Dear students, parents and guardians,

As Head of Sixth Form, I will support you with all of the stages of life at Sixth Form: from when you are choosing your courses in Year 11, to developing expert knowledge and mature study habits at Sixth Form, to securing impressive university places (or employment) in Year 13. It is a privilege to support you at this pivotal time in your life as you make significant and exciting decisions about your future. So, if you are eager to gain expert knowledge, to perform, analyse, argue and invent, if you want to build a community that is active and also outward-looking, then I look forward to reading your application. Importantly, choosing the right A levels is a significant decision. Overleaf you will find some practical and specific advice about choices for different future destinations. Here are three principals that should guide your thinking:

*Embrace Independence:* Know what interests you. This is your personal journey and therefore your subject choices must be a reflection of your strengths as an individual.

*Seek out motivation:* Know what makes you excited to learn more. Intrinsic motivation is the key factor as you take on the challenge of A levels. Which are the subjects where you will be keen to do further study, to work hard to improve and read beyond the course content?

*Secure needed outcomes:* Know what you need for the future. Make sure you are clear on what grades and subjects you must secure to pursue your chosen university course.

However, I understand that not everyone is born with the determination to become a vet or a journalist and may need further advice/information about what might interest them and how to keep their options open. We are more than happy to help with this and it is a fundamental part of what we offer for students at Sixth Form.

Yours faithfully,

Christopher Suckling
Assistant Principal, Head of Sixth Form
The five-point plan for making your post-16 choices

1. Know what you want to study? – Check out the entry requirements
If you have a university course which you are keen on, have you checked the relevant university website or UCAS course search to find out whether this course requires certain subjects at advanced level?

2. Not sure yet? – Keep your options open!
If you are not sure about what course you want to study at university, have you tried to choose at least two facilitating subjects (Maths, Further Maths, English Literature, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History, Languages)?

3. GCSEs and other standard level qualifications matter...
Make sure you understand the GCSE or standard level requirements for entry to a competitive university. Universities have reviewed their entry requirements following the introduction of reformed GCSEs in England and you should check university websites for guidance. Are you on track to achieve the standard level grades to progress onto the course/courses that you want to do at advanced level and the university course that you may choose to do?

4. Think balance
Do you have a balance of subject choices that reflects your abilities, strengths and interests? Have you considered how certain subject combinations relate to university courses?

5. Make sure you know WHY
If you want to take a subject that you have not studied before, can you talk for a minute on what this subject is about? Try and unpick why you wish to study this subject. It’s not enough to say ‘It’s interesting’, ‘I think I’ll like it’ or ‘It will be fun’.

Subjects and Requirements
Accountancy (also Banking/Finance/Insurance)
ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Usually none, although one or two universities require Mathematics.
USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Mathematics, Business Studies (AGCE, National and Diploma), and Economics.

Aeronautical Engineering
ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Mathematics and usually Physics.

American Studies
ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Requirements vary but English and/or History are often asked for.
USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Politics.

Architecture
ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Some courses say they want an arts/science mix. Some may require Art.
USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Art, Mathematics, Design Technology and Physics. AGCE or National Art and Design may also be useful at some universities. Do note that a portfolio of drawings and ideas may be asked for.

Art and Design
ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Art or Design Technology including AGCE/National (to give you the portfolio to get onto an Art Foundation Course, though sometimes AGCE/National Art and Design applicants go straight onto a degree).
USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Design Technology, Art & Design. Do note that most entrants onto Art and Design degrees will have done a one-year Art Foundation Course after completing Year 13.

Biochemistry
ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Always Chemistry and some universities will say you must have Biology as well, while some will say Chemistry plus one from Mathematics/Physics/Biology. Doing Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics or Physics will keep all Biochemistry courses open to you.

Biology
ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Biology, usually Chemistry. A few universities specify two sciences.
USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Mathematics or Physics, Computing/Computer Science.

Biomedical Sciences (including Medical Science)
ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Normally two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics. Chemistry is essential for some courses.

Business Studies
ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: None
USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Mathematics, Business Studies (AGCE, National and Diploma) and Economics.

Chemistry
ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Chemistry and occasionally Mathematics. Most courses require Chemistry and would like Mathematics and one other science subject (for example, Physics or Biology).

Computer Science
ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: For some courses, Mathematics. For some courses Computing/Computer Science.
USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Computing/Computer Science, Physics, Philosophy, ICT.

Dentistry
ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Chemistry and Biology for most courses, but some require Mathematics or Physics as well.
USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Mathematics, Physics, Further Mathematics.

Drama
ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: Some courses require English Literature and for a few courses English and/or Theatre Studies.
USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS: English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies.
**Economics**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Usually Mathematics.
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Economics, Computing/Computer Science, History, Business Studies

**Engineering (General)**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Mathematics and Physics.
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Further Mathematics, Design Technology, Computing/Computer Science.

**English**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** English Language or combined English Language & Literature (some courses will accept English Language).
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** History, Religious Studies, a foreign language.

**French**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** French
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Another Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Politics.

**Geography**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Most degrees require Geography.
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Some Geography BSc (science) degrees prefer one from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics.

**History**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Most degrees require History.
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Economics, English Literature, Philosophy, Politics, Sociology, Theology/Religious Studies, a modern or classical language.

**Law**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Usually none, although a few universities require English.
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** History; other facilitating subjects. There really are no essential subjects for Law. Maybe one choice should involve essay or report writing. History gives you good relevant skills for Law but is not essential.

**Mathematics**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Mathematics and sometimes Further Mathematics.
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Further Mathematics, Physics, Computing/Computer Science.

**Media Studies (including Communication Studies)**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** A few courses ask for English or Media Studies.
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** English, Media Studies, Sociology, Psychology.

**Medicine**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** If you do Chemistry, Biology and one from Mathematics or Physics you will keep all the medical schools open to you. If you do Chemistry and Biology you will keep open the vast majority. If you do Chemistry and one from Mathematics and Physics you will limit your range of choices much more.
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Further Mathematics or a contrasting (non-science) subject, Computing/Computer Science.

**Music**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** For most traditional courses, Music and Grade VII/VIII, although some universities will consider candidates without A-level Music.
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Some universities have a preference for at least one essay-based subject

**Nursing and Midwifery**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Usually Biology or another science.
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Biology, CACHE, Sociology, Psychology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics.

**Philosophy**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** None
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Mathematics, Classical Civilisations, Philosophy and Religious Studies/Theology.

**Physics**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Mathematics, Physics.
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Computing/Computer Science.

**Politics**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Usually none
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Politics, History, Philosophy, Law, Sociology, Economics, English Literature, Religious Studies, Business Studies.

**Psychology**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** A few courses ask for one from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics.
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Biology, Mathematics, Psychology, Sociology, Computing/Computer Science.

**Sociology**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** None
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Sociology, Psychology, Geography, Computing/Computer Science.

**Spanish**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Spanish (some degrees will also consider French, German or Italian).
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Another Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Politics.

**Sports Science/Physical Education**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Many courses want to see one from Biology/Chemistry/Mathematics/Physics (some courses will treat Physical Education as a science equivalent).
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Physical Education, Psychology.

**Teacher Training (Primary and/or Secondary)**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** At least one from Art, Biology, CACHE, Chemistry, Computing, Design and Technology, Drama (Theatre Studies), English, French, Geography, German, History, ICT, Italian, Mathematics, Music, Physics, Physical Education, Religious Studies (Theology), Spanish. CACHE meets the entry requirements for early years Primary Teaching and a large number of Primary Education Teacher Training Degrees.
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Another of the subjects listed above.

**Veterinary Science**
**ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** You should do Chemistry and Biology and one from Mathematics/Physics so that you have all universities open to you.
**USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS:** Further Mathematics

**Need further information?** Look at [http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/media/5272/informedchoices-print.pdf](http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/media/5272/informedchoices-print.pdf)
Application Timeline: External

7th November 2019

**Open Evening:** See subjects in action. Perfect opportunity to speak one on one to teachers about courses and ask students about their experiences.

17th January 2020

**External application deadline:** Applications to be completed online.

2nd—6th March 2020

**External applicants Interviews:** Discuss your choices. Use this interview to learn about where subjects might take you and suitability to study different subjects.

22nd—24th July 2020

**Taster Days:** Experience sixth form life and your chosen subjects. Find out how you will learn at A Level and what you will need to do over the summer to be ready for starting your courses.

20th August 2020

**GCSE results and Enrolment Day:** Secure your place and finalise your choices once you have your results
Application Timeline: Internal

7th November 2019

**Open Evening:** See subjects in action. Perfect opportunity to speak one on one to teachers about courses and ask students about their experiences.

13th December 2019

**Internal application deadline:** Applications to be completed online.

20th—24th January 2020

**Internal applicants 1st round Interviews:** Discuss your choices. Use this interview to learn about where subjects might take you and suitability to study different subjects.

2nd—6th March 2020

**Internal applicants 2nd round Interviews:** Confirming and finalising you choices based on first interview and teacher feedback.

22nd—24th July 2020

**Taster Days:** Experience sixth form life and your chosen subjects. Find out how you will learn at A Level and what you will need to do over the summer to be ready for starting your courses.

20th August 2020

**GCSE results and Enrolment Day:** Secure your place and finalise your choices once you have your results.
A LEVEL Entry Requirements for Pimlico Academy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Level</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3+ A Levels</td>
<td>5 subjects at grade 7 in full course GCSE subjects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Minimum) Level 5 in Maths and English Language and 3 subjects at grade 5-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 A Levels</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Specific Requirements - A Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physics, Chemistry and Biology</td>
<td>Double Award Science: grade 8s, as well as an 6 in Maths and English language GCSE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Triple Sciences 7 grade in the relevant Science subject, as well as a 6 in Maths and English language GCSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>English Lang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ancient History</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Language</td>
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<td>English Literature</td>
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<td>French</td>
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<td>Further Maths</td>
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<td>Geography</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>History</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maths</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Technology</td>
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<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Physics</td>
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<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports BTEC</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Courses will run subject to sufficient numbers on enrolment.

Contents

Ancient History
Art
Biology
Chemistry
Computer Science
Drama and Theatre Studies
Economics
English Language
English Literature
Extended Project
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
History
Latin
Mathematics
Media Studies
Music
Music Technology
Philosophy
Physics
Politics
Psychology
Sociology
Spanish
Sport BTEC
Ancient History

Course Leader: Mr Furber
Exam Board: OCR
Entry Requirement: Students must achieve Grade 6 or above in Ancient History and a Grade 6 in English Language

Course Description

Ancient History is the history of the Ancient Greeks and Romans, as well as the peoples they encountered in Europe, North Africa, Egypt, and the Near- and Middle-East. All of these civilisations provide the basis for much of modern life, but can also be startlingly different. You will continue to study in depth real ancient accounts of some of the most dramatic episodes of these times. Ancient History is not only the study of empires and events but of history itself and how it emerged and changed as a discipline—what historical facts can be gleaned from storytelling traditions? How, in turn, do real events become stories?

Assessments

Paper 1—Ancient Greece
50% of A level; written paper; 2hrs 30mins; paper is divided into Period Study and Depth Study components

• Period Study:
  Relations between Greek states and between Greek and non-Greek states, 492-404 BC; includes the Persian War and the Peloponnesian War.

• Depth Study:
  The Politics and Society of Sparta, 478-404 BC; an in-depth look at the culture, constitution and historical importance of Sparta from immediately after the Persian Wars to their victory over Athens in the Peloponnesian War.

Paper 1—Ancient Greece
50% of A level; written paper; 2hrs 30mins; paper is divided into Period Study and Depth Study components

• Period Study:
  The Julio-Claudian Emperors, 31 BC-68 AD; focusing on the reigns of Augustus, Tiberius, Gaius, Claudius and Nero.

• Depth Study:
  The Breakdown of the Republic, 88-31 BC; study the great tragedy and mystery of the fall of the Roman Republic, after which there were no more republican ‘free’ governments in Europe for 1,500 years; includes the study of Julius Caesar, Mark Antony and Cleopatra, Cicero, Pompey the Great and Octavian.

Skills

• Learn to write persuasively and accurately.
• Learn to analyse written and visual evidence.
• Learn how writers manipulate history to suit their own ends.
• Learn how to engage in contemporary academic debate and contribute your own well-informed opinions.

Careers

Ancient History A-Level is a well-respected and demanding qualification. It will be a great asset to any career which values skills such as high attention to detail, articulacy and the ability to use examples to draw well-informed and convincing conclusions. Such careers regularly include Law, Politics, Business, Journalism and Media.
Course Description

Students who study A-level Art courses at Pimlico Academy will work with a variety of media including drawing, painting, printing, mixed media, and new media. Students will develop personal ideas and relate them to the work of artists and designers. Work will be predominately practical but students will have to keep annotated journals containing research and investigation.

Special Requirements / Other Information

Students with an interest in photography or digital media are encouraged to use new media to develop ideas. Students will be required to visit galleries and museums as part of their research.

Students need to have their own art equipment to carry out homework tasks. Portfolio classes and college taster days are offered to students applying for Art College.

The Art Department offers students a range of extracurricular opportunities through their partnerships with outside agencies such as the Tate Galleries and the University of the Arts London.

Assessments

Component 1: Coursework 60% of the total qualification
A portfolio of practical work
A written ‘Personal Study’ of between 1000-3000 words of continuous prose

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment 40% of the qualification
Supporting studies
15 hours working on a final practical piece/s

Skills

A Level in Art and Design enables students to develop:

Intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive capabilities.

Investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills.

Aesthetic understanding and critical judgement.

Independence of mind in developing, refining and communicating their own ideas, their own intentions and their own personal outcomes.

Careers

Those who gain a qualification in Art may go onto applying for Foundation Course in Art & Design. There are many employment opportunities; study in the field of art provides a general artistic education as well as skills in communication that are fundamental in most occupations. For example being an Architect, Fashion Designer, Curator, Product or Graphic designer, Art Historian, Animator and more.
**Biology**

**Course Leader:** Ms Nieuwenhuys  
**Exam Board:** AQA  
**Entry Requirement:** A minimum grade of a 7 in Triple Biology, Combined Science Grade 8, Maths and English Language Grade 6.

**Course Description**

A level Biology covers a wide variety of content; you will learn about biological molecules, cells, organisms in their environment and the genetic relationships between organisms in Year 1. In Year 2, the content will build to include in-depth studies of the mechanisms that control life, death, movement and homeostasis. You will also study emerging fields in genetics and the manipulation of genes to treat diseases.

To be a successful Biologist, you will need an enquiring mind, practical skills and a keen interest in the subject.

**Special requirements**

Students choosing this course need mathematical ability, an enquiring mind, adaptability, practical ability and good powers of observation.

Students must achieve grade 7 or above in Triple Biology. Students with top grades in Combined Science will also be considered. Grade 6 in Maths and English are also required.

**Career**

Possible career choices that require A-level biology include: biological testing, biotechnology, independent research, food industry jobs, nutrition, medicine, doctor, nurse, veterinarian, zoologist, zookeeper, animal care, veterinary nurse, scientist, amongst a huge range of others. In fact, having an A-level in biology will put you in great stead for a huge range of careers.

**Assessments**

**A Level**

*Paper 1: Written Paper*  
2 hours 35% of A-Level  
Any content from topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills

*Paper 2: Written Paper:*  
2 hours 35% of A-Level  
Any content from topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills

*Paper 3: Written Paper:*  
2 hours 30% of A-Level  
Any content from topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills.  
A third of the paper is dedicated to an essay.
Course Description

As well as being fundamental in our daily lives Chemistry is a key subject in Science. In different areas it overlaps with Biology and Medicine, with Physics, Geology and Earth Sciences.

Emphasis throughout the course is on developing knowledge, competence and confidence in practical skills and problem solving. You will learn how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.

To be a successful Chemist, you will need an inquiring mind, a strong mathematical ability, practical skills and a keen interest in the subject.

Course Structure

Year 1
- Elements of Life
- Developing fuels
- Elements of the sea
- The ozone story
- What's in a medicine

Year 2

Assessments

A-Level
- Paper 1 Fundamentals of Chemistry
  2.25 hrs  30 marks
  Practical question: 10%
- Paper 2 Scientific literacy in Chemistry
  2.25 hrs
  Practical Question: 10%
- Paper 3 Practical skills in Chemistry
  1.5 hrs
  Practical Question: 75%

Special requirements

Students choosing this course need mathematical ability, an engaging mind, adaptability, practical ability and good powers of observation.

Careers

Possible career and course options available to you and your A-level chemistry qualification include: medicine, pharmacy, veterinary science, chemistry, biochemistry, food science/nutrition, forensic science, biological/engineering careers, optometry, microbiology, natural sciences, pharmacology, software engineering and physiology.
Computer Science

Course Leader: Mr Hirst
Exam Board: AQA
Entry Requirement: A minimum of a GCSE Grade 7 in Computer Science and/or Maths if not studied at GCSE

Course Description

Studying Computer Science gives you a solid foundation in the underlying principles of computing, for example: understanding how algorithms and computer code are written; how data is stored; how data is transmitted around networks; and how hardware and software work. It also provides you with a deeper understanding that goes beyond the actual technology. For example, you will learn how to use computation to solve problems and to close links between computer science, mathematics and physics. You will learn about the latest methods for solving computable problems and developing your own solutions in the form of programs.

Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper 1</th>
<th>Paper 2</th>
<th>Non-exam assessment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What’s assessed</strong></td>
<td><strong>What’s assessed</strong></td>
<td><strong>What’s assessed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This paper tests a student’s ability to program, as well as their theoretical knowledge of computer science from subject content 10-13 above and the skills required from section 22 above.</td>
<td>This paper tests a student’s ability to answer questions from subject content 14-21 above.</td>
<td>The non-exam assessment assesses student’s ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem. Students will be expected to follow a systematic approach to problem solving, as shown in section 22 above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessed</strong></td>
<td><strong>Assessed</strong></td>
<td><strong>Assessed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• On-screen exam: 2 hours 30 minutes</td>
<td>• Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes</td>
<td>• 75 marks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 40% of A-level</td>
<td>• 40% of A-level</td>
<td>• 20% of A-level</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Questions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Questions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Questions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Students answer a series of short questions and write/adapt/extend programs in an electronic answer document provided by us. We will issue preliminary material, a skeleton program (available in each of the programming languages) and, where appropriate, test data, for use in the exam.</td>
<td>Compulsory short-answer and extended-answer questions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Career

Studying Computer Science at A Level is challenging, but it is also highly rewarding. There are very few jobs that do not involve the use of computers and having a good understanding of the science behind them will effectively prepare you for further study and/or employment.
Drama &
Theatre Studies

Course Leader: Ms E Cordery, Ms L Duggin
Exam Board: Eduqas
Entry Requirements: Keen interest in the subject

Course Description

Which other subject can you prove yourself as not just an able writer, and critic of current and past theatre, but also a confident performer who can direct, devise, create, produce and communicate with others. You will constantly being applying the theories behind theatre and performing to realise in.

Skills

The core skills being developed in this qualification are:

The ability to recognise and understand the interrelationship between performer, designer and director.

The understanding that texts and extracts studied may represent a range of social, historical and cultural contexts.

The ability to analyse and evaluate their work and the work of others.

The ability to understand how performance texts can be interpreted and performed.

The ability to develop a devised performance by using research and practitioner theories to influence the work.

Assessments

Component 1 – Devising 40%
Devising an original performance piece (10%)
Use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli.
You will need to evidence your process either through an essay, videoed blog or a variety of media (30%)

Component 2 — Text in Performance 20%
Externally Assessed Practical Performance
A group performance/design realisation of one key extract from a performance text.
And a monologue or duologue performance/design realisation from one key extract from a different performance text.
Performance happens before May in Year 2.

Component 3— Written exam 40%
You will answer a question paper based on a play you have explored and a play you have seen.

Live theatre evaluation – choice of performance.

Practical exploration and study of a complete text – focusing on how this can be realised for performance.

Practical exploration and interpretation of another complete performance text, in light of a chosen practitioner – focusing on how this text could be reimagined for a contemporary audience.

Career

Students have used the course to move on to higher education courses in Drama/Performance Arts. Theatre Studies encourages students to develop confidence, teamwork, leadership, independence and creativity skills. These skills will be extremely useful in any career.
Course Description

Appreciate the contribution of economics to the understanding of the wider economic and social environment. Develop an understanding of a range of concepts and an ability to use these concepts in a variety of different contexts.

Use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of economics and an ability to think as an economist.

Understand that economic behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives. Develop analytical and quantitative skills, together with qualities and attitudes that will equip students for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult and working life.

Course Structure

The course will comprise of 4 units, assessed through examination:

Year 12 A Level: Themes 1 & 2
Year 13 A Level: Themes 3 & 4

Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure
provides an introduction to the nature of economics and examines how the price mechanism allocates resources in markets. It analyses the nature of market failure, its causes and possible policy remedies.

Theme 2: The UK Economy—performance and policies
introduces the key measures of economic performance and the main objectives and instruments of economic policy.

Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market
develops the content of Unit 1 and examines how the pricing and nature of competition between firms is affected by the number and size of market participants. In particular, the market for labour is considered with an analysis of the role of the government in this domain.

Theme 4: A global perspective develops the knowledge and skills gained in Unit 2 so that they can be applied in a global context. The application, analysis and evaluation of economic models is required as well as an ability to assess policies which might be used to deal with economic problems.

Assessments

This linear course is assessed as follows:

Paper 1: Markets and business behaviour
35% of A level qualification
2 hour written exam
Covers content from Theme 1 and 3

Paper 2: The national and global economy
35% of A level qualification
2 hour written exam
Covers content from Theme 2 and 4

Paper 3: Microeconomics and macroeconomics
30% of A level qualification
2 hour written exam
Covers content from all themes.

Careers

This subject gives students a number of skills which are transferable and opens a diverse choice of career options, which include accountancy, stockbroker, banker and online financial and business-related careers, however most require a higher level of education. Your A-level economics can lead you to degrees in economics, business studies, social sciences and engineering.
Course Leader: Ms. A. Dallafior  
Exam Board: AQA (B)  
Entry Requirements: Students must achieve 6 or above in English Language.

Course Description
This subject provides students with a natural progression from their GCSE study of English Language. It encourages students to develop their interest in and appreciation of English, through learning about its structures and its functions, its developments and its variations. The course will look at a range of language issues such as the language use in different social contexts, different accents and dialects, the histories of words or the reasons why new words appear, the influence of modern technology on language and why women and men speak differently. The course also allows students to develop their ability to express themselves in speech and writing, producing texts for different audiences, purposes and in different genres.

Course Content
At A level, topics studied include: Textual Representations, Child Language Acquisition and Language Change, studying sociolects, dialects and the effect of Gender and Power on language. For the NEA, students are required to undertake a Language Investigation exploring their own areas of interest. Topics in the past have ranged from studying the difference between the language used to talk to old people and toddlers, exploring the language used by male and female teachers, and exploring the difference between how teenagers talk. This course encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning and gives them a strong grounding in the academic principles relating to working with data. This workshop style of teaching and learning gives students academic confidence, as well as knowledge about the English Language.

Assessments

Paper 1 – Language the individual and society  
(40% of A Level)  
- 2 hr 30mins written examination  
Introduction to the study of language and how children’s language develops. Part 1: analysis of textual variation and representation; part 2: analysis of children’s language development (0-11 years).

Paper 2 – Language Diversity and Change  
(40% of A Level)  
- 2hrs 30mins  
Builds on language knowledge and skills, with an additional focus on: Language discourses and Diversity and Language Change.

NEA – (20% of A Level)  
Candidates produce two pieces: a language investigation and an original writing piece with a commentary (2,000 words + 1,500 words).

Career
This course is an excellent qualification for its diversity. University courses and employers often look for the skills required in English subjects (written and spoken communication, analysis, debating skills). It is a subject for those who want to go on to Teaching, Journalism, Publishing, Politics, Advertising, Marketing, Social Work, Personnel Management, Education and Law.
Course Description

As a student of English Literature you will be introduced to a wide range of literature spanning a range of genres, contexts and styles. This course is about exploring worlds, characters, ideas and societies through texts that perhaps you have not yet considered or even thought possible. It has the magical quality of being able to transport you to different times: past and future. Through reading, you can be privy to and understand the most incredible stories and human experiences and situations; broadening your horizons to consider things that otherwise wouldn’t be possible in your communities.

Skills:

English Literature students will:

- Read widely and independently both set texts and others that they have selected for themselves
- Engage creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them
- Develop and effectively apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation in speech and writing
- Explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and different interpretations of them.
- Engage in contemporary and established debates surrounding criticism and genre.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 Literary Genres
40% of A level. Written paper. 2hrs 30mins.
Closed book
Students will study one Shakespeare tragedy, a drama text and one further text (of which one must be written pre-1900). A range of texts that are tragic will be addressed throughout the course (including Great Gatsby, poetry, Death of a Salesman).

Paper 2 Texts and Genres
40% of A level. Written paper. 3hrs. Open book.
Study of three texts: one post-2000 prose text; one poetry and one further text (of which one must be written pre-1900). The exam will include an unseen passage.

NEA—Theory and Independence
20% of total A Level. Assessed by teachers.
Two essays of 1,250-1,500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical anthology. Students will get the opportunity to study any literary text of their choice and to explore Marxist, Eco-criticism and Feminism.

Career

This course allows students to develop vital skills in reading and communication, both of which are important to any career. The qualification prepares students well for an English or Creative Writing degree. Furthermore, it is a useful subject for students interested in going onto Law, Analysis, Media and Education.
Extended Project

Course Leader: Ms Bullock
Exam Board: AQA
Entry Requirements: No entry requirements

Course Description

Have more control of your studies than ever before! Choose to explore a further aspect of a subject you are studying, or simply choose a topic you have a personal interest in. Gain research and project management skills along the way and the equivalent of an AS-Level qualification.

Course Structure

Students would normally begin this course at the end of Year 12.

Weekly taught sessions about the extended project, research skills and report writing skills.

Four one-to-one supervision meetings with a subject specialist. Presentation of the projects.

Assessments

The evidence for assessment will comprise of the following:

A completed Production Log and Assessment record.

The project product including a written report and any other evidence.

Skills

Identify, design, plan and complete an individual project and apply a range of organisational skills and strategies.

Obtain, critically select and use selected information from a range of sources: analyse data, apply it relevantly and demonstrate understanding of any appropriate linkages, connections and complexities of the topic.

Select and use a range of skills, including new technologies where appropriate, solve problems, take decisions critically, creatively and flexibly, to achieve planned outcome.

Evaluate outcomes both in relation to agreed objectives and own learning and performance. Select and use a range of communication skills and media to present outcomes and conclusions.

Career

The EPQ is highly regarded by universities and employers because it develops research and project management skills, and can demonstrate specialist knowledge of an academic area or industry. Your project will give you the chance to demonstrate the ability to meet your own deadlines, organise your own workflow, develop your own research design, and present your findings to an audience. It offers a great opportunity for you to prove your potential for further study or employment.
French

Course Leader: Mr F Degueurce-Roberge
Exam Board: AQA
Entry Requirement: Students must achieve grade 6 or above in French. Excellent grammatical knowledge required.

Course Description:
Develop in students a range of practical skills, which enable them to understand and communicate in French. Foster an awareness and understanding of the cultural, social, commercial and political background in French-speaking countries. Instil appropriate study skills, so that students are equipped to further their communicative ability. Allow students to complement their other studies by pursuing selected areas of interest in greater depth and to develop personal, independent responses to them.

Skills

Reading
Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from a range of authentic sources and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail.

All questions are in French, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French (50 marks).

Listening
Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources covering different registers and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail. Studio recordings will be used and students will have individual control of the recording.

All questions are in French, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French (30 marks).

Speaking
Students will be involved in discussing, debating, playing roles, presenting arguments, expressing views and maintaining conversation on a range of topics and issues.

Writing
Communicate effectively in writing to convey information, ideas or opinions. Students will write discursive and non-discursive pieces of varied length, summaries, and letters as well as creative pieces.

Special Requirements / Other Information

In order to study a foreign language at this level, students should normally have acquired the knowledge, understanding and skills specified for GCSE at Higher tier in GCSE.

French Assistant: In addition to the timetabled lessons, students are expected to attend individual weekly sessions with the French assistant.

Career

Language skills are in demand and can be used in almost any career, particularly within businesses that trade internationally. It will facilitate careers in interpreting, teaching, translation, journalism, law, fashion and many other professions in the UK and abroad.

Assessments

Paper 1 (50%): Listening, reading and writing
A written examination covering the skills of listening, reading and translation (both into French and into English).

Paper 2 (20%): Writing
An essay question in French about the two literary works studied

Paper 3 (30%): Speaking
Task 1: Discussion on a theme.
Task 2: Presentation and discussion on student’s independent research project

Assessment is by an oral examination conducted by your teacher but assessed by the exam board. This will be based on discussion of a stimulus card chosen by the student plus a presentation and discussion of the student’s chosen research project.
Further Mathematics

Course Leader: Ms I Idros, Miss H Patel
Exam Board: OCR MEI
Entry Requirement: Students must achieve grade 8 or above in Mathematics at GCSE and be enrolled on the A Level Maths course.

Course Description

The Further Maths A Level is a stand alone course from A Level Maths. You will study additional topics not currently covered in Maths, such as Complex Numbers, Matrices, Hyperbolic Functions and more.

Course Structure

Students will cover the AS element of the compulsory Pure content in Year 12 and the remaining in Year 13.

They will study three additional topics in Modelling with Algorithms (Y12), Statistics (Y12), and Mechanics (Y13).

Further Pure Mathematics (Compulsory Modules)

Year 12
Proof; Complex numbers; Matrices; Further algebra and functions; Further vectors; Sequences and Series.

Year 13
Complex numbers; Further algebra and functions; Further calculus; Polar coordinates; Hyperbolic functions; Differential equations.

Applied Mathematics (Additional Modules)

Modelling with Algorithms
Algorithms and graph theory; Algorithms on graphs; Critical path analysis; Linear programming.

Statistics
Linear regression; Statistical distributions (discrete); Bivariate Data; Statistical distributions (continuous); Correlation; Hypothesis testing; Chi squared tests; Confidence Intervals.

Mechanics
Kinematics; Work, Energy and Power; Momentum and Impulse; Collisions; Dimensional Analysis.

Skills

Broaden and deepen the mathematics covered in A Level Mathematics.

Explore new more sophisticated mathematical concepts.

Make an easier transition to a mathematics-rich university courses.

Distinguish themselves as able mathematicians in the university and employment market.

Have an added advantage when applying to Science & Engineering courses at university.

Essential Equipment

As part of the Further Maths A Level, students must have the Casio FX-991EX Classwiz Calculator. The Academy Stationery Shop will have these in stock for students to buy.

Career

Further Mathematics provides a foundation for further studies in any Maths or Science based course; Medical Sciences, Computer Science, Statistics and Psychology.

NB: This is a provisional structure for the Further Maths course and both structure and content may be subject to change.
Geography

Course Leader: Ms Lewis
Exam Board: Edexcel
Entry Requirements: Students must achieve grade 6 or above in Geography and a grade 6 in Maths and English Language

Course Description

This course is designed to enable students to explore and evaluate contemporary geographical questions and issues, such as the consequences of globalisation, responses to hazards, water insecurity and climate change. The range of topics which are covered in the content provide students with the opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of physical and human geography, and the complexities of people and the environment. Students are encouraged to become critical, reflective and independent learners. The skills developed in Geography support a range of subjects.

Assessment

Paper 1 (30%)
Tectonic Processes and Hazards
Landscape systems, processes and change
The water cycle and water insecurity
The carbon cycle and energy security
Climate change futures
Examination: 2h exam made up of short answer questions (similar to a GCSE paper) and 2 essays.

Paper 2 (30%)
Globalisation
Shaping places
Superpowers
Global development and connections
Examination: 2h exam made up of short answer questions (similar to a GCSE paper) and 2 essays.

Paper 3 (20%)
Synoptic themes in Geography
Players
Attitudes and actions
Futures and uncertainties
Examination: 1h45m exam based on a resource booklet containing information about a geographical issue. The paper asks a variety of short answer questions and extended writing questions

Independent Investigation (20%)
Students are required to develop their own fieldwork question and analyse and evaluate primary and secondary data, which will have been collected during a 4 day residential fieldtrip, in order to answer their question.

Examination:
3000-4000 word written report which is internally assessed. This is great preparation for independent study at university level

Career

Geography A Level students can progress to a range of science related course, that include: Geography, Geology, Environmental and Natural Sciences.

Having a geography A-level can be advantageous when applying for jobs in a variety of sectors, including environment and sustainability, physical systems, society, business, geographical techniques, development and global issues, settlement and travel, tourism, leisure and culture
Course Description

History is highly academic and well sought after qualification. With A Level History universities understand that you have developed high levels of research skills, the competence to work independently and can analyse large amounts of text sources to deduce and infer conclusions.

Course Structure

A level History students study three units over the two years;

Unit 1: The Tudors 1485-1603
Focuses on the period of instability following the Wars of the Roses in England and the accession and consolidation of power under the first two Tudor monarchs. The study of events between 1485 and 1603 will enable students to compare, explain and assess the nature, pace and extent of change. The period provides opportunities to assess the change in the way monarchs ruled their country and dealt with the foreign powers and examines social and economic trends as well as key political developments.

Unit 2: The Cold War c.1945-1991
Promotes an understanding of the change of continuity over approximately 60 years. Through the in-depth study of key events, such as the introduction of containment as the foundation of US foreign policy after 1947, candidates will be able to demonstrate an understanding of interrelationship of individuals, ideas and other factors and their relative importance of the processes of change and consolidation.

Unit 3: British Empire Non-Examined Unit
Requires students to identify an issue within the topics of the British Empire and undertake an enquiry, demonstrating some awareness of historiography. A range of sources will be consulted and evaluated.

Additional Information

Specialist tutors come in regularly to work with history students for help with exam technique and revision.

The History Department invites a range of guest lecturers in to provides students with wider contextual knowledge.

Extra-curricular trips to universities (UCL, KCL), National Trust properties, Berlin and other places of historical interest.

Career

This course is useful for those students considering university degrees and careers in many areas, including; banking and finance, public relations, researching, education and administration, any career which requires the analysis of information.
Course Description

You will continue to learn and master Latin, the language of the Ancient Romans; read ancient Roman texts; and learn about the Roman world, including culture and politics. A Level Latin has a much greater focus on reading Roman literature than GCSE.

Assessment

**Literature**

50% of A level—2 written examinations; 1 poetry, 1 prose; 2 hours each

Students will study one prose text and one poetry text. The prose will be Cicero’s *Philippics*, in which Cicero defends the ‘free’ Roman Republic against the designs of the tyrannical Mark Antony; students will analyse one of the most famous character assassinations in literature, written as a theatrical speech. Students will also continue to study Virgil from GCSE, this time Book XI of the Aeneid, in which Virgil explores at what cost Rome gained its empire and – through the female warrior (*bellatrix*) Camilla – the double-standards of gender in a warrior-based society.

**Translation**

50% of A level—2 written examinations: Unseen Translation (Prose and Poetry) - 1 hour 45 mins; Unseen Comprehension—1 hour 15 mins

Students will learn to understand and translate passages of Latin literature which they have not studied beforehand. Students will fully develop and complete their knowledge of Latin grammar and vocabulary, as well as read more ancient literature, including selections from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*—the most influential poem ever—and the great Roman historian and mythologist, Livy.

Skills

- How to analyse language precisely and thoroughly (relevant to English and English Literature)
- How to respond to highly sophisticated literature of many genres: love poetry, epic poetry, political and legal speeches, history
- How to construct logical, balanced arguments (important in most academic subjects)
- Continue to develop knowledge of English vocabulary and grammar

Careers

Latin A Level is a well respected and demanding qualification. It will be a great asset to any career which values skills such as high attention to detail, articulacy, and the ability to use examples to draw conclusions. Such careers regularly include law, politics, business, journalism and media. There is a strong precedent of students who want to become medical professionals choosing Latin as a fourth A Level; it not only helps with learning technical vocabulary but shows a high level of attention to detail and an interest in the humanities.
Mathematics

Course Leader: Ms I Idros, Miss H Patel
Exam Board: OCR
Entry Requirements: Students must achieve grade 7 or above in Mathematics at GCSE.

Course Description

Mechanics is the branch of Mathematics that models the motion of bodies. Statistics is the branch of Mathematics that studies the collection, analysis, interpretation, presentation and organisation of data. A Level Mathematics is recommended if you are planning on a career in Engineering, Investment Banking, Medicine, Actuarial Sciences, Marketing or Psychology and complements the A Level Physics, Biology Psychology and Economics courses.

Course Structure

All students will study a combination of Pure and Applied mathematics. The Applied aspect of the course consists of both Statistics and Mechanics in equal measure.

Pure Mathematics

Proof; Algebra and Functions; Coordinate Geometry in the $(x,y)$ plane; Sequences and Series; Trigonometry; Exponentials and Logarithms; Differentiation; Integration; Vectors; Numerical Methods.

Applied Mathematics

Mechanics
Quantities and Units in Mechanics; Kinematics; Forces and Newton’s laws; Non-Uniform Acceleration.

Statistics
Statistical Sampling; Data Presentation and Interpretation; Probability; Statistical Distributions; Statistical hypothesis testing.

Essential Equipment

As part of the Further Maths A Level, students must have the Casio FX-991EX Classwiz Calculator. The Academy Stationery Shop will have these in stock for students to buy.

Skills

Acquire mathematical skills and knowledge and use them with confidence and enjoyment.
Solve quite complicated problems using mathematical argument and logic, demonstrating what is meant by proof in mathematics.
Simplify real life situations by using mathematical models to show what is happening and what might happen in different circumstances.
Use calculator and computer technology / formulae booklets /statistical tables effectively and appropriately – understanding their limitations.
Apply mathematics and recognise its significance to other disciplines.
Create mathematical models to describe objects in motion.
Extract information to solve a variety of multi-variable problems.

Career

A Level Mathematics is useful for university courses with a high mathematical and engineering content. These include Mathematics, Architecture, Computer Science, Engineering and Physics. Additionally, careers in industry, management, healthcare, accountancy, finance, economics, insurance, medicine, law, social work, communications, veterinary science and engineering.
Media Studies

Course Leader: Mr D Smith
Exam Board: AQA
Entry Requirements: Students must achieve grade 5 or above in English Language.

Course Description
Media is the fastest growing employment sector in the UK with a vast array of jobs. London is the media capital of Europe if not the world, with over 600,000 media jobs. This course is designed to study an exciting range of contemporary media texts, from film and television to magazines and websites. As part of the course you will learn and apply media academic theory to contemporary media debates from ‘the new digital world’ to the rise and fall of reality television. You will also learn practical techniques for media production in the Mac suite, such as designing your own magazines and producing short films, documentaries and websites.

Assessments
This is a two year linear course with two exams at the end of the course along with a coursework element.

Media One
A two hour written exam which accounts for 35% of the overall award.
Section A—Media Language and Media Representations. These concepts are applied to advertising and marketing along with Music Videos.
Section B—Media Industries and Media Audiences. These concepts are applied to radio, newspapers and films.

Media Two
A two hour written exam which accounts for 35% of the overall award.
This exam is essay based and requires the student to answer in longer essay-style answers on the subject of television, magazines, online content, social media and video games.

Coursework
The coursework element of the course accounts for 30% of the overall award and is assessed by the teacher. It consists of a cross media production (print, moving image or web based project) produced to a brief set by AQA.

Skills
Focus on new technologies – Mac systems.
Look at audiences as both producers and consumers of media texts.
Work on creating your own media products.
Have freedom to investigate topical areas of the Media which interest you.
Group and individual work.
Gain an insight into a variety of the most dynamic jobs in the world.

Career
A level Media Studies students can progress to a range of media-related careers; Social Media Consultant, Website Manager, Film Director, Television Producer, Public Relations, Video Game Production, Marketing, Advertising, Graphic Design, Film/TV and Journalism.
Music

Course Leader: Ms H Elis-Williams, Mr J Francis
Exam Board: Eduqas
Entry Requirements: Students must achieve grade 6 or above in Music. Students should be grade 5 standard on their first instrument.

Course Description

A level music is a highly academic and well-regarded A level. The course involves performance, composition and appraising music. Students will have the opportunity to perform varied and challenging repertoire from a wide range of musical traditions, to study and analyse music in great depth and to compose music in a variety of different styles. A level music students will also have the opportunity to access subsidised instrumental lessons. Music has a high profile at the Academy and Post 16 students are expected and encouraged to take a lead in the variety of extra-curricular activities such as Orchestra, Choir and Samba.

Special Requirements

Students should have at 6-8 level at GCSE Music.
Students should be working towards or above grade 5 standard on their 1st instrument.

Skills

Students will develop their performing skills and will be expected to attend instrumental lessons and work with their instrumental teachers towards performances.

Students will develop their composing skills and have the opportunity to learn how to use sequencing programs such as Logic Pro and Sibelius.

Students will learn how to analyse and appraise a range of different musical styles and genres.

Other requirements

Students are required to be members of at least 3 music ensembles in or outside of school such as an Orchestra, Choir or Jazz Band. Being a member of an ensemble is vital to develop students’ performance skill as well as

Career

Music would be a course suitable for any students who wish to pursue it further at University and as a higher specialist subject. The music industry is a very diverse industry with a whole range of different jobs such as performer, composer, producer, event manager, music education, music therapist and many more.

Studying music is considered an attractive subject for many employers due to the skills it develops including: confidence, communication, evaluation and working with others.

Assessment

AS
Component 1: Performing Music
30% of AS. A performance of a minimum of two pieces of 6-8 minutes either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble.

Component 2: Composing Music
30% of AS. Two compositions, one of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition.

Component 3: Appraising
40% of AS. A 1 hour and 30 minutes written examination.

A level
Component 1: Performing Music
Option A: 35% of A level. A performance of a minimum of three pieces of 10-12 minutes either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble.

Option B: 25% of A level. A performance of a minimum of two pieces of 6-8 minutes either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble.

Component 2: Composing Music
Option A: 25% of A level. Two compositions, one of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition.

Option B: 35% of A level. Three compositions, one of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition.

Component 3: Appraising
40% of A level. A 2 hour and 15 minutes written examination.
Music Technology

Course Leader: Mr J Francis, Mr J Quilligan
Exam Board: Edexcel
Entry Requirements: Students should have a grade 6 in GCSE music or distinction in V-cer Music Technology

Course Description

Music Technology is an exciting A Level subject that combines creativity, hands-on practical work and scientific understanding of music production. The specification involves recording, engineering and composition, as well as analytical study of sound and recorded music. Students will have opportunities to sequence MIDI, sequence audio, record live instruments, produce and mix in a dedicated music studio, and compose using music technology. A Level Music Technology is an ideal stepping stone towards third level qualifications in production, sound engineering, composition, sound editing, film sound and many more.

Assessments

Music Technology A Level is assessed through coursework (40%) and two exams (60%).

Component 1: Recording
20% of the qualification
Students will have to produce a multi-track recording of a commercially available track, chosen from the work of a given list of artists.

Component 2: Composition
20% of the qualification
Students will have to compose and produce a technology-based composition in response to a brief supplied by the exam board.

Component 3: Listening and Analysing
25% of the qualification
Students will sit a written exam that assesses their knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles in the context of unfamiliar commercial recordings.

Component 4: Producing and Analysing
35% of the qualification
Students sit a written/practical exam that assesses their knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques, to be applied to unfamiliar materials.

Special Requirements

Students should have studied GCSE music or V-cert in Music Technology. Students are not expected to know how to play an instrument, however good keyboard skills are necessary. Good listening skills are also important to success in Music Technology.

Skills

Students will have the opportunity to produce a professional sounding recording with industry standard studio equipment—encompassing skills in music production, project management, music analysis, performance, producing and mixing.

Students will develop skills and creativity in composition, producing exciting, original work that combines sequencing, synthesis and sampling.

Students will develop advanced listening skills, both to analyse recorded music and improve their own productions.

Career

Music Technology can lead you into a career in the music and media industries. The skills that you will develop are essential for working in recording studios and live music venues, as well as working as a composer/producer or engineer for films, radio, TV, theatre and computer games.

Students will also develop valuable skills in project management, team-work and creativity that will be in demand in many careers.
Philosophy

Course Leaders: Mr Hutcheson
Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Students must achieve a 6 or above in Mathematics and English

‘I really enjoy Philosophy because I enjoy exploring powerful ideas about ethics and religion, and thinking deeply about what counts as knowledge’ Year 12 student

Skills
Philosophy qualifications are designed to give your students a thorough grounding in the key concepts and methods of philosophy. Students will have the opportunity to engage with big questions in a purely secular context. Students will develop important skills that they need for progression to higher education. They’ll learn to be clear and precise in their thinking and writing. They will engage with complex texts, analysing and evaluating the arguments of others and constructing and defending their own arguments. Develop knowledge and understanding of ethical issues associated with these areas of psychology.

Assessments
Paper 1: Epistemology and Moral Philosophy
Paper 2: Metaphysics of Mind, Metaphysics of God

Both:
Written exams: 3h
100 marks
50% of A-level

Paper 2: Metaphysics of Mind, Metaphysics of God

Paper 3: Issues and debates in Psychology

Career
This course prepares students who want to pursue philosophy and other related subjects at degree level. It lends itself to a range of careers that use skills of argumentation, logic and critical thinking. Some of these include Law, Teaching, Journalism and the Civil Service.

Student Requirements
Students must achieve grade 6 in GCSE English and Mathematics. Students choosing this course need both mathematical ability and strong literacy skills.

Key texts
Philosophy for AS Level: Epistemology and Moral Philosophy by Michael Lacewing

Philosophy for A Level: Metaphysics of Mind and Metaphysics of God by Michael Lacewing
Physics

Course Leader: Ms A Njenga, Mr A Booth
Exam Board: AQA
Entry Requirements: Students must achieve a minimum of a Grade 7 in Triple Physics. Combined Science Grade 8, Maths Grade 7 and English Language Grade 6. You are not advised to take this course without studying A-level Maths.

Course Description

Physics is the basis of our understanding of the Universe; revealing through research, the fundamental physical processes within it. Physics is a means of fulfilling the human desire to find out how things work and a basis for much modern technology and engineering.

Special requirements

Students choosing this course need mathematical ability, an enquiring mind, adaptability, practical ability and good powers of observation.

Students must achieve grade 7 or above in Triple Physics. Students with top grades in Combined Science will also be considered. Achieving at least a 7 in Mathematics is also essential as the paper has a minimum of 40% Maths content.

Career

Physics should be considered as an essential requirement for those considering careers in engineering and physics. In addition, many physics graduates also work in other fields where their problem-solving abilities and analytical skills are great assets such as: environmental science, forensic science, oceanography, game programming, radiography, audio engineering, automobile industry and finance.

Assessment

Year 1
2 Written Papers (internal)
1.5 hrs
1: Measurement and their errors
2: Particles and radiation
3: Waves
4. Mechanics and materials
5. Electricity

Year 13
3 Written Papers (A level)
2 hrs
1. Further mechanics and thermal physics
2. Fields and their consequences
3. Nuclear Physics
4. One optional topic from the following: Astrophysics, medical physics, engineering, electronics and Turning points in physics
Politics

Course Leaders: Ms M Browning
Exam Board: Edexcel
Entry Requirements: Students must achieve grade 6 or above in a social science and or a grade 6 in English Language.

Course Description

Studying Government and Politics will provide you with an understanding of how UK political systems work and how it is linked to contemporary concerns and events. The course offers a broad choice of topics covering political issues in the UK and EU, political ideologies, the politics and international global politics.

The syllabus is as follows:

Component 1: UK Politics Written examination:
2 hours
33⅓ % of the qualification
84 marks
Content overview
1. Political Participation, students will study: democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.
2. Core Political Ideas, students will study: conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

Component 2: UK Government
Written examination: 2 hours
33⅓ % of the qualification
84 marks
Content overview
1. UK Government, students will study: the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches.
2. Optional Political Ideas, students will study: one idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism.

Component 3: Comparative Politics
Written examination: 2 hours
33⅓ % of the qualification
84 marks
Content overview
theories of Global Politics, sovereignty and globalisation, global governance: political and economic, global governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union.

Skills

This course will enable you to:
Develop a wide range of skills including the ability to comprehend, synthesise and interpret political information and current affairs.
Analyse and evaluate political knowledge and current affairs debates.
Identify connections, similarities and differences between topics.
Construct and communicate arguments clearly and coherently using appropriate political vocabulary, and form clear conclusions supported by evidence.
Develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the political system of the UK and its impact on our lives.

Career

Government & Politics students may go onto studying Politics at University. From there you might go on to join local or national government, or become a researcher. The course is also useful for those who wish to have a career in journalism or the media.
**Psychology**

**Course Leaders:** Ms M Dodd & Ms Bullock  
**Exam Board:** AQA  
**Entry Requirements:** Students must achieve grade 6 or above in English, Biology and Mathematics.

‘I really enjoy Psychology because it helps us understand and explore everyday behaviour such as why exams stress us out!’ Year 12 student

**Skills**

Learn about different approaches in psychology (e.g. cognitive, biological, behavioural and psychodynamic), allowing you to engage in debates and issues in contemporary psychology.  
Develop knowledge and understanding of concepts, theories and studies in relation to a broad range of topics.  
Develop skills of analysis, evaluation and application in relation to a broad range of topics.  
Develop knowledge and understanding of ethical issues associated with these areas of psychology.

**Assessments**

**Paper 1:** Social influence, Memory Attachment, Psychopathology  
33.3% of A-Level 2hr exam.

**Paper 2:** Approaches in Psychology, Research methods, Biopsychology  
33.3% of A-Level 2hr exam.

**Paper 3:** Issues and debates in Psychology Gender, Stress, Addiction  
33.3% of A-Level 2hr exam.

**Student Requirements**

Students must achieve grade B in GCSE Additional Science and Mathematics. Students choosing this course need both mathematical ability and strong literacy skills.

**Key texts**

Psychology Year 12, Cardwell and Flanagan - Folens  
Psychology Year 13, Cardwell and Flanagan - Folens

**Career**

This course prepares students who want to pursue psychology and other related subjects at degree level.
**Sociology**

**Course Leader:** Ms H Lawrence  
**Exam Board:** AQA  
**Entry Requirements:** Students must achieve grade 6 or above in RS/ Citizenship and English Language.

‘Sociological thinking is a vital help to self-understanding, which in turn can be focused back upon an improved understanding of the social world.’ Giddens

**Skills**

Acquire the essential knowledge and understanding of central aspects of sociological thought and methods, together with the application of a range of skills;

Explore themes, such as socialisation, culture and identity, and social differentiation, power and stratification;

Lay an appropriate foundation for further study of Sociology and related subjects in higher education;

**Assessments**

- **Paper 1:** *Education with Theory and Methods*  
  33.% of A-Level. 2hr exam

- **Paper 2:** *Families and Households Beliefs in Society*  
  33.% of A-Level. 2hr exam

- **Paper 3:** *Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods.*  
  33.% of A-Level. 2hr exam

**Career**

This subject is useful for students who have a great interest in the world and the society around them. It is a good choice for those who seek careers in areas such as advertising, media, journalism, careers guidance, counselling, teacher amongst others.

**Key texts**

- AQA Sociology – Nelson Thornes  
- AS Sociology, Webb, Westergaard, Trobe and Steel – Napier Press  
- A2 Sociology, Webb, Westergaard, Trobe and Steel – Napier Press
Spanish

Course Leader: Mr F Degueurce-Roberge
Exam Board: AQA
Entry Requirements: Students must achieve grade 6 or above in Spanish / excellent grammatical knowledge required

Course Description

The aim of the Spanish A Level Course is to promote the acquisition of four essential skills: listening to, speaking, reading and writing the Spanish language.

Skills

Develop in students a range of practical skills which enable them to understand and communicate in Spanish.

Foster an awareness and understanding of the cultural, social, commercial and political background in Spanish-speaking countries.

Instil appropriate study skills, so that students are equipped to further their communicative ability.

Allow students to complement their other studies by pursuing selected areas of interest in greater depth and to develop personal, independent responses to them.

Reading

Understand written texts from a variety of sources including newspapers, magazine articles, official documents and contemporary literary texts.

Listening

Understand Spanish spoken at natural speed by native speakers by listening to authentic recorded materials, radio, TV, interviews and discussions.

Speaking

Communicate effectively in order to exchange information, ideas and opinions. Learning is applied in a variety of contexts - in group work, in pairs and in individual speaking exercises.

Students will be involved in discussing, debating, playing roles, presenting arguments, expressing views and maintaining conversation on a range of topics and issues.

Writing

Communicate effectively in writing to convey information, ideas or opinions. Students will write discursive and non-discursive pieces of varied length, summaries, and letters as well as creative pieces.

Special Requirements / Other Information

In order to study a foreign language at this level, students should normally have acquired the knowledge, understanding and skills specified for GCSE at Higher tier in GCSE.

Spanish Assistant: In addition to the timetabled lessons, students will be expected to attend individual weekly sessions with a Spanish assistant in preparation for speaking exams.

Assessments

Paper 1 (50%): Listening, reading and writing
A written examination covering the skills of listening, reading and translation (both into Spanish and into English).

Paper 2 (20%): Writing
An essay question in French about the two literary works studied.

Paper 3 (30%): Speaking
Task 1: Discussion on a theme.
Task 2: Presentation and discussion on student’s independent research project.

Assessment is by an oral examination conducted by your teacher but assessed by the exam board. This will be based on discussion of a stimulus card chosen by the student plus a presentation and discussion of the student’s chosen research project.

Career

Spanish is an excellent qualification to enhance students employment prospects and provide insight into different cultures and societies. This course will provide a good basis for further study.
BTEC Level 3 Sport

Course Leader: Mr L Collins
Exam Board: Edexcel
Entry Requirements: Students must achieve 5 Grade 5-9 grades at GCSE level, which must include English and Maths.

Course Description
The course consists of four units:

**Unit 1:** Anatomy and Physiology, assessed with a traditional written test at the end of year 12
Areas of study: Skeletal system, Muscular system, Respiratory system, Cardiovascular System, Energy Systems

**Unit 2:** Professional development in the Sports Industry, assessed with internal coursework
Areas of study: Understand the career and job opportunities in the sports industry, Explore own skills using a skills to inform a career development action plan, to demonstrate the processes that can lead to a successful job offer in a selected career pathway, and reflect on the recruitment and selection process.

**Unit 3:** Fitness training and Programming for Health, Sport and well-being, assessed with externally set coursework
Areas of study: effects of lifestyle choices on an individual, fitness principles and theory, lifestyle modification techniques, nutritional requirements and training methods to an individual’s needs and goals, Analyse and interpretation of lifestyle questionnaire, and be able to develop a fitness training programme.

**Unit 4:** Sports Psychology, assessed through internally set coursework.
Areas of study: personality, motivation and competitive pressure, team dynamics, and explore psychological skills training programmes

Special Requirements / Other Information
Students should have a keen interest in sport.
Students will be required to undertake physical fitness testing, and two sports to a high level of understanding.

All students require a Merit within BTEC Sport level 2, and a B in Biology.

Students should have a good understanding of what makes a good performer in their chosen sport.

Assessments
You will have a traditional written exam in the summer of year 12, counting 25%, and three additional piece of coursework, each worth 25% of your final grade.

Careers
Sports BTEC is an excellent qualification for any student who want to go into Sports Science or PE at university. The course encourages students independent learning, improves fitness, and developed employability skills.