

# **The Sixth Form 2022**

Realising Individual Brilliance



Curiosity, Empathy, Love, and Direction

The Diamond Edge Model Realising Individual Brilliance



# Welcome to Clifton High Sixth Form

The Sixth Form has the potential to be one of the most formative and memorable experiences in a student's school career,



providing the foundation for adult life. The Sixth Form at Clifton High School is a particularly special place in which to spend the final two years before making this next step. Offering a broad and diverse range of A level options alongside a wealth of extra-curricular activities and opportunities for leadership, our students are free to develop their strengths, pursue their passions and discover their potential in a uniquely close-knit and supportive environment. Our goal is not only to ensure that our students achieve excellent academic results, but also to foster in them the confidence, resilience and social responsibility needed to flourish in the wider world. Whether already studying at Clifton High School, or considering joining us from elsewhere, our Sixth Form provides an ideal environment for personal growth and discovery. We encourage students to develop new friendships and take on new challenges, whilst being supported by a dedicated team of Sixth Form staff who provide guidance through the journey and help students to excel, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Miss Katherine Rich, Head of Sixth Form

### **Facilities**

September 2021 saw the exciting opening of our new, purpose-built Sixth Form Centre. Set in the beautiful surroundings of Clifton Park, the building has been expertly renovated to maintain its impressive period features whilst offering sleek modern facilities in a light and bright environment. Students have the use of three quiet work spaces as well as a 'green screen' studio, and dedicated teaching spaces with state-of-the-art technology. The Sixth Form Centre is also home to a large Higher Education and Careers resource room, where students can meet with staff to discuss their futures and seek guidance on university applications. During break and lunch times, there are two comfortable common room areas, and a well-equipped kitchen in which students can relax with a snack, chat with their friends over a tea or coffee or even make their breakfast after a morning club or a trip to the Gym or Pool. The new Sixth Form Centre provides a home away from home for our students, and with additional development of an adjoining building taking place this academic year, our Sixth Form Centre promises to be one of the most impressive in Bristol.

In addition to this, our students continue to enjoy extensive sports facilities, including our indoor heated Swimming Pool, Gymnasium, Sports Science Laboratory and Health and Fitness Suite, as well as international-standard sports pitches and courts at Coombe Dingle.



#### **Academic Provision**

Our academic provision in the Sixth Form is broader than ever, with newer offerings such as Sociology, Photography, Politics and Psychology sitting alongside the full range of more traditional A Level options, affording our students a high degree of flexibility and choice. There is a combination to suit every learner.

Many students also opt to undertake the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) alongside their A Level courses, a highly respected endeavour that develops students' capacity for independent study, academic research and time management, bridging the gap between school and undergraduate study. With typically small class sizes, every student is guaranteed a high level of personal support and guidance from their teachers. This, combined with exceptional pastoral care, facilitates excellent individual progress and the vast majority of our students progress to their first-choice university or higher education course. Academic success is similarly underpinned by the ethos we foster in our Sixth Form; staff hold high expectations of students and encourage high aspirations, academic curiosity and individual initiative. Students have access to a wellresourced Library, a plethora of online resources and journals, dozens of academic clubs and activities and a programme of events and lectures delivered as part of our Scholars' Forum. A level students will encounter endless opportunities for intellectual growth and scholarship.



#### Beyond a school, a place to belong

#### **Pastoral Support in the Sixth Form**

Sixth Form students at Clifton High School are supported by an outstanding team of Tutors, who work alongside the Head of Sixth Form to ensure that each individual can successfully navigate their way through what can, at times, feel like a daunting and pressurised period. We recognise that each student is unique and that personalised provision is essential if they are to feel truly supported and nurtured. For this reason, each Tutor typically works with a group of between ten and twelve tutees throughout their two years in the Sixth Form, allowing them to quickly get to know each tutee as an individual, and to ensure their strengths are harnessed and their victories celebrated. The Tutor also acts as an important link between School and home, making sure that parents are kept informed of their child's progress and wellbeing. Tutors meet with their tutees three times each week as a group, but are available every day to offer one-to-one guidance and advice whenever it is needed.



#### **Sixth Form Events**

There are lots of enriching and exciting events that take place throughout Year 12 and 13. To mention but a few, the bonding trip at the start of the Year 12 is attended by all students and encourages solidarity and relationship building between new and existing friendships. The trip aims to utilise team building skills to inspire students to support each other in various activities. There are also a number of educational visits across the curriculum, for example Sociology students are given the opportunity to visit a local prison to supplement their Crime and Deviance Module, Year 12 photographers attend a photography workshop. We also provide a rich variety of recreational trips such as a combined Sixth Form Christmas social trip. The year ends in a celebratory awards ceremony and Sixth Form Ball to honour the incredible achievements students have made throughout their schooling career.



#### In 2021:

"30% of students achieved all three A levels at Grade A or Higher, far surpassing the national average."

#### **Extra-Curricular Enrichment**

Our emphasis on academic curiosity and lifelong endeavour in the Sixth Form is complemented by a rich extra-curricular offering that fosters a sense of adventure in our students, whilst also providing them with opportunities to build confidence and stand out as leaders within the wider school community. As well as taking part in national and international programmes such as Young Enterprise, Model United Nations and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, students are afforded the opportunity to establish their own clubs and societies, and to take the lead in heading up existing clubs. Sixth Form students represent Clifton High School in the Bristol Education Partnership, work with local charities to raise awareness of important community issues, and work closely with our younger pupils, both as mentors and in supporting weekly activities. This is all in additional to the School's many sporting, musical and artistic offerings. Given the deliberately small size of our Sixth Form, there genuinely is a chance for every student to make their mark on the School community, and to realise their brilliance.

#### **Sports**

Sport forms an important part of life in the Sixth Form and timetabled sport ensures all of our students take part in physical activity to maintain fitness and physical and mental wellbeing. Team sports offered include hockey, rugby, football, netball, and more, with a weekly programme of fixtures. There are also daily sessions available for Sixth Form in the Strength and Conditioning Suite. A range of Extra-Curricular sports clubs are also on offer with many specialist coaches visiting Clifton High to deliver coaching of an exceptionally high quality. Year 12 and 13 students are invited to attend the numerous sports tours; previous tours have included skiing in Les Deux Alpes, Chamonix and Prato Nevosa and Sports tours to Barbados, Barcelona and America.

96% of students felt that the support they received toward their UCAS application was 'Exceptional' or 'Very Good'.



#### **Leadership Opportunities**

Each year we elect a Head's Team who represent the School at public events, coordinate the work of the Sixth Form at parents' evenings, set up mentoring projects with younger pupils, and help to plan key events and initiatives throughout the School.

We also appoint prefects to voice and lead on projects important to them; we have a Charity and Community Outreach Prefect, a Prefect responsible for raising awareness of ecological and environmental matters, an Events Prefect, and a Diversity and Inclusion Prefect. These roles help students to identify the social issues and to realise how they can shape future change. Sixth Form students also plays a key role in the School's Pupil Council and as House Captains.

Clifton High is also a member of the Bristol Education Partnership, and six students currently take part in this either in the BEP's Oracy project, or as student representatives helping to affect changes in education in the Bristol area.



#### **Higher Education and Careers**

The Head of the Futures and Skills Department at Clifton High coordinates a comprehensive programme of lessons, guest speakers and events throughout the year designed to increase student awareness of the opportunities available to them beyond Clifton High, to enhance skills and to support them in their UCAS application. Our annual 'Futures and Skills Evening' welcomes a wide range of specialists, including some of our own parents, to share experience on a wide range of future professions and to talk individually with the students. Outstanding levels of support for UCAS applications are provided by personal tutors, Head of Sixth Form and our Head of Futures and Skills. The School nurtures links with leading universities to provide the very latest guidance for applications. The School also supports any travelling and year out opportunities. There is a wide range of links with local firms, employers and Friends of Clifton High to support work shadowing and apprenticeship schemes, and also for volunteering opportunities. We have also developed new partnerships with Pathways CTM, through which students receive career training and help in applying for higher and degree-level apprenticeships.

Enterprise challenges also start in Year 12, which culminate in an 'Employability and Leadership course', designed with local business leaders, to develop employment skills in an area of interest to each individual student.

# Scholarships, Awards and Entrance Requirements

Scholarships are available to young people of exceptional academic ability and also to those who may have a talent in a particular area, for example, sports or the performing arts. Scholarships and Awards are based upon interview and evidence of commitment, relevant to subject choice at A level or an area of particular talent. Typically, scholarships awarded are to the value of between £250 and £1500 per year.

Assisted places, full scholarships and bursaries up to 100% of school fees are available for students who demonstrate real academic ability but whose families are not able to meet full fees.



**Sports Podium** 

Pupils from across the School who have been identified as gifted and talented in sport, or are our Sports Scholars, are invited to participate in the Sports Podium. The Podium is managed and organised by the Physical Education Department who produce an annual programme of sports-related talks and discussions, inviting notable speakers into School. Sixth Form Sports Scholars have a responsibility to be sporting role models within the Clifton High School community and high levels of effort, commitment and an outstanding attitude are expected.

#### **Bristol Sport Swimming Programme**

As part of our partnership with Bristol Sport, we develop targeted pupils in an international standard swimming programme, making Clifton High the swimming performance centre for Bristol. With world class coaching, bespoke training programmes, and a network of support, swimmers at Clifton High can become world class athletes.

"A group of well-rounded, intelligent and principled individuals with a wealth of competencies and personal character traits of perseverance, kindness, respect, honesty, who will make a difference to the lives of others."

A parent in a letter to the School regarding Year 13 students

#### Scholars' Forum

With a scholarship comes responsibility. Sixth Form Scholars are encouraged to research and organise events which may be of interest to pupils throughout the School. The aim of the Scholars' Forum programme is to provide pupils with an insight into the wider world. Guest speakers or companies across each academic discipline are invited to share with pupils their knowledge and experience, helping them to broaden their thinking and realise the possibilities for the future. Presentations are many and varied and have included such titles as 'Camouflage in Nature', 'Art and War', 'Formula One Engineering' and 'Action on Hearing Loss'.



# Clifton High Athlete Development Programme (ADP)

Pupils from across the School who are playing county, up to international level sport, are placed on the Athlete Development Programme. This is a bespoke and individualised timetable of Pilates, Strength and Conditioning, Nutrition and Sports Psychology, that aims to give the pupils the very best opportunity of realising their individual brilliance, and gaining representation in their specialised sport. The programme aims to continue the history of Olympians and international players at Clifton High.

"Pupils throughout the school, including in the Sixth Form, are highly enthusiastic about and have responsible attitudes towards their studies and their participation in extra-curricular activities."

# How Should Students Choose Their A level Courses?

At Clifton High School, most students will select three subjects to study at A level, as well as a fourth subject that they will study at AS level. A large number of students also opt to undertake the EPQ, recognising both its intrinsic value as an independently-driven piece of research, as well as the high esteem in which it is held by university admissions staff. With twenty seven AS and A level subjects, we can offer our students a level of flexibility that is unrivalled by other schools of our size. All students are given thorough advice when choosing their A level subjects, and we encourage them to start thinking about what they want to study when they leave school to ensure that they select subjects deemed relevant for certain undergraduate courses. However, we also guide students to play to their strengths and to maintain academic breadth wherever possible. Whatever their preferred path, our staff are always on hand to provide advice to our students.

We want our students to be fully prepared for a university education. The teaching style in the Sixth Form encourages students to become more independent learners and is often conducted in a seminar style to stimulate in-depth discussions. This helps to develop a student's analytical skills and confidence as well as replicating the self-directed study that they will encounter at university.

Many courses at university build upon the knowledge that has been gained at A level. Some university courses may require applicants to have studied a specific subject prior to entry. If students have a clear idea of a degree they would like to study, it is therefore good practice to research any entry requirements before selecting A level courses. Some A levels are referred to as 'facilitating' subjects, namely:

Biology, Chemistry, English (Literature), Mathematics, Geography, History, Physics, Languages (Latin, French, Spanish, German), Further Mathematics. The subjects presented in this booklet will be taught from September 2022 provided that there are sufficient number of students who choose them.

The School produces option blocks designed to enable as many students as possible to study their chosen subjects. However, we cannot guarantee that this will be possible for every student. Therefore, we also ask for a 'reserve', or fall back subject option in case this occurs.



#### **Practicalities**

Once pupils have read through this booklet, there will be time in the term ahead to discuss their plans with subject teachers, tutors, the Head of Futures and Skills and parents.

Completed options forms are to be submitted to Dr Caddy, Senior Deputy Head, by Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. After this date, it is possible for students to change their mind about their choices - as long as these then fit in with the option blocks that will have since been created.



### The School Aims, Ethos, and Values

Our overarching school aim is simple: to realise individual brilliance.

Our small class sizes and focused tutoring allows us to know our pupils in ways not always possible in larger schools. Our **School Ethos** will help to create a community to support this:

At Clifton High School, we want to ensure that all pupils enjoy learning, see the worth in a holistic education and to try their very best. We want pupils to learn how to deal with success and defeat, and over time to discover their individual brilliance so that they can become passionate in their interests and, consequently, have fulfilling careers, providing the potential to live full and satisfying lives. Our School Ethos will celebrate the individual, in all the ways that we are different and ultimately all the ways each of us is unique. We should be proud of who each of us is; our sex, gender, gender reassignment, age, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, disability, sexual orientation, religion, faith or other beliefs. Clifton High School's ethos will look to create a safe culture in which our school aim, to realise individual brilliance, can be achieved.



Our aim and ethos are further supported by four key values which are embedded in our school community: Curiosity, Empathy, Love, and Direction

**Curiosity:** From curiosity comes learning, the bedrock of any school. We aim to promote a sense of curiosity in all our young people, to instil a love of learning in all areas of school life, promoting informed questioning and debate alongside self-motivation and the passion to explore new ideas independently.

**Empathy:** You never really understand a person until you consider things from their point of view. We aspire to foster empathy in all our young people which will allow them to operate in a world which is dependent on human interaction and will give them the necessary skills and desire to change the world in positive ways. Empathy is the foundation of kindness and kindness the route to a fulfilling life.

Love: Love is the value that makes our relationships better, whether those relationships are with others or with oneself. Love for others means wanting what is good for them and can be achieved more effectively when one has love for oneself, providing self-confidence and resilience to face the challenges in the world. We also celebrate a love for the natural world, encouraging a passion for being outdoors and, consequently, nurturing a desire to preserve our planet for the generations to come.

Direction: We value aspiration and achievement in all things, both within and beyond the curriculum. We encourage the highest ambition and personal commitment and aim to support individuals to achieve the goals they set themselves. Having direction gives purpose and drives motivation.

# Art and Design: Fine Art: AS and A Level

# Head of Department: Mr Paul Ayers

A level Fine Art is ideal for individuals who want to develop their intellectual and imaginative skills and who wish to express themselves in a variety of ways. The course will help students to extend their thinking by studying the work of artists and designers, both contemporary and traditional.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

This course will enable students to develop these skills by using a wide range of media such as drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, ceramics, textiles, printmaking, animation, digital media and art history. Opportunities include visiting artist workshops led by experts in their field and study trips to the London galleries. Students will have an opportunity to exhibit their work in public exhibitions such as, the Bristol Senior Schools Art Exhibition, the Royal Academy's Young Artist Summer Show and The West Bristol Arts Trail. There is a designated Sixth Form Art Studio and where students can continue working on their projects during study periods.

#### AS level assessment

Component 1: Personal Investigation (100% of AS level)

 A portfolio of practical work showing a personal response to either a starting point, brief, scenario or stimulus, devised and provided by the learner or centre. Non-exam assessment (internally assessed and externally moderated).

#### A level Assessment

Component 1: Personal Investigation (60% of A level)

 A personally devised practical project with a related written study of at least 1,000 words about artists that relate to the chosen practical theme. Nonexam assessment (internally assessed and externally moderated).

Component 2: Externally Set Task (40% of A level)

Early release paper issued on 1st February, providing students with a number
of themes. A response must be based on one of these options and a final
outcome produced in a 15-hour practical examination (over 3 days). Nonexam assessment (internally assessed and externally moderated).

### Specification

AS level: OCR Art and Design: Fine Art (H201)

https://www.ocr.org.uk/ Images/170211-specificationaccredited-as-level-gce-art-anddesign-h200-h206.pdf

A level: OCR Art and Design: Fine Art (H601)

https://www.ocr.org.uk/ Images/170210-specificationaccredited-a-level-gce-art-anddesign-h600-h606.pdf



#### Using Fine Art in the Future

The department has close links with local institutions that offer post- A level art and design courses, such as Weston College and Bristol School of Art. Students who take this course may then go on to a one year foundation diploma in Art and Design and/or may choose to take a BA (Hons) degree in subjects such as fine art, graphic design, fashion design, illustration, animation, stage design and product design to name but a few. Students who have taken this course may go on to pursue careers in art education, museums, galleries or arts administration, among other options.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement Fine Art?

This subject can be studied with any combination of academic subjects, ranging from other creative courses such as music and drama through to sciences and humanities.





# Art and Design: Photography: AS and A Level

# Head of Department: Mr Paul Ayers

Photography can be provocative, heart-warming, challenging and eye-opening. This course is for students who want to understand how to use a camera to capture a shot or a scene perfectly in different conditions. The course suits a creative person, who enjoys experimenting with new techniques and styles.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

The course is experimental and practical in approach and will introduce students to a variety of experiences, exploring a range of photographic media, techniques and processes. Researching the work of other photographers and artists is an integral part of the investigating and making process. Students will produce a sketchbook / workbook / journal, documenting their research and recording the development of their own work. They will be working with DSLR cameras and the most up-to-date software packages such as Photoshop CC and Lightroom to enhance and develop their photographs.

#### **Topics include:**

- General photographic theory (exposure, aperture, lighting)
- History of Photography
- Darkroom skills for black and white photography
- Alternative photographic processes (e.g. cyanotype)
- Digital Photography
- Using Photoshop/Lightroom
- Photographic Contextual Studies

#### AS level assessment

#### Component 1: Personal Investigation (100% of AS level)

 A portfolio of practical work showing a personal response to either a starting point, brief, scenario or stimulus, devised and provided by the learner or centre. Non-exam assessment (internally assessed and externally moderated).

#### **A Level Assessment**

#### **Component 1: Personal Investigation (60% of A level)**

 A personally devised practical project with a related written study of at least 1,000 words about artists that relate to the chosen practical theme. Non-exam assessment (internally assessed and externally moderated).

#### Component 2: Externally Set Task (40% of A level)

Early release paper issued on 1st February, providing students with a number
of themes. A response must be based on one of these options and a final
outcome produced in a 15-hour practical examination (over 3 days). Nonexam assessment (internally assessed and externally moderated).

### Specification

AS level: OCR Art and Design: Photography (H203)

https://www.ocr.org.uk/ Images/170211-specificationaccredited-as-level-gce-art-anddesign-h200-h206.pdf

A level: OCR Art and Design: Photography (H603)

https://www.ocr.org.uk/ Images/170210-specificationaccredited-a-level-gce-art-anddesign-h600-h606.pdf



#### **Using Photography in the Future**

The department has close links with local institutions that offer post- A level Photography courses, such as Weston College and Bristol School of Art. Students may also go on to study a BA (Hons) Photography related courses. This course can lead to career opportunities in the following areas: photographer, gallery curatorial work, arts management, teacher, animator, and photojournalist.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement Photography?

This subject can be studied with any combination of academic subjects, ranging from other creative courses such as music and drama through to sciences and humanities.



# **Biology**

# Head of Department: Mr Joe Cozens

The study of cutting edge genetics, deep nutrition, body function and biotechnology are just a few of the exciting topics studied during the A level course. Students will develop not only the knowledge to take Biology into future studies and work but also fundamental skills such as Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity.

Adding to the topics the study of an Interdisciplinary World Problems Project studied in Year 12 and students are encouraged to complete micro credential courses to aid in their university applications and fostering their individual brilliance.

Biologists are at the forefront of resolving issues like environmental depletion and threats to human health, which are crucial to us all. Choosing to study Biology increases a student's understanding of the natural world in which we all live, as well as assisting people to address matters of personal wellbeing and the problems worldwide, which affect us all.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

A level Biology is divided into eight core topics. The course also involves the completion of twelve required practicals. The skills gained through these will be internally assessed and will also form part of the written examinations.

More information can be found here: <a href="https://sites.google.com/cliftonhigh.co.uk/">https://sites.google.com/cliftonhigh.co.uk/</a> cliftonbiology/home

#### **Topics include:**

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- How organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Responding to changes in the internal and external environment
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

#### **Using Biology in the Future**

It is a good grounding at University to study Biology; the course is held in high regard and covers both a breadth and depth of information. Students who have taken this course may go on to pursue careers in Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Medicine.

Universities and prospective employers highly value the transferable skills provided by the study of Biology, including students' ability to ask questions, make observations, evaluate evidence, solve problems and communicate effectively.

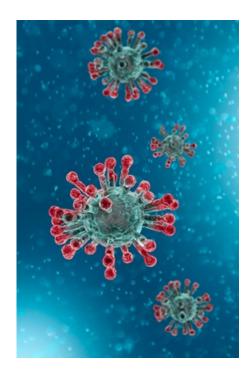
#### What Other A level Subjects Complement Biology?

Studying any of the other Sciences and/or Mathematics alongside Biology is often popular in choice. However, this depends on personal interests and future aspirations. The Arts alongside Biology can complement each other well if students are interested in History of Arts, academia professions, factual filmmaking or anything that shows a diversity in interests in skills.

### Specification

A level: AQA Biology (7401-7402)

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/ resources/biology/ specifications/AQA-7401-7402-SP-2015.PDF







### **Business**

# Head of Department: Mr Peter Jackson

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

#### Module 1: Activities Involved in Starting a Business

This module will look at entrepreneurs, thinking of a business idea, market research, raising finance, locating the business, employing workers and looking at revenues and costs to hopefully make a profit.

#### **Module 2: Managing a Business**

This module will cover marketing (advertising, packaging, branding, pricing correctly), finance (paying bills, ways of increasing profit), operations (quality, customer service, technology, suppliers) and people (recruitment, training, motivating workers).

Theory is backed up with reality; the course looks at numerous firms, for example McDonald's, Coca-Cola, Cadbury, Dyson and Apple, to name a few. The course analyses how these firms adapt to the changing business world. To help classroom knowledge there are visits to businesses such as Cadbury and Jaguar Land Rover.

It is important that students taking this course have an interest in business issues. For instance, in the news we are constantly hearing about the latest product Apple is bringing out, that companies are closing down and making workers redundant, about the latest marketing idea of Richard Branson to publicise Virgin.

Students who choose this course should enjoy discussion. A lot of the issues and points of discussion raised in the course are happening every day.

#### **Module 3: Strategies for Success**

In this module, students will develop their knowledge around topics studied in Module 2, namely marketing, finance, operations and people.

#### Module 4: The Business Environment - External Factors and Managing Change

Topics in this module include technology, competition, globalisation, multinationals (such as Coca-Cola and McDonald's), leadership and environmental issues. This module will also cover technological change, the UK and world economy and its influence on businesses, and the changing social environment that businesses work in. In addition, the module will cover the new emerging markets, such as China, India and Russia.

Basic mathematical skills are required to enrol on this course. English reading skills are important as the questions in the course are always based on text (source data) that needs to be read carefully.

#### **Using Business in the Future**

With the exception of medicine, Business provides a sound basis for those students wishing to enter higher education – whatever the subject. It is of great advantage for a career in management, business and related areas.

#### **What Other A level Subjects Complement Business?**

Geography, Politics, Sociology, History, Product Design and Languages (especially French and Spanish) where students in Higher Education often undertake a combined / duel degree linking Business / Management with languages to be able to work abroad.

### **Specification**

A level: AQA Business (7132)

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/ resources/business/ specifications/AQA-7131-7132-SP-2015.PDF







# **Chemistry**

# Head of Department: Mr Harry de Cothi

Chemistry is the study of the nature, composition and properties of matter. Chemists are responsible for the development and production of so many of the materials we take for granted in our everyday lives. Society is facing many challenges: energy consumption, food and water supply, global warming and antibiotic resistance; chemists will play an essential role in solving these through research and collaboration.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

The course provides students with the opportunity to build upon what they have learnt previously with the aim of developing a pathway to further study in the sciences or simply to develop the portfolio of skills that chemistry students possess and that are highly coveted by employers in a range of fields.

These include an ability to use both numerical and theoretical approaches to solve a single problem, as in the equilibrium topic and the ability to solve multi-step problems, which is important in the acidity topic.

Organic chemistry remains important and cross-science links become increasingly important, for instance in the study of protein structure. The structure determination unit is particularly interesting and involves learning about the analytical techniques used by forensic scientists, astronomers and doping agencies in sport. The major new area in Year 13 is the study of the transition metals, a diverse group that are the basis of crucial catalysts in chemical engineering, the colour of blood and ground-breaking anti-cancer treatments.

#### **Practical Work**

There is a lot of practical work throughout the two years that is designed to maximise students' planning and investigative skills. Students will be awarded a practical 'pass' for the course if they demonstrate a set of required techniques and skills during the two years. There is no practical examination but the examinations will include questions relating to practical skills.

#### **Using Chemistry in the Future**

Studying Chemistry at A level and beyond can lead to a variety of different careers. Chemistry is the clear choice for anyone thinking of a medical related career, be it Medicine, Dentistry or Biomedical Studies. On top of that a large number of chemists go onto successful careers in finance, law, science and technology.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement Chemistry?

Courses such as the Sciences and Mathematics naturally compliment and overlap with Chemistry. However, taking these subjects is not essential. Many outstanding candidates study humanities and arts based subjects, alongside an A level in Chemistry.

### **Specification**

A level: AQA Chemistry (7405)

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/ resources/chemistry/ specifications/AQA-7404-7405-SP-2015.PDF







**Classical Civilisation: AS and A Level** 

# Head of Department: Mrs Elizabeth Marriott

The Classical Civilisation course offers an exciting exploration into many areas of the Classical world, including literature, history, archaeology, art, architecture, politics and philosophy. The influence of the classical world is all around us; the A level Classical Civilisation will give students the chance to explore some of these influences in their original, classical contexts.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

Today's A level Classical Civilisation course is exciting, challenging and varied. Universities and employers respect the skills which Classical Civilisation A level develops: analysis and evaluation, interpretation of sources, effective communication, essay-writing, an appreciation of different cultures and societies and an understanding of the origins and foundations of the Western world.

Clifton High School offers the OCR AS and A level Classical Civilisation course. There are currently a number of units on offer, from which the department chooses two for AS level and four for A level, according to the interests of students opting for the course. Assessment is by written examination combining structured, source-based questions and essays.

#### Group 1 - The World of the Hero—Options include:

- Homer's Iliad or Odyssey: studied in translation alongside the history of the texts and an understanding of oral composition.
- Virgil's Aeneid: studied in translation alongside a the politics of the Republic.

#### Group 2 - Culture and the Arts - Options include:

- Greek Theatre: The drama produced in the ancient Greek theatre forms some of the most powerful literature of the ancient world, and has had a profound influence on modern culture.
- Imperial Image: A study of the propaganda campaign of the Emperor Augustus, copied by politicians through the ages.

#### Group 3— Belief and Ideas—Options include:

- Love and relationships: comparing Greek and Roman ideas about love, desire, marriage, sex and gender roles.
- Democracy and the Athenians: studying the birth of Western Democracy

#### **Using Classical Civilisation in the Future**

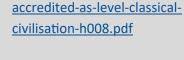
This A level choice can lead onto a career in: the civil service, journalism, teaching, archaeology, law, advertising and the arts.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement Classical Civilisation Studies

Classical Civilisation is an excellent complement to subjects such as History, Fine Art and English Literature. It unites history with literature, views literature in the context of the culture, and brings in art and architecture to complete this picture. It also provides a valuable humanities contrast to other A level subjects.

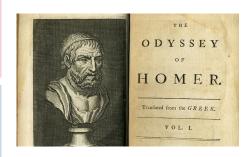
### Specification

A level: OCR Classical
Civilisation (H008)
<a href="https://www.ocr.org.uk/">https://www.ocr.org.uk/</a>
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# **Computer Science**

# Head of Department: Ms Maria Fisher

We live and work in a digital world, with technology ever more prevalent from augmented and virtual reality apps to the use of mobile devices to communicate, collaborate and share important information.

Understanding how technology is working 'under the hood' is vital in a world

Understanding how technology is working 'under the hood' is vital in a world where Software Developer, IT Administrator and Data Analyst appear in the list of most in-demand roles globally. (Source: LinkedIn)

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

Computer Systems - two and a half hours written paper (40%) Algorithms and Programming - two and a half hours written paper (40%) Programming Project (20%)

The course has a focus on programming and emphasises the importance of computational thinking as a discipline. Students will learn to program in HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP and MySQL in a live online hosting environment. By the end of the course, students will be able to build and deploy large scale websites and develop mobile applications for the Android operating system. Students programming work will support both Paper 2 and their final Programming Project undertaken in the second year of the course.

As part of Paper 1, students will look at the development of virtual reality apps and the Internet of Things. In lessons, they will have the opportunity to use Google Cardboard, the Samsung Gear VR, Raspberry Pi 3 computers and Linux PCs to extend your knowledge of Computer Science.

There will be opportunities for study in many of these areas, to name a few:

- 3D modelling and animation and 3D game creation
- Web animation for interactive media
- Web server scripting
- Augmented Reality
- -All students will also receive access to industry standard cPanel web hosting during their study to build their portfolio.

#### **Using Computer Science in the Future**

A level Computer Science is a strong qualification for entry to many degree courses including Computer Science or apprenticeships in areas such as Robotics and Cyber Security.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement Computer Science?

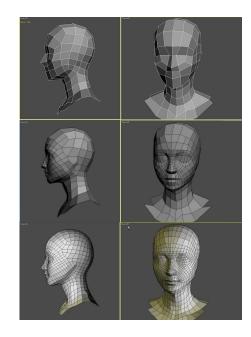
This course is suitable for learners intending to pursue any career in which an understanding of technology is needed. It will provide learners with a range of transferable skills which will facilitate personal growth and foster cross curriculum links in areas such as Mathematics, Science and Technology. Computer Science is a creative subject and skills such as problem solving and analytical thinking will be refined as students progress.

### Specification

A level: OCR Computer

Science (H446)

https://www.ocr.org.uk/ Images/170844-specificationaccredited-a-level-gcecomputer-science-h446.pdf





# **Drama and Theatre Studies**

## Head of Department: Mr Craig Pullen

A level Drama and Theatre Studies is for students who enjoy reading and watching plays and taking part in them, whether performing or directing. The group work at the heart of this course gives students the opportunity to work in depth on different texts and interpret them from the perspective of an actor or director.

During the course all students will develop the skills to analyse and appreciate any drama or theatre, as well as skills to assist them in many different careers. Students will also devise their own original work and have the opportunity to consider work by influential playwrights, directors and theatre companies.

### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

#### **Component 1**

Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre

Study of two set plays from a given list

Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

Assessment will be through a three hour, open book written examination which will make up 40% of the A level.

#### Component 2

Process of creating devised drama

Performance of devised drama (students contribute as performer, designer or director)

Piece must be influenced by work and methodologies of one practitioner This is through a working notebook (20%) and devised performance (10%), to make up 30% of the A level.

#### **Component 3**

Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (extract 1, 2 and 3) each taken from a different play

Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to extract 3 Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students contribute as performer, designer or director)

Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts

Assessment will be through a performance of extract 3 (20%), and a reflective report (10%), to constitute 30% of the A level.

### Specification

A level: AQA Drama and

Theatre (7262)

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/ resources/drama/ specifications/AQA-7262-SP-2016.PDF





#### **Using Drama and Theatre Studies in the Future**

This course allows students to progress to Higher Education qualifications in drama and theatre studies. Careers include acting, theatre production and management and journalism. Many past students have gained places at elite drama schools and universities, including Bristol Old Vic and Arts Ed, London.

What Other A level Subjects Complement Drama and Theatre Studies? In the past many pupils have studied A levels such as English, History, Psychology, Sociology, Art and Music alongside taking Drama at A level. These subjects compliment Drama perfectly, requiring similar skillsets, such as essay writing skills and artistic expression and opinion.





## **Economics**

# Subject Coordinator: Mr Julian O'Sullivan

We hear every day that "choices have to be made." Economics helps students understand why this is so, for individuals, firms and governments. It is a subject which is rooted in the world of today and the events which shape it. The course covers both micro and macro-economics, as detailed below:

#### Individuals, firms, markets and market failure

- Economic methodology and the economic problem
- Individual economic decision making
- Price determination in a competitive market
- Production, costs and revenue
- Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly
- The labour market
- The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
- The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets

#### The national and international economy

- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- How the macroeconomy works: the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis, and related concepts
- Economic performance
- Financial markets and monetary policy
- Fiscal policy and supply-side policies
- The international economy

These topic areas form the basis for all three examinations (two hours each) that are sat by candidates at the end of Year 13.

#### **Using Economics in the Future**

Economics A level is an excellent basis from which to study many subjects at university such as Financial Mathematics, Economics, Business, Social Science and Engineering. It can also prepare students superbly well for well-regarded combined courses such as Economics and Management, or PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics).

Economics A level can lead to careers in any of the above, including Accountancy, Stockbroking, Banking and online financial and business-related careers. It is also an excellent contributing subject for careers in Business.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement Economics?

It is an excellent subject to combine with Mathematics, Geography, Psychology, Politics and History. Graphical and analytical thinking skills in Economics would be well supported by any Science-based A level.

### Specification

A level: AQA Economics (7136)

AS and A-level Economics Specifications for first teaching in 2015 (aqa.org.uk)









# **English Literature**

# Head of Department: Mrs Pippa Lyons-White

Studying novels, plays and poems from different eras enables students to investigate and connect them - drawing out patterns of similarity and difference using a variety of reading strategies and perspectives. Students are encouraged to debate and challenge the interpretations of other readers as they develop their own informed personal responses.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

A typical A level English Literature lesson in the Sixth Form will involve some reading, gathering of information, researching, discussion and interpretation. Essay writing skills are then finely tuned to ensure cogency, maturity and sophistication in students' responses. A passion for reading widely is an essential requirement for success in this subject.

- Paper 1 'Love Through the Ages': a Shakespeare play ("Othello"), an anthology of pre-1900 love poetry and a modern novel such as "Atonement" or "The Great Gatsby".
- Paper 2 'Modern Times': Tennessee Williams' play "A Streetcar Named Desire", Carol Ann Duffy's collection of poetry entitled "Feminine Gospels" as well as Margaret Atwood's acclaimed and popular novel "The Handmaid's Tale".

The final unit of the course is the NEA component: a 2500 word independent critical study on two additional texts of their choice. In both years, students are trained to compare and analyse texts in depth. There is a wide range of texts available, and staff will consult with students to help them make a challenging and appropriate selection.

### Specification

A level: AQA English

Literature (7712)

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/ resources/english/ specifications/AQA-7711-7712-SP-2015.PDF

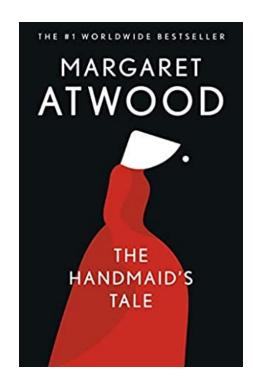


#### **Using English Literature in the Future**

English Literature helps to prepare students for a range of possible future careers: journalism, teaching, the media and publishing, for example. If students go on to study an English-based subject at university they will refine their communication skills, empathy and cultural awareness. English-based degrees are viewed with esteem in many walks of life not directly connected to literature, such as business, politics and public service. English is also an excellent subject to consider as part of a joint-honours course due to its relevance in such a vast range of different skill areas.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement English Literature?

Any subject! Due to the skills of analysis and close exploration of human behaviours, subjects such as History or Sociology would be obvious choices. Students also may choose English Literature if they have a particular interest in the Arts (such as Music, Drama or Art). However, A level English Literature also requires examining methods and techniques, and presenting those findings in a logical format — any Science student would find English Literature has common ground here as well.





# **Extended Project Qualification**

### Centre Co-Ordinator: Ms Rebecca Bartlett

#### What is an EPQ?

An EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) is a standalone Sixth Form qualification that involves students choosing a topic, carrying out research, creating a report (or 'product' and report) and delivering a presentation.

#### EPQs - what do they involve?

There are two types of EPQ – students can write a research-based report, or create an artefact. Although the choices are wide and varied, students must show that it is academically useful, either relating to their current course of study or future career.

A research-based project involves writing a 5,000-word report or the artefact involves a report of between 1,000 and 5,000 words. The final stage is a 10-15-minute presentation to a group of non-specialists about their chosen topic. Students are expected to spend around 120 hours on their EPQ. This time includes 30 hours of Taught Skills, which is a timetabled weekly lesson and delivered by the Centre Coordinator. Students can also expect support and guidance from a supervisor.

#### Why undertake an EPQ?

EPQs are currently graded A\* to E and they are worth 50% of an A level (in UCAS points). An A\* in the EPQ is worth 70 UCAS points, an A 60, B 50, C 40, D 30 and an E 20. Clifton High School follows the AQA specification, which is graded on the student's development of the following assessment objectives:

- Project planning and time management: how students use the time and resources available
- Using resources and research skills: how students collect and use information. Developing an idea and producing an outcome: how students plan and create the project outcome
- Evaluation and presentation: student's reflection on the project process and communication of the project to others

#### EPQs - what are the benefits?

The EPQ will help students to demonstrate, to both universities and future employers that they are able to work independently. It will also help them to develop essential skills required for study at a higher level:

- Working with others
- Working to deadlines
- Planning and management of a project
- Decision making and problem solving
- Presentation skills
- Communication skills
- The skills that you develop through the EPQ are excellent preparation for university-level study. Students can refer to the EPQ in their UCAS personal statements and at interview to demonstrate some of the qualities universities are looking for.

### **Specification**

A level: AQA Level 3 Extended Project Qualification (7993)

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/ subjects/AQA-W-7993-SP-19.PDF







## French: AS and A Level

# Head of Department: Madame Eulalia Ribot-Bruno

"Proficiency in French remains a highly-sought after skill among UK employees", according to a recent CBI Education and Skills Survey. The Economist also reported that French speakers have the opportunity to obtain the second highest income among other foreign language speakers.

French is a desirable skill among employers and opens the door to a wide range of careers. It is also an ideal language to learn if students plan to learn other romance languages. A level French is a step up from GCSE, with the level of language and content altogether much more sophisticated.

Students will cover the following topics which take them on a step out into the world, enabling a focus on the culture and societies of countries where French is spoken.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

- Aspects of French-speaking society: Family, Cyberspace, Voluntary work Artistic culture in the French-speaking world: Cultural Heritage, Contemporary Francophone Music, French Cinema
- Current issues: ethnic diversity, tolerance and respect, marginalisation of different groups, crime, punishment and the prison system
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world: voting and young peoples' political engagement, strikes and protests and the politics surrounding immigration

The grammatical system and structure of the language

- The literary text "No et Moi" by Delphine de Vigan and the film "La Haine" by Matthieu Kassovitz.

Students will learn to understand French articles, magazines, websites, radio, films and books. Students will learn to write with authority, style and accuracy. They will learn to weigh up the issues, argue their case and reach a conclusion - and all in French.

#### **Assessment**

The examination papers will enable students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge in a listening, reading and writing paper (two hours thirty minutes), a writing paper (two hours) and an oral examination at the end of the course (roughly 20 minutes). The speaking test will be based on a research topic of their choice.

#### **Using French in the Future**

Students may wish to study languages at university or combine French with anything from Medicine or Law, to Geography or Engineering. Students may have the option of studying abroad with the Erasmus scheme or working abroad at some stage. A level French could be the first step on the road to a very exciting future.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement French?

Business, Politics, English Literature, Sociology, Psychology.

### **Specification**

A level: AQA French (7652)

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/ resources/french/ specifications/AQA-7652-SP-2016.PDF









### **Further Mathematics: AS and A Level**

# Head of Department: Mr Andrew Hillman

This subject is designed for students with an enthusiasm for Mathematics, many of whom will go on to degrees in Mathematics, Engineering, the Sciences and Economics. Students who study this course go off to university and find the content covered and skills acquired of great benefit. If you are considering a Mathematics or Engineering based degree you may find that some universities will actually require that you have studied A level Further Mathematics. It is also good for those students who are considering applying for a competitive degree course, for example, at Oxford or Cambridge

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

Core Content (50%) - all learners will study as part of the course. The core content consists of:

- Complex numbers, Matrices, Vectors and Proof;
- Further Calculus, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic Functions and Differential Equations;

Optional Content (50%) – learners will select at least two of the following modules. This ensures mathematicians get a breadth of study in this A Level:

- Further Statistics Probability, Discrete and Continuous random variables,
   Hypothesis tests, Correlation and Regression
- Further Mechanics Work, Energy and Power, Momentum, Circular Motion and Centre of Mass;
- Discrete Mathematics Algorithms, Networks and Graphs, Linear Programming, Game Theory
- Additional Pure Sequences and Series, Number Theory, Group Theory,
   Further Calculus and Partial Differentiation

To achieve the best results at A level, the course requirement is at least a Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics. There is no coursework in Further Mathematics. The A level is assessed by four written papers, each of 90 minutes duration.

#### **Using Further Mathematics in the Future**

Further Mathematics provides a great opportunity for enthusiastic mathematicians to broaden and deepen their subject knowledge. If students plan to apply for a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) degree they should consider taking Further Mathematics to at least AS level. Further Mathematics is also a fantastic qualification for those students who love Mathematics and want to devote more time to the studying wider aspects of the subject.

#### What Other Subjects Complement Further Mathematics?

A level Sciences, Economics, Business Studies, Geography and Computer Science all complement A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

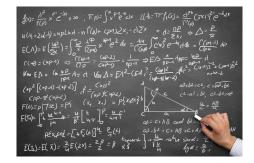
### Specification

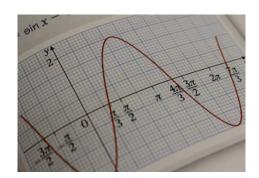
A level: OCR Further Mathematics (H245)

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AS level: OCR Further Mathematics (H235)

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# Geography

# **Head of Department: Mrs Laura Giles**

A level students study environmental debates in addition to equal amounts of human and physical geography, allowing them to acquire a broad subject knowledge that is relevant to any citizen of the world in the 21st century. Geography develops a wide range of skills that are essential for higher education and transferable skills such as: observation, mapping, data manipulation, analysis and geospatial awareness. Through the study of dynamic and contemporary content, learners can understand and interact with issues which affect people and places at a range of scales from local to global — and all that is in-between.

# Course Content and Topics Covered Landscape Systems (22%)

Students will explore landscapes as systems; how landforms developed and the influences of both climate and human activity on them.

"Life is like a landscape. You live in the midst of it but can describe it only from the vantage point of distance." – Charles Lindbergh

#### **Changing Spaces: Making Places and Human Interactions (22%)**

Students will explore the relationships and connections between people, the economy and society and how these contribute to creating places. Placemaking projects are also explored, considering the meanings and representations created and attached to places.

"Our lack of thinking about place and space risks turning challenges into crises." – Royal Town Planning Institute, UK.

#### **Geographical Debates (36%)**

Optionality - Students will study two of the five geographical debates below. Geographical skills will be taught and examined through each topic.

Climate Change - Future of Food
Disease Dilemmas - Hazardous Earth
Exploring Oceans

#### Non-examined assessment (20%)

Students will take part in two field trips during Year 12, which will aid learning in both human and physical geography whilst also developing fieldwork skills. In Year 13, students will complete a study into a geographical area of their choice. This may focus on a topic that the learner finds particularly interesting or a topic with geographical links that they would like to pursue at degree level.

#### **Using Geography in the Future**

There is an excellent 'Careers with Geography' PDF on the Royal Geographical Society website with further information on why geography is an excellent A level subject to take that can 'bridge' the Arts and Sciences.

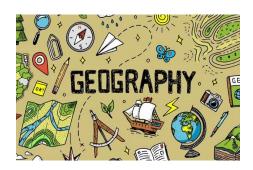
#### What Other A level Subjects Complement Geography?

Courses such as Business, History and Politics work well, or the sciences, such as Biology.

### Specification

A level: OCR Geography (H481)

https://www.ocr.org.uk/ Images/223012-specificationaccredited-a-level-gcegeography-h481.pdf









# **German: AS and A Level**

# **Head of Department: Mrs Tara Harris**

The importance of German is indisputable. Nobel Prize awards are an indication of how well German is connected to the sciences. Scientists from three major German-speaking countries have won 37 Nobel Prizes in Physics, 38 in Chemistry and 30 in Medicine; they are equally prominent in the arts.

Germany has the fourth largest economy in the world and is Britain's biggest trading partner. Whether students choose a career in translating, linguistics, science, the arts or business, German will improve their employability by giving them an edge, which is necessary in today's working environment.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

The course builds on GCSE skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, developing them to a high level of competence. Grammar is an integral part of the course and language is learnt and practised in the context of the topics below. All students will have a one-to-one session with our German Assistant every week, in addition to their normal lessons.

- Aspects of German-speaking society: the changing state of the family, the digital world, youth culture
- Artistic culture in the German-speaking world: festivals and traditions, art and architecture, cultural life in Berlin, past and present Multiculturalism in German-speaking society: immigration, integration, racism
- Aspects of political life in German-speaking society: Germany and the EU, politics and youth, German reunification and its consequences
- Grammar

Students will also study a film by Hans Weingartner: 'Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei' and a novel by Bernhard Schlink: 'Der Vorleser'. These are taught in a fun and motivating way and include many opportunities for students to voice their opinions.

Students will sit a listening, reading and writing paper (two hours and thirty minutes), a writing paper (two hours) and an oral examination.

#### What Extra-Curricular Activities are on Offer?

Students will have the opportunity to visit Germany or Austria as part of an organised trip. There will also be the opportunity to participate in German film evenings, debates with other schools and university lectures.

#### **Using German in the Future**

Recent students have gone on to study French and German at Durham University, Entrepreneurship at the University of Buckingham, Classics at Cambridge and Computer Games Design at UWE.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement German?

The literary and communication skills developed fit in with subjects like English, Drama and History and the analytical skills complement Mathematics and Science very well.

### Specification

A level: AQA German (7662)

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/ resources/german/ specifications/AQA-7662-SP-2016.PDF







# **History**

# Head of Department: Mr Simon Gibbs

Civil Rights activist Marcus Garvey once wrote, 'A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, or culture is like a tree without roots'. Apart from being extremely enjoyable and enabling students to learn about the past - that is, to understand the past and, through it, come to a far better understanding of the present – History is also one of the most widely regarded subjects by universities and employers in the UK. A level History at Clifton High School offers a fascinating insight into diverse aspects of British and world history where students acquire detailed knowledge of the past as well as essential 'life skills', such as the ability to read between the lines and detect bias; assess the validity of competing interpretations of history and make substantiated judgements.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

#### Paper 1 (Breadth Study): The Tudors: England 1485 -1603 (40%)

Students study all aspects of this fascinating royal dynasty from the founding of the House of Tudor at Bosworth to the turmoil of the Reformation under Henry VIII and Edward VI; the Counter-Reformation of "Bloody Mary" and the achievements and insecurities of Elizabeth I. A key requirement of the new specification is for students to assess how aspects of the past have been interpreted in different ways.

#### Paper 2 (Depth Study): Revolution to Dictatorship Russia 1917-1953 (40%)

In this contrasting study, which is taught concurrently, students will learn about the reasons for the abdication of the last Russian Tsar, Nicholas II, and the Bolshevik Revolution in October 1917. Students then learn about the creation of a communist regime under Lenin and Stalin and the emergence of the USSR as a superpower after World War II. The emphasis of the depth study is for students to critically assess sources when learning about these momentous world events.

#### Non-Examined Unit (20%)

Students design their own question which must span 100 years of US history, then complete an extended piece of academic writing with tutorial support and lessons from their teacher in Year 13. The format of this unit will be very similar to that of a first-year undergraduate course.

In Year 12, students will frame their question, develop their research through wider reading and examine and evaluate a variety of sources, including primary sources. Students are encouraged to base their studies on topics ranging from US Black Civil Rights, US Women's Rights, and the US Economy, to the changing nature of US Foreign Policy across the twentieth century and the treatment of Native Americans, to name just a few.

#### **Using History in the Future**

Due to History's 'ability to promote understanding between cultures and between national traditions', it is a subject that can lead to a wide variety of professions. Business, Architecture, Finance and Banking, Teaching, Law, Politics, PR, Marketing, Consultancy, Civil Service, Accountancy, Academia, Research, Policing, Television, Armed forces, Research, Journalism and Medicine.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement History?

It combines well with a humanities grouping of A levels, such as English Literature, Sociology, Geography and all the languages.

### Specification

A level: AQA History (7042)

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/ resources/history/ specifications/AQA-7041-7042-SP-2015.PDF









# Latin: AS and A Level

## Head of Department: Mrs Elizabeth Marriott

Modern society owes a huge cultural debt to the civilisations of Greece and Rome. A knowledge of the intellectual achievements of these societies can help us make sense of the world today. In fact, there is hardly any area of study on which Latin and the ancient world have not left their mark.

The course gives students the opportunity to study Latin language and literature in greater depth. It enables students to acquire an understanding of linguistics, to read and make a personal response to great literature and to consider the social, moral and cultural values emerging from this reading.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

There are four examinations at the end of the two-year course, each testing a different skill: unseen translation, comprehension or prose composition, prose literature and verse literature.

Candidates could study the following pieces of literature:

- A selection of poems by Catullus, which span the themes of love, myth and political satire
- Book XII of Virgil's Aeneid, in which our hero Aeneas gives in to his anger and slays his enemy, Turnus
- Extracts from Cicero's pro Cluentio, the defence speech of one of the most intriguing and lurid ancient murder trials
- A section of Tacitus' Annals, which give a fascinating insight into the workings of Roman politics and the paranoias of the Emperor Tiberius

#### **Using Latin in the Future**

Universities and employers appreciate that Latin A level provides mental training in a whole range of different disciplines and promotes exceptional intellectual flexibility. Students of Latin develop rigorous logic, a keen eye for detail and the skills of profound analysis and evaluation. In addition to traditional Classics degrees, Latin can be combined with a variety of subjects at university level. A level Latin can open doors into disciplines such as Classics and English, Latin with a Modern Foreign Language, Ancient and Modern History, Philosophy, Archaeology, Anthropology and Classical Studies.

You will find former Latin students in all walks of life including banking, computing, industry, the civil service, journalism, teaching, administration, law, advertising, the arts. The truth is that a Classics student gets the best of both worlds - studying for a fascinating degree, and coming out exceptionally well-qualified at the end of it.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement Latin?

Since it spans Language as well as Literature, it combines well with Modern Foreign Languages, English Literature, Humanities, but also Science, Mathematics and Computing due to the logic and reasoning skills developed in the linguistic element.

### Specification

A level: OCR Latin (H443)

https://www.ocr.org.uk/ qualifications/as-and-a-level/ latin-h043-h443-from-2016/

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## **Mathematics: AS and A Level**

# Head of Department: Mr Andrew Hillman

Students who enjoy Mathematics and feel confident with the work they have met so far at GCSE should seriously consider taking it at A level. It is a demanding and challenging subject but can be an extremely rewarding when students apply the time and effort.

Mathematics has wide applications in Industry, Business, Finance, Social Sciences, Science, Technology and many other areas. Mathematics qualifications can help towards a large range of future careers and is also a useful support for many university courses that increasingly can involve Statistics modules.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

The content is fixed and includes Pure, Statistics and Mechanics. To achieve the best results at A level, the course requirement is at least a Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.

#### **Pure Mathematics:**

- Proof, Indices, Surds, Simultaneous Equations, Quadratic Functions and Inequalities;
- Curve Sketching, Graph Transformations, Straight Lines and Circles;
- Binomial Expansion, Trigonometry, Exponentials and Logarithms;
- Differentiation, Integration, Applications of Calculus and Vectors;

#### Statistics:

- Emphasis on interpretation of statistical diagrams and measures, not on drawing and calculation. This includes:
- Statistical Sampling, Data Presentation and Interpretation;
- Probability;
- Statistical Distributions and Hypothesis Testing;

#### Mechanics:

- Kinematics, Newton's Laws of Motion and application of vectors;
- Projectiles, Resolving Forces, Friction and Static Moments;

This qualification is assessed by three written papers, each lasting 2 hours.

"Taking A level Mathematics has helped me to understand the logic behind core scientific principles that I need for University" Annika – Former A level student

#### **Using Mathematics in the Future**

A level Mathematics is one of the most widely accepted and respected subject choices by universities and is likely to enhance your options rather than narrow them. Studying Mathematics is essential if you want to study Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Engineering, Accountancy, Economics, or any Science-based course in higher education.

#### What Other Subjects Complement Mathematics?

A level Sciences, Economics, Business, Geography and Computer Science all complement A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

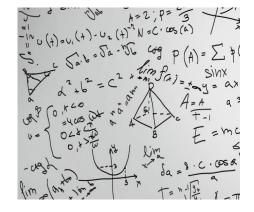
### **Specification**

A Level: OCR Mathematics (H240)

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AS Level: OCR Mathematics (H230)

https://www.ocr.org.uk/ Images/308720-specificationaccredited-as-level-gcemathematics-a-h230.pdf







#### Music

# Head of Department: Mrs Donia Pieters

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

- Performance
- Composition
- Listening and appraising

Students complete performances either as a soloist and/or in an ensemble on an instrument of their choice, including singing. The performances must last between twelve and fifteen minutes — a mini recital. Both performance and composition are coursework elements which are completed in School by the end of the Spring Term.

Students also work on two composition tasks during the course. The first task is either a free composition or chosen from four different briefs which are set by the board, using the music technology program Logic or Sibelius as an aid to the creative process. In addition to this, students are expected to complete a technical study, usually in the form of a Bach Chorale, in the second year of the course. Harmonic skills are continually extended and students utilise these both in their compositions and analysis of further works. Sophisticated outcomes are expected at this level and pupils should have a good understanding of instrumental and vocal techniques in order to excel.

Students study a selection of set works from the A level music anthology which is examined in a written paper in the summer. In addition to this, students widen their knowledge of a broad range of musical styles and answer questions about unfamiliar pieces which they listen to in the examination. Students will also continue to develop their essay writing skills throughout the course to gain maximum marks in the final examination paper.

It is strongly recommended that students are receiving instrumental or vocal tuition for the duration of this course in order to be able to tackle the performance element.

#### **Using Music in the Future**

After completing the course students may wish to study for a degree in music, go into performing arts, to teach music or to go into orchestral management, among other options.

#### **Course requirements**

To achieve the best results at A level, the course requirement is a Grade 7 in GCSE Music.

#### What Other A Level Subjects Complement Music?

Subjects that have a natural affinity to Music are English, History, Drama and Art. There is also definitive scientific research into the link between Mathematics, Physics and Music. All of these subjects utilise and combine skills that are prevalent in Music such as essay writing, contextual analysis and creative thinking. They also facilitate seamless cross-curricular projects, allowing pupils to broaden their interests.

Specification

A level: Edexcel Music 9MU01

https://
qualifications.pearson.com/
en/qualifications/edexcel-alevels/music-2016.html









# **Physics**

## Head of Department: Mr Paul Griffin

How did the Universe start and how will it end? How do televisions, mobile phones, car engines and fusion reactors work? How can we prove that light travels in waves? What is a proton actually made of? These are some of the questions that fascinate Physicists. By choosing to study Physics at A level students will be making a giant leap forward in their journey of discovery. Perhaps eventually they will discover the Theory of Everything!

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

The course includes the following core content:

- Particles and radiation: The standard model of fundamental particles, Feynman diagrams and photoelectricity
- Waves: Using advanced practical techniques to measure the wavelength of light
- Mechanics and materials: Newton's laws and beyond!
- Electricity: Students will measure resistivity and study potential dividers used in control circuits
- Further mechanics and thermal physics: Internal energy and kinetic theory of gases
- Fields: Satellites in gravitational fields and electrons in magnetic fields
- Nuclear physics: Radioactivity, fission and fusion, including nuclear power

In addition, students will choose one of the following topics within the full A level:

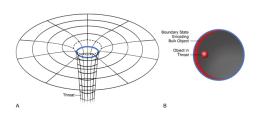
- Engineering physics: Useful for future engineers as it includes heat engines
- Astrophysics: Includes astronomy and cosmology; how the universe evolves
- Medical physics: A must for potential medics but fascinating for everyone
- Turning points in physics: The unusual parts of physics, including special relativity where space and time are not the same everywhere Electronics: This is a new option topic for this specification

### Specification

A level: AQA Physics (7408)

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/ resources/physics/ specifications/AQA-7407-7408-SP-2015.PDF



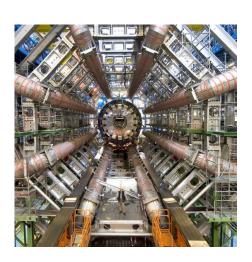


### **Using Physics in the Future**

Students with A level Physics can go on to take a huge variety of further education courses including anything to do with finance, any medical field, communications, as well as all forms of engineering. A good understanding of Physics will improve a person's problem-solving capability in any field of work and, therefore, is regarded as a highly valuable qualification.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement Physics?

Due to a significant amount of mathematical content in the course, Mathematics A level will certainly help those studying A level Physics, although it is not essential. For access to a wide range of engineering degrees, Chemistry and Mathematics are a good choice to go with Physics. Medicine degrees will sometimes require Chemistry and Biology A levels.





### **AS and A Level: Politics**

## Head of Department: Miss Rachel Coleman

The Politics Department aims to equip students with an understanding of, and generate an interest in, the political values, ideas and institutions that have shaped and continue to shape the world in which they live.

A level Politics is delivered through a range of debates, research projects and investigations, underpinned by a clear set of course notes and exemplars.

Students who aim to do well in this subject are encouraged to inform themselves about current affairs and political issues, both in the UK and on a global stage. The department aims to take every cohort to visit the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court during their studies, and students are encouraged to attend a range of voluntary lectures and workshops.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

#### In Year 12:

UK Politics – democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media

UK Government – the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive and relationships between the branches

Core political ideas – liberalism, conservatism, socialism

Non-core political ideas – feminism or nationalism

#### In Year 13:

Comparative American politics – US Constitution, Congress, presidency, Supreme Court, civil rights, democracy and participation and comparative theories, using UK and USA as case studies.

In gaining an understanding of the topics above, students will also acquire skills of analysis, evaluation and effective communication.

#### Assessment

The A level is examined in three equal papers (components).

- Component 1 (33%) covers UK Politics and core political ideas.
- Component 2 (33%) covers UK Government and non-core political ideas.
- Component 3 (33%) covers Comparative American politics.

Throughout the course, students will be assessed using examination style questions and marking criteria.

#### **Using Politics in the Future**

A level Politics is a good choice for students considering a career in the profession, or those who simply want to understand how the world works.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement Politics?

Politics goes well with a variety of subjects and is a good addition for any A level complement. Politics does not just appeal to History or English students. Increasingly students who have interest in other disciplines such as Science, Art and Drama, have started to study Politics, giving them a broader perspective on the world.

### Specification

A level: Edexcel Politics (9PL0)

#### https://

qualifications.pearson.com/ content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/ Politics/2017/Specification% 20and%20sample% 20assessments/A-level-Politics-Specification.pdf









# **Product Design**

# Head of Department: Mr Simon Francis

This is a creative and thought-provoking qualification giving pupils the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers; including those in the creative industries.

They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing prototypes of their choice in our well-equipped workshop. Pupils will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

Opportunities include workshops led by experts in their field and study trips to London. The projects undertaken will be very wide ranging and include architecture, engineering, model making, furniture and graphic design giving pupils an introduction to all these areas and opening their eyes to future possibilities.

There will be an open studio for all Sixth Form product design students to ensure they have plenty of time and access to equipment to help them achieve their

One non-examination assessment (coursework), 50% of the A level and two written examinations, 50% of the A level.

Non-examination assessment (internally assessed and externally moderated) The practical application of technical principles, both designing and making, presented in the form of a substantial design and make project.

Pupils will be required to undertake a small-scale design and make task and produce a final prototype based on a context and design brief developed by the student.

This can be in any area of product design and can be a modelled or fully working prototype. This constitutes 50% of the A level.

#### Paper 1 (externally assessed)

Technical principles: 2.5 hour examination - 30% of the A level

#### Paper 2 (externally assessed)

Designing and making: 1.5 hour examination - 20% of the A level

### Specification

A level: AQA Design and

Technology: Product Design

(7552)

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/ resources/design-andtechnology/specifications/AQA-7552-SP-2017.PDF





#### **Using Product Design in the Future**

Students who take this course may then go on to a foundation diploma in Art and Design and/or may choose to take a BA (Hons) degree in subjects such as Architecture, Engineering, Graphic Design, Product Design, to name but a few. A level Product Design is the first step into any career where problem solving and original thinking are valued from Engineering and Architecture to Games design and Industrial design

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement Product Design?

Fine Art, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science and Geography





# **Psychology**

# Subject Coordinator: Miss Israel Gayton

Psychology continues to be one of the most popular subjects studied at A level. As a science, it demands rigorous exploration of concepts, research and theory. Students gain invaluable transferrable skills, such as the ability to think critically and analytically, as well as developing verbal and written communication skills. The discipline required will equip for Higher Education and the working world.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

Students will be studying the AQA Psychology course, which caters for pupils interested in Psychology at AS and A level. The course is entirely assessed through examination, containing a mixture of shorter answers, multiple choice questions and extended-writing responses. The three examination papers are of equal weighting.

#### **Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology**

- Memory
- Social influence
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

#### Paper 2: Psychology in Context

- Biopsychology
- Research Methods

#### Paper 3: Issues and Debates

- Issues and Debates
- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3

#### **Using Psychology in the Future**

An A level, or AS, in Psychology is an excellent starting point for a career in a range of disciplines, from the Sciences to the Arts. Knowledge of research methods and scientific investigations will make students excellent candidates for careers such as Forensics and Medicine; your understanding of human behaviour and communication will allow them to thrive in a variety of settings, from Teaching, to Social Work, Health Services and Mediation.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement Psychology?

Biology, Chemistry, English Literature, Mathematics, Physical Education, Physics, Politics, Sociology.

There is no need to have studied any Psychology before beginning the A level course. It is however important to be proficient in English, Mathematics and Science in order to perform well on the various aspects of the course.

### Specification

A level: AQA Psychology (7182)

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/ resources/psychology/ specifications/AQA-7181-7182-SP-2015.PDF









# **Sociology**

# Head of Department: Mrs Catherine Quirk-Marku

Sociology is a fascinating subject which will enable students to gain a deeper understanding of contemporary society by studying a range of topics such as Crime and Deviance, Education, Families and Households and Mass Media. These areas are explored through the key sociological theories of Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, Interactionism and Postmodernism.

The Sociology Department aims to teach the above topics in an interesting and stimulating way so that our students are fully prepared for their A level examination – as well as having their eyes opened to trends, structures and meanings in contemporary society.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

Sociology A level follows the AQA syllabus. There are three examination papers with equal weighting:

- Education with Theory and Methods
- · Families and Households; Mass Media
- Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

The students will acquire a wealth of new vocabulary as well as analytical skills and the ability to think conceptually. They will also have the opportunity to

conduct some research of their own which enables them to learn, first hand, about various methods and theoretical stances. Lessons will include debates, discussions, presentations, developing essay-writing skills and analysis. We organise trips and visiting speakers to further develop students' understanding of the course. Recently we have run trips to the Law Courts and a Prison and a Judicial Officer and a TV producer have visited our school to speak to our Sociology students.

#### Year 12 Course:

- Families and Households
- Education
- Research Methods

#### Year 13 Course:

- Crime and Deviance
- Mass Media
- Theory and Methods

### Specification

A level: AQA Sociology (7192)

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/ resources/sociology/ specifications/AQA-7191-7192-SP-2015.PDF





### **Using Sociology in the Future**

Sociology is an excellent basis from which to study many subjects at university such as Social Science, Criminology, Psychology, Anthropology, Law and other Humanities and Social Sciences.

It can lead to careers in any of the above, including working with the Police, Civil service, Social Services and Policy research, as well as being a good contributing subject for careers in Law, Business, Management and social work.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement Sociology?

It is an excellent subject to combine with other Social Sciences or Humanities at A level such as Business, Psychology, Politics, Geography, History or English, and also adds a human breadth to scientific studies in Biology and Chemistry.





# **Spanish: AS and A Level**

## Head of Department: Ms Rebecca Bartlett

This is an exciting opportunity for students to take their knowledge of Spanish to the next level. Throughout the course they will learn to become competent linguists and develop a real passion for languages.

The course consolidates students' learning and develops their language skills so that they become competent to discuss current issues in depth and with increasing fluency and grammatical awareness.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

The topics covered include areas within:

- Aspects of Hispanic society: Modern and Traditional Values, Cyberspace, Equal Rights
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic society: Modern day idols, Spanish regional identity, cultural heritage
- Multiculturalism: Immigration, Racism, Integration
- Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world: today's youth, tomorrow's citizens, monarchies and dictatorships, popular movements
- Students will also have the opportunity to study the Spanish domestic hit Ocho Apellidos Vascos and the famed Laura Esquivel literary text Como Agua Para Chocolate

The speaking element requires knowledge of the topics along with an opportunity to study an Independent Research Project (IRP), which is similar to the EPQ.

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing

Paper 2: Writing

Paper 3: Speaking (including the Independent Research Project)

### **Using Spanish in the Future**

Spanish is a facilitating subject and compliments a wide array of other A level options. This course will give students an excellent knowledge of social issues and the confidence to discuss them. There will be many opportunities to participate in an exchange, trips abroad, university lectures and debates with other schools. Furthermore, students also receive a weekly one-to-one lesson with a native Spanish speaker. If students wish to continue with Spanish into further education then this course will fully prepare them to access the highest levels they need in order to reach a top university.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement Spanish?

English literature, History and Politics. Mathematics is also an excellent option for those wishing to do International Business.

### Specification

A level: AQA Spanish

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/ resources/spanish/ specifications/AQA-7692-SP-2016.PDF









# **AS Level: Physical Education**

# Head of Department: Mr James Taylor

Studying AS level Physical Education will give students a fantastic insight into the amazing world of sports performance. It is an excellent base for a university degree in Sports Science, Sports Management, Healthcare, or Exercise and Health. It can also complement further study in Biology, Human Biology, Physics, Psychology, Nutrition, Sociology and much more. AS level Physical Education can open up a range of career opportunities including: sports development, sports coaching, physiotherapy, personal training or becoming one of the next generation of physical education teachers.

#### **Course Content and Topics Covered**

Not only will students have the chance to perform or coach a sport through the non-examined assessment component, they will also develop a wide ranging knowledge into the how and why of physical activity and sport including: the reasons why we do things, why some people out-perform others, mentally and physically. Students will also delve into the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs and also the influence that modern technology is having in and on physical activity and sport, alongside much more.

The combination of physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for students. They can perform, and then through academic study, improve their performance or coaching though application of the theory. Another benefit of studying this course includes the development of transferable skills ranging from decision making, psychological understanding of people, independent thinking, problem solving and analytical skills as well as thinking and acting under pressure.

#### **Using Physical Education in the Future**

Studying AS level Physical Education opens up many pathways. There are a number of Physical Education degrees that lead into teaching careers. Sport and Exercise Science, Sports Management and Sports Coaching degrees are offered at many top universities leading to work in areas such as professional sport, the leisure industry, and research and development.

#### What Other A level Subjects Complement Physical Education?

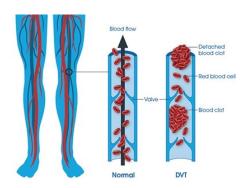
Many areas of the AS level Physical Education course are complimented by studying A level Biology and Chemistry. The course also has close links to History, Sociology and Psychology content.

### Specification

AS level: AQA Physical Education (7581)

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/ resources/pe/specifications/AQA -7581-SP-2016.PDF









# **AS Level: Music Technology**

# Head of Department: Mrs Donia Pieters

#### What You Will Study and Topics Covered

- Component 1: Recording
- Component 2: Technology-based composition
- Component 3: Listening and analysing
- Component 4: Producing and analysing

The course has two elements of coursework and two examination papers. The coursework consists of a) creating a technology-based composition, written to a brief set by the examination board b) recording a song chosen from a list, also produced by the examination board.

For the composition task students will demonstrate skills in creating, editing and structuring sounds to develop a technology-based composition. Students should develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements and musical language, and apply these where appropriate to their own technology-based compositions.

For the recording element students will demonstrate skills in capturing, editing and mixing sounds to produce an audio recording. Students will develop the skills to capture and manipulate sounds in corrective and creative ways in order to communicate effectively with listeners.

Component 3 gives students the opportunity to identify, analyse and evaluate a range of creative music production techniques, as applied to an unfamiliar commercial recording supplied in the examination. As well as identifying effects and their basic settings, students will explain the principles behind the choice of the effects heard on each recording.

For Component 4 students will work with unedited audio and MIDI materials that have been captured using microphone, DI and sequencing techniques. The examination will assess the ability to process and correct these materials using a range of production skills.

### Specification

AS level Music Technology: Edecxel

https://
qualifications.pearson.com/
en/qualifications/edexcel-alevels/music-technology2017.html





#### **Course requirements**

To achieve the best results at AS level, the course requirement is a Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics and Physics along with a solid understanding of the basic elements of Music.

#### **Using Music Technology in the Future**

After completing the course students may wish to pursue a career as a Sound Technician, Broadcast Engineer, Radio Producer, Record Producer or Composer.



To find out more about our Sixth Form, please visit our website: www.cliftonhigh.co.uk/sixth-form or take a look at our social media pages. To arrange a visit, attend an open event or taster day please contact our Admissions Department on 0117 933 9087 or email admissions@cliftonhigh.co.uk The Diamond Edge Model Realising Individual Brilliance College Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3JD School Office: 0117 973 0201 Admissions: 0117 933 9087