: Areas of study and dictation (50 marks)● Three questions related to the set works (audio and skeleton score provided).● One short melody/rhythm completion exercise. Section B: Extended response● Two essay questions – essay one (20 marks) and essay two (30 marks)

Assessment

All units are externally assessed.

Commonly used modes of learning

Practical activities using Sibelius, workshops, group work, question and answer sessions, student-led seminar work, and teacher/student-led discussions

What opportunities will studying Music provide?

Music therapist, musician, private music teacher, sound technician, broadcasting/film/video, event manager, radio producer.

Philosophy

Examination Board: AQA

Why Philosophy?

To study Philosophy is to grapple with some of life's most challenging and fundamental questions. How should I live? What is knowledge? Does God exist? Who am I? Resultantly Philosophy is not for the faint-hearted. It is an exhilarating, perplexing and sometimes infuriating adventure that attacks and undermines many of our most cherished beliefs. The only guide being the cold and merciless application of reason and logic. In this respect Philosophy is not so much a subject to be studied but a way of life that commits its followers to the noble pursuit of truth, no matter what it is or where it is found. This may sound disturbing but as the great Socrates once said 'an unexamined life is not worth living'. More prosaic reasons for studying Philosophy include:

- Mastering reason and logic so that you can build and destroy arguments with intimidating success
- Being introduced to some of the greatest minds and influential ideas of human civilization
- Learning how to write with supreme clarity and compelling persuasiveness
- Becoming an expert in debate and discussion
- Having something to talk about with anyone (including your parents/carers)

NB: This is an A-Level in Philosophy not Religious Studies. We do not study religion, at all.

Subject Entry Requirements: A grade 7 in either Religious Studies or English Literature.

A level	Paper 1 (3 hours)	Epistemology (Theory of Knowledge) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Knowledge? • Perception as a source of knowledge • Reason as a source of knowledge Moral Philosophy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilitarianism • Kantian Deontological Ethics • Aristotelian Virtue Ethics • Applied Ethics • Meta-Ethics
	Paper 2 (3 hours)	Metaphysics of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concept and nature of 'God' • Arguments relating to the existence of God • Religious Language Metaphysics of Mind <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we mean by 'mind'? • Dualist Theories • Physicalist Theories • Functionalism
Assessment level	Paper 1: 50% Paper 2: 50%	

Commonly used modes of learning

Discussion, podcasts, debate, tests, direct instruction, reading, Cornell notes, essay writing, modelling best practice, celebrating success, free recall, high standards and a passionate commitment to all that is good, noble and true.

What opportunities will studying Philosophy provide?

Students will have the opportunity to a) examine, debate and discuss their own ideas in an open, respectful but exacting forum b) engage with some of the most influential and insightful minds in human history (e.g. Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Kant, Leibniz, Singer, Mr. Philippou, etc.) c) develop their ability to think and write clearly, logically and convincingly, and d) study an A-level which will make you a fantastic student of **any** university subject, be it a science, humanity, art, etc.

Physical Education

Examination Board: AQA

Why Physical Education?

Physical Education is for those of you that love being active, embrace the competitive/performance nature of sport and enjoy learning about the psychological, biological and contemporary issues surrounding elite sports performance in the world today. From analysis of elite performer's physiology, training programmes and rehabilitation to understanding the way their competitive mind approaches sport and the influences of media, this course offers an exceptional grounding for those going on to study psychology, sport science, physiotherapy, biology and many other medical related careers. Students in the 2018 cohort achieved 100% A*-B grades, with 60% of those at A*/A and 100% target grades met.

Subject Entry Requirements

No specific entry grades required, however students wishing to join this course will need to provide evidence of their sporting competence (1 sport) or dance ability or coaching experience/ability. This evidence will be assessed and successful applicants will be confirmed on the course based on the practical evidence provided.

Course Content

A level	Paper 1	Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport (35%) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology – Cardiovascular, Respiratory, Neuromuscular and Musculoskeletal Systems- Section B: Skill acquisition – Stages and theories of learning- Section C: Sport and society – Pre and Post Industrial Sport, Social impacts on participation
	Paper 2	Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport (35%) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics – Energy Systems, Injury prevention and rehabilitation, diet/nutrition, training, forces, momentum, motion, resistance, fluid mechanics- Section B: Sport psychology – confidence, leadership, cognitive stress, personality, aggression and arousal- Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport – Ethics, drugs, sport and the law, commercialisation, technology and media
	Practical	Non-examined Assessment (30%) – Practical <p>Students will participate in a range of sports in lessons that will support their practical grades as well as developing their theoretical understanding.</p> <p>Students will select one sport, dance or coaching role in which to be assessed in for their final moderation (30%). A written coursework analysing students strength and weaknesses in this activity will also be submitted.</p>

Commonly used modes of learning

Practical, group work, discussion, independent study.

What opportunities will studying Physical Education provide?

Complements Biology, Physics, Psychology, History and English. A wide range of skills will be developed including coaching, leading, presenting, synthesis of information. This course would lead to a wide range of careers including those in the sporting field as well as science fields. Students will continue with practical lessons and will attend an outdoor activities visit.

Physics

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why Physics?

Physics is the study of the fundamental mechanisms of the Universe, making it a fascinating subject for those with an enquiring mind who want to understand how things work. Intellectual rigor abounds in this subject, with many problem solving opportunities provided. Studying Physics will also help to develop your logical thinking and mathematical skills, as well as giving you the chance to carry out experiments to investigate the world around you.

Current A-level students have the following to say about why studying Physics at A-level is a good choice:

- *Physics opens many opportunities for you in the future, especially if you are a girl!*
- *Although some parts can be hard to understand at first, it's really satisfying when it clicks.*
- *It is the only true science, as Rutherford concisely put it! How much more enlightening can you get than the study of the workings of the world?*
- *It's the best subject to support A-level Maths.*
- *Physics is really interesting. Teachers offer support and help which is really important. Everything is very organised and structured.*

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics. A grade 7 in GCSE Physics is highly desirable.

Course Content

Topic	1	Working as a physicist	7	Electric and magnetic fields
	2	Mechanics	8	Nuclear and particle physics
	3	Electrical circuits	9	Thermodynamics
	4	Materials	10	Space
	5	Waves and particle nature of light	11	Nuclear radiation
	6	Further mechanics	12	Gravitational fields
			13	Oscillations
Assessment	100% External assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>This is a linear course, meaning all content is examined at the end.</i>• <i>As part of your physics A-level qualifications, you will also work towards the Practical Endorsement (CPAC). This is an internally-assessed pass/fail qualification that will appear on your certificate as a separately reported result, alongside the overall grade for your A-level.</i>			

Commonly used modes of learning

- Calculations & problem-solving
- Experimental investigation & practical work
- A mixture of independent and group work.

There is an emphasis on working methodically and especially learning from mistakes to improve in the future.

What opportunities will studying Physics provide?

Physics and Mathematics (and Further Mathematics) is the most common pairing, as the two subjects are heavily interlinked; indeed, we recommend that all students studying physics at A-level also study Mathematics. The use of the scientific method makes the combination of Physics with Chemistry or Biology popular too. Physicists are often gifted musicians, making this a more common choice than you might think! Physics also works well with Philosophy, due to the logical rigor both subjects demand; this has led to many universities offering joint honours in the subjects.

Physics at A-level is vital for degrees in Physics and Engineering and highly desirable for Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Economics and Medicine. The analytical skills developed are much sought after by employers as they are applicable to a wide range of careers.

Psychology

Examination Board: AQA

Why Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of human behavior and experience. Psychologists use the same methods as other scientists to understand the world around them. You will analyse many interesting psychological experiments to evaluate their credibility and reach conclusions that may be applied to improving society. Throughout the course you will develop skills that will enable you to become amateur psychologists and understand how to carry out your own research. The AS and A-level courses are particularly engaging because so many of the topics apply to your everyday life.

Subject Entry Requirements

Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE Psychology or a GCSE Science (if GCSE Psychology not taken) **and** a grade 7 in GCSE English Language or Literature.

Course Content

A level	Introductory topics in Psychology Psychology in context Issues and options in Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social influence• Memory• Attachment• Approaches in Psychology• Psychopathology• Biopsychology• Research methods• Issues and debates in Psychology• Cognition and development• Schizophrenia• Aggression
Assessment	Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology 1 hr 30 mins Paper 2: Psychology in context 1 hr 30 mins Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology 2 hrs	

Commonly used modes of learning

Lessons generally take a discursive approach with importance being placed on the value of explanation and research. This is achieved through group work as well as whole class discussion. To understand how to conduct research using human samples, lessons also involve participating in psychological experiments.

What opportunities will studying Psychology provide?

Psychology complements subjects such as Biology, English and History. Careers in counselling, education, forensics, law, business, research and occupational

Sociology

Examination Board: AQA

Why Sociology?

Social scientists combine an interest in people and society with the desire to study them in an objective and systematic way. Sociologists are interested to find out about the different cultures and traditions. Modern sociology focuses on the study of human beings and their patterns of behaviour in groups within society such as the family, work, education, religion, social class, nationality etc. Sociology can focus on a social interaction as small scale as the way two people behave when they meet for the first time, and as large scale as national crime trends and statistics. It is a fascinating, enjoyable and fast moving subject area that also offers students an excellent introduction to how to design and carry out social research.

Subject Entry Requirements

No additional requirements

Course Content

A level	Education with theory and methods Topics in Sociology Crime and deviance with theory and methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education & Methods in context• Theory and methods• Family and households• Crime and deviance• Beliefs in society
Assessment	Paper 1: Education with theory and methods 2 hrs Paper 2: Topics in Sociology 2 hrs Paper 3: Crime and deviance with theory and methods 2 hrs	

Commonly used modes of learning

Lessons are generally based on a mixture of reading and discussion, with time allowed for one to one support, group work and whole class discussion and debate. Students are expected to undertake their own reading and note-taking projects to consolidate learning of research methods.

What opportunities will studying Sociology provide?

Sociology students often go on to careers in public facing professions such as law, social work, education, the civil service, marketing and research.

Spanish

Examination Board: AQA

Why Spanish?

Studying a modern language is extremely well-respected in higher education as well as by employers. The course not only allows you to further your linguistic knowledge, but also foster the ability to express yourself in a clear, logical and well-reasoned way on a wide variety of topics at an academic level. Languages combine well with almost any other range of subjects. Speaking Spanish will allow you to communicate with over 350 million people in the world.

Subject Entry Requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE Spanish.

Course Content

A-level	<p><u>Aspects of Hispanic society</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern and traditional values • Cyberspace • Equal rights <p><u>Artistic culture in the Hispanic world</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern day idols • Spanish regional identity • Cultural heritage or cultural landscape <p><u>Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration • Racism • Integration <p><u>Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens • Monarchies, republics and dictatorships • Popular movements <p><u>Cultural Topic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students study 1 book and 1 film <p><u>Individual Research Topic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students conduct individual research on a subject of personal interest, relating to Spain (for oral only) <p><u>Grammar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students study the grammatical system and structure of Spanish 	
Assessment	Unit 1	Listening, reading, translation and writing assessment – 2 hrs 30 minutes – 40% of A Level (Should be 50%)
	Unit 2	Writing assessment on the book and film studied – 2 hrs – 30% of A Level (should be 20%)
	Unit 3	Speaking Assessment – approximately 20 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time) – 30% of A Level

Commonly used modes of learning

Reading and listening to authentic materials in class, written tasks, discussion in the target language, debate and conversation, regular tutorial sessions with the Spanish Language Assistant, online materials

What opportunities will studying Spanish provide?

Studying Spanish will provide you with the opportunity to develop your interpersonal, reasoning, communication and presentation skills. Students of Spanish are often praised and appreciated by both universities and employers for their highly developed communication skills. Employers relish the opportunity to take on linguists and there is currently a gap in the workplace for speakers of other languages.