Sixth Form Prospectus

2022 Entry

I can do it, I will do it.

Welcome

"What makes Watford Grammar School for Girls outstanding is the focus on each girl as an individual and an almost relentless drive to ensure that everyone achieves their very best."
OFSTED

The WGGS Sixth Form is a thriving community of over 400 students. Our sixth formers work hard, and strive for excellence in all that they do.

Students in the Sixth Form follow an academic programme, studying at least three subjects to A level. They receive outstanding teaching from departments with a record of excellent results. They learn to study independently, to think deeply, and to work to the highest standards of rigour. Nearly all of our sixth formers then progress to Higher Education, equipped with the confidence and skills they need to enjoy success in the future.
Our sixth formers play a crucial role in the school. They are leaders and role models for younger students. They run school societies and organise events for students in the lower school. They are also vital in the school's work in the wider community, and especially in its charitable work.

We are immensely proud of our sixth formers. They leave us as confident, knowledgeable women, and go on to achieve great things.

This prospectus will give you a flavour of life in the Sixth Form. I hope that, when you have read it, you will want to make the WGGS Sixth Form your next step.

Miss Sylvia Tai
Headmistress

Welcome from ourHead Girl

Dear Year 11,

So you've made it through secondary school- the highs, the lows, exams, and everything in between! Now comes the next big choice you're going to have to make in terms of furthering your education, which, as daunting as it seems, is hopefully something you're really excited about.

I was never in doubt about choosing Watford Girls for Sixth Form, as I have been here since Year 7, and wanted to remain a part of this amazing community of students, as I hope that many of you will too. For those of you who might be a little more unfamiliar with the school, here are some of our highlights.

We have outstanding facilities, including our new Sixth Form Block, which has a large Study Area, classrooms, IT Suite, Lecture Theatre, and a communal Café area (the general consensus is that the curly fries are the best). As well as our multiple extra-curricular clubs, from music to sport to academics, you'll also have lots of opportunities to take on leadership roles, whether that be within these clubs, throughout the school, or in the wider community.

The range of subjects that we offer at Sixth Form is also very diverse, so you'll have the chance to study everything you're passionate about, or even try stretching yourself with something new, whilst our talented and dedicated teaching staff will be making sure to support you in every aspect of your school life.

As you make the next big step in your academic journey, I know that Watford Girls will work to provide you with an inspiring Sixth Form experience, as well as one that will help you feel prepared for your future. Good luck, and I hope you are excited for what's to come!

Your Head Girl,

Emily

What makes our Sixth Form special?

Outstanding Teaching

Our A Level teachers are subject specialists, experts in their field, with a passion that is evident in all that they do. They deliver inspiring, challenging and highly academic teaching, tailored to the individual needs of the students. A Watford Girls' lesson requires students to ask difficult questions of themselves and others, to take intellectual risks and to rigorously engage with their A level subjects. We value the positive relationships that we have with our students, which enable them to develop as young women, with limitless potential.

We are always focused on supporting all of our students in making that next step, whether it be to a traditional university, degree apprenticeship, music conservatoire, art college, or the world of work.

An Exciting and Challenging Curriculum

We have a wide range of academic A Levels to choose from and each one allows our students to develop their expertise and passion, with a real focus upon transferable skills, which will support their future work in both the academic and professional spheres.

All students study at least three A Level subjects and students are able to broaden their educational experience by either studying a fourth subject for two years and sitting the A Level examinations or in some cases for just one year and sitting an AS examination. In Year 12 many students also complete the Extended Project Qualification which allows them to undertake independent study in an area which interests them, outside their formal A Level lessons. Research shows that this development of vital research skills in Year 12 does have an extremely positive impact upon academic achievement in Year 13.

Leadership Development

We fully understand the importance of our students being able to gain experience of leadership, to develop the skills that young women need to move forward and there are so many ways in which this can be achieved. We are very proud of our Head Girl team and prefectural body: we have a Head Girl, three Deputy Head Girls and a Sports Captain and Music Lead who are supported by a team of senior, school and subject prefects who all have specific responsibilities for different aspects of school life. All sixth form students will be asked to step up over the course of their two years with us, to lead by example and also to play an active part in the activities and events which make our Sixth Form so special and unique. This is recognised in the sixth form uniform which is distinct from the rest of the school, reflecting their seniority within the school community, as young adults on thebrink of their transition into the next phase of their lives.

What makes our Sixth Form special?

Pastoral Care and Student Welfare

We care deeply for the wellbeing of all our students, physically and emotionally and place that at the centre of all that we do: students who are happy and well, are the students most likely to achieve. Every student is allocated a form tutor and a tutor group at the beginning of Year 12: the tutor remains with the students for the two years that they are in the Sixth Form and has prime responsibility for the their guidance and welfare. In addition there is an Assistant Headteacher who is also Head of Sixth Form, Heads of Year 12 and 13 and a Sixth Form Administrator available to support students. Time spent with the form tutor allows students to regularly evaluate their progress and set academic targets but is also when they can socialise with other students to make new friends and discuss important issues of the day, ensuring that they are well rounded and fully functioning members of society.

There is a strong network to support any student who might be experiencing difficulty with her wellbeing: we do not distinguish between the physical and the psychological, focussing at all times on helping students deal with the challenges with which they are faced, with a team of specialist staff, including a Health and Welfare Officer, the Medical Officer and the School Counsellor. All students should be reassured that there is no stigma attached to poor mental health and we encourage students to discuss any concerns, however trivial they might seem, with a member of staff.

In form groups and as a year group we address wellbeing on a regular basis, our aim being to enable students to understand how good physical and mental health can be achieved and maintained. We also invite external speakers into the school to ensure that students are aware as to how they can access help and support when needed. The school is part of the mental Health Foundation Peer Educators Project, in which Year 12 students are trained to act as peer counsellors for the younger years.

Excellent Facilities

We moved into the Tennet Centre, our purpose built Sixth Form block, in April 2018 and are very much enjoying the additional space and light airy atmosphere. We have extensive private study facilities and a dedicated common room with its own café, where it is possible to buy coffee and an array of delicious snacks. Being set apart from the rest of the school helps to promote and maintain the Sixth Form's distinct identity and allows students to work independently and take responsibility for their own learning.

Partnership with Watford Grammar School for Boys

In order to ensure that we are able to offer as broad a combination of subjects as possible, in viable groups, we run some of our subjects in conjunction with Watford Grammar School for Boys. The lessons take place either on their site or here at Watford Girls and the timetable is specifically written to accommodate for students having to travel between the two sites.

What makes our Sixth Form special?

The Forum Programme

We are very proud of Forum, a bespoke programme unique to Watford Grammar School for Girls, which scaffolds and extends all that goes on in the classroom and the wider world, in addition to preparing our students for the moment that they leave the school to embark upon the rest of their lives and of course promoting good mental health and wellbeing.

Applying to university, college, training or employment is at the centre of all our students' minds and we offer superb support, ensuring that at all points of the process, our students are clear as to what they need to be doing and providing the careers education and advice they need to make the right choices. Students are assisted in any preparations for university admissions tests and those who choose to apply for Art Foundation courses are given help by the Art Department with the completion of applications and assembly of portfolios.

One of the most important pieces of equipment required to deal with life outside of school, is a moral compass, which is why we place so much importance on discussion related to ethics and ethical behaviour. We know that our students will be playing important roles in the societies in which they live and work which is why we prepare them for the many difficult decisions they will surely have to make.

To operate in the world and sometimes change it, you need to understand it, so we seek to ensure that our students have a firm grasp of important global issues and current affairs.

In lessons, students will be expected to do so much more for themselves, to increase independence and autonomy so in Forum we will be focusing upon these essential study skills, which are also life skills.

A key event in Year 12 is FACE the Future - Focus and Action on Careers and Employment - an afternoon of practice interviews given by visitors from different professions, colleges, businesses and other organisations. Many of our visiting interviewers are 'old girls' who return to support the Sixth Form in their preparations for life after Watford Girls.

What makes our Sixth Form special?

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Academic Enrichment

Many subjects arrange for students to attend enrichment activities outside school, such as lectures, visits, study days and field trips. Year12 students help to run a large number of thriving clubs for junior students and also act as 'study buddies' for the younger girls to help support their learning. The Sixth Form has its own very active societies such as the Government and Politics Society (GAPS) and Medical Society and students are encouraged to set up new societies to reflect their own personal interests. The school takes part in regional and national competitions and initiatives, such as the Science Olympiads, Maths Challenges, the Bank of England Target 2.0 Interest Rate Challenge, Young Enterprise and a variety of subject based essay competitions. Year 12 students regularly attend the prestigious Eton Universities Summer School.

Physical Education

Physical Education is very important at WGGS. There is a wide variety of clubs, teams, practices and activities available to sixth form students. As well as competing at regional and national level in a range of sports, there is the opportunity to take part in displays and performances and to take advantage of the facilities at the school's Fuller Life Health and Fitness Centre. In addition, students are encouraged to help with junior activities, particularly at lunchtime and after school. Many sixth formers also take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Schemes.

Music

Our thriving Music Department enjoys an excellent reputation and offers a wealth of activities popular with the Sixth Form, such as Senior Choir, several orchestras, Big Band and various chamber ensembles.

Community Service

Community service is at the heart of the school and spearheaded by the Sixth Form. Year 12 students arrange a Christmas Party for our community's most senior and venerable members, organising refreshments, decorations, presents and the entertainment, which is an opportunity to develop the skills of leadership and teamwork. Year 13's key event is the promotion and organisation of the annual Harvest festival and the distribution of the goods which have been collected, to the more deserving members of our Watford community.

Entry into the Sixth Form

The Sixth Form is an academic sixth form offering a wide range of A level subjects. The school does not offer vocational qualifications or GCSE retakes.

Students wishing to join the Sixth Form must meet the entry requirements as set out on the application form. They must have:

- *46 points in their best 8 GCSEs (see below for information about how we calculate the points)*
- *Grade 5 in either English Language or Literature and Maths*

They must also meet the individual entry requirement for all of the subjects they intend to study.

All students will choose at least three A level subjects. Students who wish to broaden their curriculum may do so in the following ways:

- By choosing a fourth subject. Students may wish to pursue this for the full two years in the Sixth Form, and gain an A level qualification. Alternatively, they may wish to study the fourth subject for one year only and then take an AS level in that subject. If students wish to study a fourth subject, they must choose a subject in which an AS is offered. They will have the option of taking this AS at the end of the first year if they wish, and then continuing with just three subjects in Year 13. Students will only be allocated a fourth subject if spaces are available in the subject they wish to study.
- By applying for the Extended Project Qualification

Students may wish to study one subject that comes from a markedly different mode of study from the others selected; for some university courses, additional breadth is positively beneficial. It is important, from a specific career point of view and from a broader educational perspective, that Science graduates can communicate and are perhaps able to speak another language, and that Arts and Humanities graduates can think logically and are reasonably numerate. Much of the advice from universities encourages breadth of study, though none makes a contrasting subject compulsory.

For all courses, school examinations and tests will be set at appropriate times throughout the courses.

How we calculate points:

For reformed subjects with numerical grades, the grade is the number of points – a GCSE grade 5 is worth 5 points.

For unreformed GCSEs, we use this conversion:

A* = 8; A = 7; B = 6; C = 5; D = 4; E = 3; F = 2; G = 1

Lower Sixth Options

Although experience shows that most of the courses below will operate, the school cannot guarantee to run a course for which there is insufficient demand nor guarantee all first choices.

The * next to the name of a course in the table indicates that an AS may be taken in this subject if it is being studied alongside three other subjects.

Art: Fine Art	English Literature	Music*
Art: Photography	French	PE* (at WBGS)
Art: Textiles	Further Mathematics*	Physics*
Biology*	Geography	Product Design (at WBGS)
Chemistry*	German (taught in partnership with WBGS)	Psychology*
Computer Science*	Government and Politics*	Religion, Philosophy & Ethics*
Classical Civilisation*	History*	Sociology* (open to WBGS)
Economics*	Latin (taught in partnership with WBGS)	Spanish (taught in partnership with WBGS)
Core Maths	Mathematics*	

The Sixth Form courses present an opportunity to study a balanced range of subjects, and you should seek to secure breadth and balance in your choices. The following link provides advice, information and guidance from the Russell Group of universities on choosing facilitating subjects.

Russel Group - Subject choices at school and college

Oversubscribed Courses

We anticipate that in the event of a course being under subscribed or oversubscribed, all the students concerned will be asked to reconsider their choices. Subject combinations, GCSE results (particularly those relevant to the course concerned) and future career plans will be taken into consideration. The final decision on places to be offered will be taken by the Head of Sixth Form together with the Heads of the Departments concerned.

GCSE Subject Grades Required

Art: Fine Art	
Art: Photography	Grade 6 in a Visual Arts subject.
Art: Textiles	
Biology*	Grades 666 in Triple Science (or the equivalent with at least a grade 6 in Biology) or grades 66 in Combined Science. Grade 6 in Mathematics would be beneficial.
Chemistry*	Grades 666 in Triple Science (or the equivalent with at least a grade 6 in Chemistry) or grades 66 in Combined Science. Grade 6 in Mathematics would be beneficial.
Classical Civilisation*	Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature. Grade 6 or above in Classical Civilisation if studied or grade 6 in another humanity.
Computer Science*	Grade 5 in Mathematics. Grade 6 in Computer Science (if taken at GCSE).
Core Maths	Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.
Economics*	Grade 6 or above in English Language or English Literature and Grade 6 in Mathematics. Students who do not have a Grade 6 in Mathematics can gain access to the course by enrolling on the As Level Core Mathematics course in addition to their three A Levels.
English Literature	Grade 6 in English Language and English Literature.
Geography	Grade 6 or above in Geography if studied or a Grade 6 or above in another humanity.
Government and Politics*	Grade 6 or above in a humanity.
History*	Grade 6 or above in History if studied or a Grade 6 or above in another humanity.
Latin	Grade 6 or above in Latin.
Mathematics* & Further Mathematics*	Mathematics: Grade 7. Further Mathematics: Grade 8.
Modern Languages	Grade 6 in your chosen language(s).
Music*	Grade 6 in Music GCSE plus grade 5 ABRSM/Trinity.
Physical Education	Grade 6 in Physical Education.
Physics*	Grades 666 in Triple Science (or the equivalent with at least a grade 6 in Physics) or grades 66 in Combined Science. Grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE would be beneficial.
Product Design (at WBGS	Grade 6 in Design and Technology or grade 6 in a Visual Arts subject.
Psychology*	Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature and Grade 6 or above in Mathematics. Students who do not have a Grade 6 in mathematics can gain access to the course by enrolling on the AS Level Mathematics course in addition to their 3 A Levels.
Religion, Philosophy & Ethics*	Grade 6 or above in Religious Studies or Grade 6 or above in another humanity.
Sociology* (open to WBGS)	Grade 6 in English Language & English Language and in one other Humanity.

Lower Sixth Options

	English Language	English Literature	Mathematics	Science	Test Subject	Other
Art: Fine Art					6	1
Art: Photography					6	1
Art: Textiles					6	1
Biology*				666/66	1	1
Chemistry*				666/66	1	1
Classical Civilisation*	6	or 6			6	1
Computer Science*			5		1	1
Core Maths			5		1	1
Economics*	6	or 6	6	66	1	1
English Literature	6	6			1	1
Further Mathematics*			8		1	1
Geography	6	or 6		(66)	1	1
Government and Politics*	6				1	1
History*	6	or 6			1	1
Latin	6	or 6			1	1
Mathematics*			7		1	1
Modern Languages					1	1
Music*					1	1
Physical Education					1	1
Physics*				666/66	1	1
Product Design (at WBGS					1	1
Psychology*	6	or 6	6	6	1	1
Religion, Philosophy & Ethics*	6	or 6			1	1
Sociology* (open to WBGS)	6				1	1

The * next to the name of a course in the table indicates that an AS may be taken in this subject if it is beingstudied alongside three other subjects.

Fine Art

Have you got lots of creative ideas and a range of skills? Do you like to set and explore your own brief? If so, then this is the course for you! Within this flexible and diverse course you can explore a huge number of skill areas; these could include painting, drawing, illustration, collage, 3D work and mixed media. This will develop and extend existing skills.

Key Skills

The aims of the course are for students to develop skills and confidence across a range of exciting processes and techniques including: felting, experimental photography, mono printing, silk painting, oil painting, design, life drawing, three dimensional design, clay work, alginate casting, etching and printing press, relief work, illustration and large scale painting and drawing. Students will also refine a mature and critical understanding of art history and art genres, through research and written work on historical and contemporary artists, designers, illustrators and photographers. Their observations and insights on the art world, and exhibition visits, will be recorded in a critical research journal which is an informal 'arty diary'. All other work is generated in a sketchbook format, and as large 'outside of book' pieces, and presented as a final portfolio and exhibition display.

Links

Fine Art is a highly creative and versatile subject which encourages students independently to generate and explore their own themed ideas and outcomes, and develop the skills that most interest them. The course will complement any combination of academic subjects as it offers valuable skills in lateral thinking and time management. Increasingly, as students have to prove that they are well rounded and adaptable, an A level in any art course perfectly meets this expectation. Previous Fine Art students have successfully proceeded to Degree courses in English, Architecture, Mechanical Engineering, Theatre Design, a design apprenticeship for Dyson and Shoe Design. Career destinations have included Liberty London, the National Theatre and working as a photographer for London Fashion Week.

Topics

The two year course includes several weeks of creative skill acquisition and then students select their own artists and starting points, stemming from a general umbrella theme. The course is therefore largely dictated by the student, which allows a huge amount of creative freedom. Students select their own artistic influences and develop original and inventive outcomes including: huge paintings, mixed media pieces, reclaimed furniture, illustrated shoes and clothing and large scale collage and sculptural work. All students will also complete an externally set project under timed conditions, and sit a two day final exam at the end of the course. In Year 13 pupils also select their own themed focus, and develop a written investigation into artists relating to this topic. This piece of writing then influences all 2D and 3D practical work and ideas.

Entry Requirements

You need at least a grade 6 in Fine Art, Graphics, Photography or Textiles. Occasionally a personal portfolio of work can be used to prove ability.

Students may need to purchase some materials for this course.

Further Information: Mrs Morgan, Miss Georgiou

Art - Textiles

Do you have experimental skills and creative ideas? Are you innovative, passionate about arts & crafts, fashion, textiles, interiors, costume? Then this is the course for you! This exciting and versatile A level course allows progression from all GCSE Art subjects. The fashion, textiles and costume trained staff introduce you to contemporary and exciting techniques from the commercial art world and youwill be taught all the skills you need to use during the first term of the course.

Key Skills

The aims of the course are for students to develop skills in a range of exciting processes and techniques including: felting, quilting, appliqué, screen printing, machine embroidery, batik, dying, plastic melting, creative photography, experimental textiles, weaving, knitting, mono-printing, stamps, stencils, quilting, silk painting, paper making, and dry felting. You will learn how to critically evaluate and research a wide range of contemporary and historic fashion and design influences, and will summarise these observations in sketchbooks, and your critical research journal.

Links

Textiles is a highly creative subject which encourages students to independently generate and explore their own themes, ideas and outcomes. The course will complement any combination of academic subjects as it offers valuable skills in self–confidence, self-expression and creativity.

Previous students have successfully proceeded to degree courses in Printed Textiles, Merchandising, Fashion Buying, Costume Design, Theatre Design, Visual Merchandising, Shoe Design, Architecture, Bridal design/construction and Fashion Textiles. In addition to this, they have gone on to secure valuable internships and amazing careers in Liberty London and the Cath Kidston print design studios, pattern cutting/coat construction on Saville Row, fashion design at Ted Baker, Karen Millen, Vivienne Westwood and Calvin Klein, Harry Potter costume design and making costumes for the National Theatre. These contacts provide us with great opportunities for work experience, workshops and career guidance when we invite former students back to the school to offer their advice and experience to our current students.

Topics

The A level course is separated into several themed units which have shared and taught starting points; however the course theme is largely dictated by the students which allows a huge amount of creative freedom. Students are encouraged individually to select their own design influences and develop original and inventive Textiles outcomes which have included wall hangings, garments, accessories, chairs, dolls, shoes and textile installations to name a few.

The coursework portfolio and exam units completed in Year 12 and 13 are complemented with excursions to inspiring sites and exhibitions including the Knitting and Stitching show and other local exhibitions or on site in our own gallery

Entry Requirements

You need at least a grade 6 in Fine Art, Graphics, Photography or Textiles. Occasionally a personal portfolio of work can be used to prove ability.

Students may need to purchase some materials for this course.

Further Information: Miss Georgiou, Mrs Sweeney

Art - Photography (text)

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Students may need to purchase some materials for this course.

Further Information: Miss Georgiou, Mrs Sweeney

Biology

The challenging and diverse nature of Biology makes it a prized subject in any profession, but most importantly the subject instils a passion for life itself. The study of Biology at A level is designed to develop a student's interest in, and enthusiasm for, the subject. To achieve highly in this subject you will be expected to work collaboratively with your peers and staff.

An understanding of scientific method is promoted to increase scientific knowledge and to develop an enquiring and critical approach. Students will develop awareness that different perceptions, predictions and interpretations can be applied according to context.

The study of Biology encourages an appreciation of how society makes decisions about biological issues e.g. GM foods, genetic engineering, global warming, healthy living, epidemics, farming, and pest control as well as providing an insight into the living world.

An investigatory approach to practical work is an intrinsic part of Biology.

Links

A level Biology is an ideal subject to allow access into higher education in both biological and other non-biology based subjects. Skills learnt are invaluable to a career in the Life Sciences, including Environmental Science, Dietetics, Nutrition, Biomedical Science, Biochemistry, Nursing, Botany, Zoology, Medicine, Dentistry, Forensics, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Psychology and Veterinary Medicine.

Biology can be studied at A level with any other combination of subjects, but if students want to progress onto any biological based course then Chemistry A level should also be studied.

Topics

- Biological compounds, cells, enzymes
- Photosynthesis, respiration, microbiology, populations, ecosystems, human impact on the environment
- Genetics, evolution, sexual reproduction
- Adaptations for gas exchange, transport and nutrition
- Homeostasis and nervous system

Entry Requirements

To study Biology A Level you must achieve at least grades 666 in Triple Science (or the equivalent with at least a grade 6 in Biology GCSE) or grades 66 in Combined Science. A grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE would be beneficial.

Further Information: Mrs S Durward-Akhurst

Chemistry

By studying chemistry at A level you will acquire a wide range of skills and learn about ideas and concepts which address all the important questions in modern science. You will learn about a number of the key issues which face us, from environmental issues to new developments in pharmaceuticals.

The skills that you will develop whilst studying an A level in Chemistry are wide ranging and will prepare you for a variety of careers. You will develop problem solving, time management and team working skills whilst carrying out a wide variety of experiments. You will become adept at data handling, demonstrate your numeracy and have opportunities to become a more confident communicator.

Links

Chemistry is sometimes called the 'central science' and is supported by studying A levels in Physics and Biology. Studying Mathematics helps to support the numerical aspects of the course. There are strong links to other subjects, including Geography.

Chemistry is required for a number of careers including many in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. It is recognised that it also gives you skills that support careers such as Law, Marketing, Education and Finance.

Topics

Chemistry is a practical subject and much learning will be through laboratory experience. Many topics included in Chemistry A level will be familiar from GCSE, including calculations, atomic structure, energy, bonding, reaction rates and equilibria. The ideas introduced during GCSE are developed, challenged and expanded upon throughout the two years.

Entry Requirements

To study Chemistry A Level you must achieve at least grades 666 in Triple Science (or the equivalent with at least a grade 6 in Chemistry GCSE) or grades 66 in Combined Science. A grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE would be beneficial.

Further Information: Mr S. Burns

Classical Civilisation

C lassical Civilisation is about humanity. For over 2000 years it has offered us the most enduring and deeply felt reflections on what it means to be a human being. The subject does not promise to provide answers, but through reflection on two of the greatest societies in history you will broaden your outlook on life and develop a greater understanding of your place in the world. Involving the study of history, literature, society, philosophy and art, Classical Civilisation is the ultimate multi-discipline subject.

Links

Classical Civilisation is a respected, multi-faceted course that will equip you with a particularly broad range of skills. The study of ancient literature will enhance your ability to write articulately and hone your analytical skills. The study of visual and material culture will provide you with a framework and language through which you can assess all artworks and objects of beauty. The study of philosophy will ensure that you can think critically, argue efficiently and deconstruct arguments. This subject will help you stand out and demonstrate to admissions tutors and employers that you are an independently minded and academically curious individual. Students with an enthusiasm for literature or drama are eminently suitable for this course, while those who study the humanities are bound to find some insightful overlap with Classics. It is often a perfect fit for those seeking to add breadth and variety to their options, while it is an excellent starting point for those interested in philosophy. Lastly, if you are not quite sure what you want to do, not quite sure who you might be, you should definitely study this subject; you might be a Classicist.

Classicists are renowned as interesting, engaged people with a broad knowledge base and a wide skill set. They tend to go on and do various interesting and rewarding things, such as Publishing, Law, Finance, Journalism, Education, Civil Service, and the Arts.

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Topics

- THE WORLD OF THE HERO: An in-depth study of Homer's Iliad and Virgil's Aeneid, two of the most influential and enduring works of epic literature from the ancient world. You will look closely at literary techniques and composition, and reflect upon how these works shaped the value systems and thought processes of subsequent literature and societies. You will explore the timeless concepts of justice, fate and the role of the gods against a backdrop of magical realism and the fascinating contemporary political context of the times they were written in.
- GREEK THEATRE: A comprehensive study of Greek drama, using source material including literature, visual and material culture. Not only will you learn about why drama was so important in Greek society, but you will also discern links between ancient customs and their more modern cousins. You will read three plays in depth: the tragedies Oedipus the King by Sophocles and the Bacchae by Euripides; and the Frogs, a comedy by Aristophanes. You will also study representations of drama on a selection of ancient vase paintings, and the archaeological sites of the ancient theatres themselves.
- LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS: Ideas about love and relationships are key aspects of the literature, thoughts and ethics of any society, and by studying those of the Greek and Roman world you will consider ethical questions relating to love, desire, sexuality, gender and marriage that can be equally relevant and applicable to modern society. You will examine thought provoking and stretching concepts by studying the ideas and theories of the ancient philosophers Plato and Seneca, alongside a close look at the societal norms of ancient Greece and Rome. A study of love poetry by Ovid and Sappho will provide a different interpretation of ancient love and relationships, with Sappho providing a rare example of the female voice in ancient literature, and Ovid's controversial poems contrasting with the societal expectations of imperial Rome.
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The A level course (OCR) is assessed in three written examinations that cover all material taught in the two year course.

Entry Requirements

tudents are required to have obtained a 6 in English Language OR Literature. No prior qualification in Classical Civilisation is necessary, but students who have taken the subject at GCSE must achieve at least grade 6. Students must have a grade 6 in any other humanity subject if they have not studied Classical Civilisation at GCSE.

Students are required to purchase their own textbook(s) for this course.

Further Information: Ms H Long or Ms Y Bateson

Computer Science

Computer Science has been a fundamental building block of the society we live in today. From helping to crack Nazi codes through to the internet and mobile phones it has already contributed much, however, many great challenges lie in the future for Computer Scientists to solve. This course, with its emphasis on general problem-solving, programming and a fundamental understanding of how computers work, is an excellent foundation for helping to solve these future challenges. The course is split evenly into practical and theoretical work.

The practical elements all revolve around learning how to program, which is basically solving endless logical puzzles. The theory deals with such topics as how a processor and the internet work. The course is excellent preparation for those students intending to learn a programming language and more than half the assessment is based on your programming skills on the computer. Students have gone on to study Computer Science at university as well as other Science courses that make use of programming.Classical Civilisation is the ultimate multi-discipline subject.

Topics

- Fundamentals of programming
- Fundamentals of data structures
- Systematic approach to problem solving
- Theory of computation
- Fundamentals of algorithms
- Fundamentals of functional programming
- 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
- Non-exam assessment – the computing practical project

PAPER 1 - FUNDAMENTALS OF PROGRAMMING EXAM

This paper tests a student's ability to program, as well as their theoretical knowledge of Computer Science. Students will learn to program in a procedural programming language and will then use this knowledge to solve logical problems and puzzles. They will also learn how to structure programs correctly. There will be an exam on the computer and it will involve preliminary material, a skeleton program and possible test data that is then used in the exam.

PAPER 2 - COMPUTER FUNDAMENTALS EXAM

Paper 2 is all about how a computer works. It deals with everything from a technical viewpoint and includes operating systems, how processors work, networking and binary. This paper will involve a written exam consisting of short-answer and extended-answer questions.

NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT

There will be an opportunity to create a personal project which will be assessed and will form 20% of the A level. This involves a large project where the student plans, designs and implements a program. Examples of projects students have made include: 2D strategy games such as Connect 4 and "dots and boxes", smoke/fire detectors with sensors, automatic robot cars following a track, 3D platform games using real time physics.

Entry Requirements

n order to study Computing you must achieve at least a grade 5 in Mathematics GCSE. If you did study GCSE Computing we would expect you to have achieved at least a grade 6 in the Computing GCSE – however it is not a requirement that you studied GCSE Computing.

Further Information: Mr A Tibble

Economics

Ever wonder why food costs rise when gas prices spike? Ever question why UK politicians worry when other countries talk of going bankrupt? Ever wonder why you can't get a good interest rate on your savings account?

All of these phenomena can be explained through Economics. Economics is the study of what gives us our modern lifestyle. Economics is concerned with the way society chooses to employ scarce resources to produce goods and services for present and future generations.

Links

Economics links well with Geography, History, Government and Politics and Mathematics.

Economics develops critical thinking that helps in understanding how businesses can be run efficiently to make profits. CAREER OPTIONS Jobs related to Economics Jobs where your degree would be useful Economist/ Banker/Statistician/Actuary Civil Service Fast Streamer Chartered/Certified Accountant Diplomatic Services Operational Officer Chartered Public Finance Accountant Management Consultant Investment/Financial Risk Analyst

Topics

THEME 1: (YEAR 1) Introduction to markets and market failure This theme focuses on microeconomic concepts. Students will develop an understanding of: the nature of economics, how markets work, market failure, government intervention.

THEME 2: (YEAR 1) The UK economy – performance and policies This theme focuses on macroeconomic concepts. Students will develop an understanding of: measures of economic performance, aggregate demand, aggregate supply, national income, economic growth, macroeconomic objectives and policy.

THEME 3: (YEAR 2) Business behaviour and the labour market This theme develops the microeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 1 and focuses on business economics. Students will develop an understanding of: business growth, business objectives, revenues, costs and profits, market structures, labour market, government intervention.

THEME 4: (YEAR 2) A global perspective This theme develops the macroeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 2 and applies these concepts in a global context. Students will develop an understanding of: poverty and inequality, international economics, emerging and developing economies, the financial sector, the role of the state in the macro economy.

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English Language or English Literature and 66 in Science.

Further Information: Mr B Temple, Mrs K Chopra

English Literature

The study of Literature at A level is a broad and challenging LITERATURE journey through the literary canon. Reading widely, critically and independently, across centuries, genre and gender, there is significant scope for independent study and the emphasis of the course will be on your development as an informed, independent reader of literary texts. You can expect to read a minimum of ten set texts and to write regular essays. However, those wishing to aim for the highest grades will be constantly engaged in reading further about the content of the course.

Links

An A level in English Literature will provide you with an array of highly desirable transferable skills including:

- Developing detailed and balanced arguments and sensitivity to how communication is shaped by circumstances,
- authorship and intended audience
- Sensitivity to the power of language and its role in creating meaning
- A broad vocabulary and ability to use critical terminology appropriately
- Skills in the accurate and appropriate presentation of academic work
- The ability to analyse critically and the capacity for independent thought, reflection and judgement
- The ability to comprehend and develop intricate ideas and make good use of research skills

As a result, you would be well prepared to apply for a range of university courses from humanities to Law, International Relations, Journalism and more. Many students choose to study English Literature alongside Science subjects; they enjoy the contrast it creates in their timetables. Employers also value the strong communication and analytical skills that it demonstrates.

Topics

The AQA (A) specification is broad and exciting with the study of texts spanning everything from the Shakespeare to Margaret Atwood! You will study poetry, prose and drama from the medieval to modern period.

- You can expect 2 exams, which will be between two and three hours long. Some of the examination content will be unseen.
- There will be comparative coursework worth 20% of the final A level, which will ask you to compare and contrast texts from different periods.

Set texts are chosen by individual teachers, but there will definitely be something for everyone! The most important thing is that you love reading and that you are willing to approach discursive lessons with an open mind and willingness to contribute. The coursework unit provides you with an opportunity to pursue your own interests; you will be able to choose a text to compare with the taught, set text.

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in both GCSE English Literature and English Language.

Students are required to purchase their own textbook(s) for this course.

Further Information: Ms S Solomons

Geography

In Year 12 we follow the Edexcel A level course which covers a challenging range of contemporary themes and equips students with the skills they will need to study geography further at university level.

As a full A level, students focus on four areas of study which are externally examined in papers 1 and 2. They are also prepared for a synoptic investigation for unit 3 as well as completing an independent investigation as a piece of coursework.

Year 12 Topics

The programme of study has a traditional physical/human split and will be delivered by two members of the geography department.

AREA OF STUDY 1:

- Topic 1 – Tectonic processes and hazards and -
- Topic 2 – Landscape systems; coastal landscapes and change

AREA OF STUDY 2:

- Topic 3 – Globalisation and -
- Topic 4 – Shaping places; regenerating places

Students are required to undertake compulsory fieldwork as part of their A level. A residential trip to the FSC Slapton Ley will take place in the Summer Term. Approximate cost - £250

Year 13 Topics

AREA OF STUDY 3:

- Topic 5 – The water cycle and water insecurity and -
- Topic 6 - The carbon cycle and energy insecurity

AREA OF STUDY 4:

- Topic 7 – Superpowers and -
- Topic 8 – Global development and connections

Students will be examined by three externally assessed exam papers at the end of Year 13 as well as one piece of coursework submitted in the winter of Year 13.

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or above in English Language or English Literature is required. Grade 6 or above in Geography OR grade 6 or above in another humanities subject and grade 66 in Science and Additional Science or equivalent in separate sciences.

Further Information: Mr A Newbey

Government & Politics

If you've ever wondered how and why the decisions that affect your lives are made then this course may be for you. It is rigorous, exciting and highly prized by universities. This course will appeal to students who:

- Want to learn more about politics and how decisions are made in today's society.
- Enjoy investigating ideas and policy issues that affect everyday life.
- Enjoy debating issues, ideas and opinions and have a lively interest in current affairs.
- Want to study a subject which encourages them to consider evidence and make up their own minds, so
- developing their analytical and communication skills further.

Links

The skills and knowledge developed in Government and Politics are highly prized by universities and employers as a qualification for a wide range of courses in History, Economics, PPE, English, Languages, Art History, Law, Journalism, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, Theology and many more, including Science and Medicine, and, of course, Politics and International Relations. It allows students to understand:

- How to debate and defend your ideas while respecting those of others
- How to research and develop your analytical skills
- How to produce balanced and well supported multi-stranded arguments
- How to evaluate those arguments and how to arrive at well supported conclusions

Topics

This course is designed to develop an awareness of the nature of politics and the relationship between political ideas, institutions and issues, central to an understanding of the modern world. It encourages:

- A knowledge of the structure of government and power in the UK and the USA within the context of the wider world.
- The opportunity to engage in contemporary political debates and develop critical awareness of contemporary political events and issues.
- An understanding of differing political viewpoints and ability to evaluate alternative approaches to political issues.
- The skills of arguing a case relevantly and coherently.
- An awareness of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Enrichment Activities

The Government and Politics department also gives students wider opportunities to engage in political discussion and debate with outside speakers through the Government and Politics Society (GAPS) as well as trips to political conferences, the UK Parliament and Washington DC. GAPS produces political publicationswritten and edited by politics students giving opportunity for developing journalistic skills. Students in the department also run and take part in school mock elections and run a debate club for students in year10-13.

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in English Language and grade 6 in any humanities subject

Students are required to purchase their own textbook(s) for this course.

Further Information: Mr A Newbey

History

Studying the 'human past' offers students opportunities to deepen their understanding of the ideas, beliefs and motivation of peoples of all kinds. It also provides insight into events and developments that have formed and influenced modern society. History in the Sixth Form also develops important skills such as analysing and evaluating information, summarising and organising ideas, and constructing clear, logical arguments both verbally and in writing. These are vital skills for a range of careers from areas of obvious relevance like heritage work, teaching or research, to fields like journalism, law, accountancy and management, the civil service and even medicine and beyond!

History is ideal for students who:

- Have an interest in the way the world has developed through the ages and enjoy investigation and discovery.
- Wish to develop their analytical skills, enjoy debate and like putting forward a well-argued case.
- Want to study a subject which encourages them to consider evidence and make up their own minds.
- Want to keep their options open or want to combine humanities and science.

Links

History combines well with a number of other subjects and is very well regarded both by universities and employers as a qualification for a wide range of courses in Politics, Economics, English, Languages, Art History, Law, Archaeology, Philosophy, Sociology, Theology and many more including science and medicine.

Topics

You will be studying topics from the AQA specification. This consists of three parts:

- The breadth study - The Tudors 1485-1603
- The depth study - Either Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–1953 OR The American Dream: Reality and Illusion, 1945-1980
- the historical investigation - An extended piece of writing from your choice of up to six different wide reaching topics

Entry Requirements

You do not need to have studied History at GCSE in order to take an A level course in the subject. It is more important that you have an enquiring mind and an interest in finding out more about a wide range of historical topics. As this Course also requires an ability to write essays and answer source questions, a grade 6 or above in English Language or English Literature is required. Where GCSE History has been taken a Grade 6 or above is required. Where GCSE History has not been taken a Grade 6 or above in another humanities subject, i.e. Classical Civilisation, Geography or Religious Studies is required.

Students are required to purchase their own textbook(s) for this course.

Further Information: Mr A Thompson

Latin

The study of Latin is not a futile attempt to resurrect a dead language. Instead, Latin is the ultimate foundation of academic endeavour and will equip you with a broad range of valuable skills which are transferable into absolutely any field. The A level course will complete your instruction in the language and allow you to study some of the greatest works of western literature in their original form.

Links

Latin will most definitely set you apart from the crowd. It is celebrated for its ability to stretch and challenge young minds, and its value in enabling students to think analytically and write with fluency. Opting to study Latin is a statement of intent that will immediately demonstrate to admissions officers and employers that you are a student of academic integrity and intellectual curiosity. Latin acts as a perfect bridge between the sciences and humanities; students predominantly interested in the sciences and maths find the complex linguistic analysis entailed in the subject to be a perfect complement to their skills. Students interested in literature or the humanities will find it to be the perfect way to underpin their skill-set and shape their understanding about human existence through the study of literature in its historical context. Linguists gravitate to Latin for obvious reasons, while students who do not fit into any of the categories mentioned above may actually find their spiritual home in the subject.

Latinists go on to pursue a wide variety of career paths, including law, journalism and finance. Knowing Latin is of course not necessary for these types of careers, but the skills of lateral thinking that the subject develops are. Studying this subject at A Level will definitely open more doors for you.

Topics

YEAR 12

- Latin Language: You will deepen your understanding of the linguistic constructions covered at GCSE and broaden your knowledge to cover every remaining aspect of Latin grammar.
- Latin Prose and Verse Literature: You will develop the skills of literary analysis that you learned at GCSE by exploring slightly longer passages of authentic Latin.

YEAR 13

- Latin Language: you will continue to develop your linguistic skills by tackling unseen translations of authentic Latin literature. The examination will require you to complete both an unseen verse and prose translation and to answer some comprehension questions about an extract of Latin.
- Latin Verse Literature: You will read further extracts of the verse author that you studied in Year 12, thereby building up a fuller picture of the narrative and historical context of the work.
- Latin Prose Literature: As with the verse paper, you will complete a more in depth study of your prose set text.

The A level course (OCR) is assessed in four examinations that cover all material taught in the two year course. The two Latin language components are worth 50%, while Verse and Prose Literature are worth 25% each.

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in Latin GCSE and grade 6 in English Language OR Literature GCSE. Please note this subject is taught in partnership with WBGS.

Further Information: Ms H Long

Students are required to purchase their own textbook(s) for this course

Mathematics & Further Mathematics

Students studying Mathematics enjoy its challenge, its clarity, and the fact that correctly deducing the solution of a problem has an excitement and satisfaction all of its own. It is a subject that teaches you to think in a logical way, which is vital when presenting your case in any situation.

The course is primarily Pure Mathematics but includes Applied Mathematics elements from both Mechanics and Statistics. Mechanics involves looking at forces and how they affect the motion of objects in the real world. Statistics involves processing and analysing data, as well as using Mathematical models to predict results and calculate likely outcomes.

Mathematics is all about pattern and structure; it is about logical analysis, deduction and calculation within these patterns and structures. Where patterns are found, often in widely different areas of science and technology or business and economics, the mathematics of these patterns can be used to explain and control natural happenings and situations. As a result, Mathematics has an extensive influence on our everyday lives and the world around us.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS:
For a student who enjoys Mathematics, following a course in Further Mathematics provides an additional challenge and a chance to explore new and more sophisticated mathematical concepts. As well as learning new areas of Pure Mathematics you will study further applications of Mathematics in Mechanics and Statistics. Students taking Further Mathematics find it an enjoyable, rewarding, stimulating and empowering experience. It is a challenging qualification, which extends and deepens your knowledge and understanding beyond the standard A level course. Students who take Further Mathematics are really demonstrating a strong commitment to their studies, as well as learning skills that are very useful for any mathematically rich degree.

Links

Mathematics has a huge importance in its own right and in facilitating understanding in other subjects. Mathematics is key to the study of the sciences - physical and biological, technology, social and medical sciences. It is also the language of business, finance, health and planning.

Many other A levels and careers use Statistics extensively, so doing A level Mathematics could give you a head start. If you are planning to take a degree such as Engineering, Sciences, Computing, Finance/Economics or perhaps Mathematics itself, you will benefit enormously from taking Mathematics or Further Mathematics at A level.

Topics

- PURE MATHEMATICS : Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, vectors
- STATISTICS: Statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, statistical hypothesis testing
- MECHANICS: Quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws

Entry Requirements

Mathematics A level – Grade 7 at GCSE Mathematics
Further Mathematics A level – Grade 8 at GCSE Mathematics.

Further Information: Ms S Harris

Students will need to purchase a calculator appropriate for A Level Mathematics

Core Mathematics

In the modern world there is a need for us to be numerically literate and able to analyse the wealth of data that we are confronted with. This has been particularly true during the current pandemic, when we have been bombarded by data and graphs. In order to help address the need for greater fluency with key mathematical skills the Core Maths course was introduced nationally. It is an alternative to A level and designed to encourage more students to continue with the study of maths post-16. It is a relatively new qualification (first examined in 2016), but one which is increasing in popularity. The full name of the course is AQA level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies.

The course is deemed equivalent to an AS level and is graded A – E. Like an AS level, it offers up to 20 UCAS Tariff Points. It is increasingly being recognised by universities: The University of Bath, for example, will drop an A level offer by one grade if a student achieves at least a B grade in Core Maths (for any course that does not require A Level Maths). Core Maths aims to develop different skills to A Level Maths. Much of the mathematical content is at GCSE level, but certain key A level topics are included, such as standard deviation, correlation measures and the Normal Distribution. The focus is on applying maths to the contexts students are likely to encounter in everyday life, higher level study and employment. This means that there are particular emphases on data skills, the use of spreadsheets and personal finance (for example mortgages, income tax and student loans). Many A level and Degree subjects contain more mathematical content than students realise, and Core Maths is designed to develop the skills required for the quantitative aspect of them.

Links

A levels that would be well supported by the study of Core Maths are Biology, Geography, Sports Science, Psychology, Economics and Business Studies..

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE Maths

Students will need to purchase an appropriate calculator

Further Information: Ms S Harris

Modern Languages

Having a foreign language at A level shows a real breadth LANGUAGES of knowledge and that you have developed expertise in communication and critical thinking, which are readily transferable and highly sought-after by universities and employers. You will develop a wide set of skills, including, but not limited to:

- presenting written and spoken ideas clearly and concisely
- communicating, developing, justifying and defending points of view in natural conversation

Continued study of French, German or Spanish will allow you to improve your knowledge not only of your chosen language, but also of English. Language study allows you to build your general knowledge, from studying literature to learning about history and society, to researching current affairs and analysing topical articles.

There are opportunities for trips abroad for A level students, as well as other cultural and language based trips and opportunities, which will all help you to deepen your understanding of different cultures. You will also attend weekly sessions with the Language Assistant to boost your fluency and confidence even further.

Links

The skills used in Languages complement a whole range of different subjects:

- Structuring essays, organising ideas, critical thought and analysis
- Logical grammar knowledge and application
- Subject content – history, arts and contemporary society
- Practical debating and presentation skills are assessed – listening and speaking
-

There are all sorts of courses at university which include a language, which open up opportunities to which many of your peers without a language would not have access. For example Law with French Law at the University of Birmingham, Biochemistry with German for Science at Imperial College, London or Accounting with Spanish at Cardiff University.

As well as traditional language-based careers such as interpreting, translating and teaching, Languages open up careers in international companies anywhere in the world… BMW, Médecins sans Frontières, Zara, L'Oréal, Ferrero, Santander, Haribo, Airbus…

Topics

A wide range of topics at A level including themes such as the Spanish Civil War, divided Germany, France under Nazi occupation, immigration, wealth and poverty, technology, politics and culture through film, music, art, literature and architecture.

Entry Requirements

GCSE Grade 6 in the chosen language.

Students are required to purchase their own textbook(s) for this course.

Further Information: Mr C Holbrook

Music

Edexcel A level Music provides opportunities for you to develop knowledge and understanding of musical language through the study, creation and performance of a wide variety of music. It places significant weighting on practical skills. The options offered will encourage you to perform and compose in styles which suit your taste and experience. You will build on knowledge and skills gained through GCSE Music and your experiences of extra curricular music both in and out of school.

Links

Music helps you to develop a variety of skills such and qualities as analysis, communication skills, self confidence and self-reliance, as well as providing a means of artistic expression and relaxation. It stretches your imagination and playing an instrument also makes you think and react quickly. Skills such as these are not just prized within musical careers; they are valuable to all types of employers. Music is a highly regarded academic subject and whether you take it with a view to a career in music or as an additional A level subject, it is held in high esteem by universities and other institutions of higher education. Most people, however, study Music because they love it and you will have plenty of practical opportunities to develop your talents.

A Level Music Unit Content

Extended Performance 30%
Composition and Technical Study 30%
Further Musical Understanding 40% (13 set works)

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE Music and Grade 5 ABRSM

Further Information: Ms J Bridges

Physical Education

This A level builds on the student's experience from Key Stage 4 and GCSE to enhance their knowledge and increase their understanding of the factors that affect performance and participation in Physical Education. The qualification looks to equip students with the skills and knowledge required for higher education or the world of work.

Links

Physical Education complements a number of other subjects on offer at A level by the very nature of the course. Students that have taken P.E. have combined it with a wide array of other subjects from art through to psychology. Psychology and the sciences at A level do cross over with P.E. through the study of scientific aspects within exercise physiology and the study of personality, for example, in sports psychology. There are endless employment opportunities following study at higher education such as coaching, teaching, biomechanics, sports rehabilitation, physiotherapy, officiating, sports technology development, sports administration, sports management and media. Other employment opportunities outside of the sporting domain are also possible

Topics

The A Level covers a wide selection of theoretical topics. Students will sit two papers which cover six different aspects. Each paper is 35% of the A level final mark.

- APPLIED ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY: This unit focuses on developing knowledge and understanding of the changes to the body systems as a result of exercise.
- SKILL ACQUISITION: This unit explores the impact of psychological factors on performance. There is a focus on understanding the principles required to learn and develop skills in physical activities.
- SPORT AND SOCIETY: This unit develops an understanding of the interaction between, and the evolution of, sport and society.
- EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOMECHANICS: Students will develop an understanding of the adaptations the body makes as a result of training. They will also explore the impact of biomechanics on sporting performance.
- SPORT PSYCHOLOGY: Students will explore a range of psychological factors such as anxiety, aggression, motivation and confidence and how these impact sports performance.
- SPORT AND SOCIETY AND TECHNOLOGY IN SPORT: This unit explores ethical issues in sport, such as drugs and violence. Students will also develop an understanding of the impact of technological advances in sport.

Students will also be assessed in the role of a performer or coach in one sporting activity, as well as completing an analysis of performance in this activity. This is worth 30% of the final A level mark.

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE P.E. It is an expectation that students are involved in school practices/outside clubs to stand them in good stead for study at A level.

Students are required to purchase their own textbook(s) for this course.

Further Information: Miss K Holes

Physics

Physics at A level is a highly respected qualification that opens doors to many different careers. It looks at some of the big questions like “How did the universe begin?”, “What are the basic building blocks of matter?” and “How does the sun keep on shining?” It helps you to begin to understand the technology around us, for example, how music is produced and synthesised and how Physics is used in the food industry.

Doing A level Physics will develop the following skills: problem solving, reasoning, numeracy, ICT and communication. During experimental work you will learn planning, practical and observational skills. You will also have the opportunity to work in a team and undertake data handling. You will become able to construct logical arguments, apply analytical skills and grasp complex problems. The ethical, moral and environmental issues related to technology are considered.

Physics is one of the Russell Group’s facilitating subjects; these subjects leave open a wide range of options for university study if you are not sure what you want to do yet.

Links

Physics is the science that explains the world and universe around us. There is a strong link between A level Physics and Mathematics, although many previous students have achieved highly at Physics without taking Mathematics A level. There are also links to the other sciences and Geography. Studying Physics makes you an excellent problem solver so it combines well with and complements most other A level subjects.

Physics is required for a number of degree courses including Engineering, Physics, Materials Science and some Earth Science and Chemistry courses. Physics A level will give you valuable skills which are relevant to numerous careers in computing, finance, education, medicine, consultancy and music amongst many others.

Topics

Physics at A level will be learnt through theory and experiments. Many topics will expand on and develop the GCSE material including Mechanics, Electricity, Waves, Radioactivity, Space and Energy. You will begin to see how these topics work together and also be equipped for the study of the new topics on Materials, Fields and Particle Physics.

Entry Requirements

To study Physics A level you must achieve at least grades 666 in Triple Science (or the equivalent with at least a grade 6 in Physics GCSE) or grades 66 in Combined Science. A grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE would be beneficial.

Further Information: Mrs C Haines

Product Design

This course is broken down into two key components: Principles of Design and Technology and Independent Design and Make Project

Component 1: Principles of Design and Technology

- Students will study a wide range of materials/composition and application, including modern/smart materials, and processes used in product design and manufacture.
- Students will explore contemporary industrial/commercial practices applied to manufacturing products, and build an appreciation of the risks involved.
- Students will develop a good working knowledge of health and safety procedures and relevant legislation.
- Students will design within a sound working knowledge of the use of ICT and systems and control.
- Designers from the past will provide inspiration for present and future designing and students will be made aware of the important contribution that key historical movements and figures have on modern design thinking.
- Students will develop an awareness of wider issues in design and technology, such as the profound impact of manufacturing practice on the environment and society, and the importance of having sustainability at the forefront of all design thinking.
- Mathematical and scientific principles are an important part of designing and developing products and students will learn to rigorously apply these principles when designing.

Component 2: Independent Design and Make Project

- The purpose of this project is to develop students' skills in designing and making a prototype. The term 'prototype' means an appropriate working solution to a need or want that is sufficiently developed to be tested and evaluated (for example, full-sized products, scaled working models or functioning systems).
- Students will work individually and in consultation with a client/end user to identify a design possibility and design context from which they will develop a range of potential solutions, eventually realising one through practical making activities.
- Students are encouraged to develop creativity and imagination when applying iterative design processes to develop and modify designs, and to design and make prototypes solving real world problems, considering others' needs, wants and values.
- There are no limits to project selection beyond the time and resources available and the appropriateness of selection in matching individual students' potential.
- Students are expected to take ownership of all aspects of their work in this project, in order to allow them total control of their responses and to target assessment criteria effectively, and to maximise their achievements.
- In order to reach high attainment levels, students must adopt a commercial design approach to their work, reflecting how a professional designer might deal with a design problem and its resolution.
- Mathematical and scientific principles are an important part of designing and developing products and students will be expected to be able to apply these principles when considering their designs and the designs of others.

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 6 in Design and Technology or GCSE grade 6 in a Visual Arts subject. In exceptional circumstances pupils may be admitted to the course who can demonstrate an aptitude towards and passion for Product Design having not studied the subject at GCSE, providing they have made the WBGS/WGGS basic Sixth Form entry requirements.

Further Information: Mr N Brookes (WBGS)

Students are required to purchase their own textbook(s) for this course.

Psychology

Psychology is the science of mind and behaviour. A Level Psychology is highly scientific and theoretical. Psychologists systematically investigate human behaviour and experience with the aim of trying to explain, understand, predict and manage behaviour. It is valuable to know what Psychology is not:

- Psychologists will not explain the meaning of dreams
- Psychologists do not diagnose mental disorders (which is what psychiatrists - medical doctors who have specialist psychiatric training do)
- Psychologists do not offer therapy or counselling, that's the job of psychotherapists, not psychologists
- Psychologists do not read your mind! Psychology is not the same as counselling and therapy.

However knowledge of Psychology can be useful when opting to do further training towards a qualification in counselling which typically occurs at postgraduate level but can be offered at undergraduate level.

Links

Psychology includes a strong mathematical focus, and utilises some scientific knowledge so is beneficial to students studying Mathematics and Science. It's also a useful subject to include for students who are studying humanities, as it's an interesting course that will broaden your skills.

Topics

COMPONENT 1 Psychology: Past to Present.
This involves looking at approaches (or schools in Psychology) from past to present. This will be studied in an analytical way reviewing biological, cognitive, behaviourist, psychoanalytical ways of examining behaviour and linking this with the key studies supporting such approaches.

COMPONENT 2 Psychology: Investigating Behaviour.
This comprises learning about the methods psychologists use in order to conduct research. This will involve simple statistics and examining a student's practical knowledge of key terms and how to conduct research.

COMPONENT 3 Psychology: Implications in the Real World.
This will be taught in the second year and comprises Part A and Part B. Part A focuses on real world behaviours and problems such as: addiction, criminality schizophrenia and stress. Part B looks at controversies in Psychology, such as debating whether it is right to use non-human animals in psychological research.

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English Language or English Literature, plus at least one Grade 6 in Science.

Further Information: Mrs P MacEwen and Farah Vik

Religon, Philosophy & Ethics

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics is an academic qualification welcomed by all universities and employers; in fact Theology is one of the oldest faculties to exist at both Oxford and Cambridge. This A level will give access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. The course will provide you with the opportunity to develop a range of transferable skills. These include the skills of collecting, synthesising and interpreting information from a range of sources. The findings of your research will need to be communicated effectively. You will also be required to identify and develop the links between the different parts of the subject that you have studied. These skills are in great demand and are recognised by employers, universities and colleges as being of great value.

Links

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics combine well with all other A level subjects. If taken with subjects like Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics not only gives you a broad based curriculum but also prepares you for working sympathetically with people from all walks of life. Our students who have followed a Religion, Philosophy and Ethics A level course have moved into careers such as law, medicine, dentistry, criminology, social work, journalism, art, graphics and design and various branches of the business world. Religion, Philosophy and Ethics is a good basis for all careers where working with people is involved and is often recommended by universities for those who wish to study medicine as medical ethics is a core part of any medical degree.

Topics

We will study typical topics within Religion, Philosophy and Ethics such as: World Religions (Hinduism), Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics.

We follow the Eduqas A level specification.

Entry Requirements

A level is based on extensive essay writing. Competence in English Language is essential. Therefore, a Grade 6 English Language or English Literature is required.

Where GCSE Religious Studies has been taken, a Grade 6 or above is required. Where GCSE Religious Studies has not been taken, a Grade 6 or above in another humanities subject is required: i.e. Classical Civilisation, History or Geography

Further Information : Miss K McDougall

Sociology

Sociology is the academic study of social behaviour, its origins, development, and institutions; in other words, it is the study of people. Sociology is a subject that will challenge your preconceptions and encourage you to question the society in which we live; it is an essay-based study that requires excellent powers of interpretation and analysis. Lessons include discussion, essay writing, debating and other activities aimed at encouraging students to view the world through a variety of lenses.

Links

Sociology is a comprehensive subject that complements other social sciences and humanities as it will enhance your analytical and evaluative skills. We cover a wide range of topics that are relevant to several other A level subjects such as RS, History, English, Psychology and Government and Politics. For those who are studying Mathematics or Science, Sociology is a great 'all-rounder' that will broaden your skill set and provide you with an in-depth knowledge of issues facing contemporary society.

A level Sociology is useful for those who are interested in a career in research, Law, Journalism, Politics, Media, Social Work, Teaching and Charity Work, amongst other professions.

Topics

Core themes in Sociology include socialisation, social differentiation, power and stratification.

Year 1

- EDUCATION - Who does it benefit? Why are certain individuals more likely to succeed in education? Do educational policies benefit all of us equally?
- RESEARCH METHODS - how do sociologists conduct social research? What are the strengths and weaknesses of different research methods?
- CULTURE AND IDENTITY - what are the main influences on our identities? How can we argue that the self is socially constructed? Who decides what is considered 'high' culture?

Year 2

- CRIME AND DEVIANCE - why are certain groups more likely to commit crime? How can we prevent/control crime? How has globalisation affected crime?
- SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY - what are the main sociological theories? Is Marxism still relevant? Why can feminists not agree with each other?
- BELIEFS IN SOCIETY - what is the relationship between religion and science? Why are certain groups more likely to be believers? Is religion losing its significance in the world today?

Entry Requirements

Requirements Grade 6 in English Language & English Language and in one other Humanity.

Further Information: Ms M O'Loughlin

www.watfordgrammarschoolforgirls.org.uk