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Dame Allan's Sixth Form
Open Days 2023



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North East Independent School of the Year

SUNDAY TIMES PARENT POWER 2023



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 Dame Allan's Schools

 @DameAllans

 Dame Allan's Schools

 The Allanian Society

Welcome



Here at Dame Allan's we pride ourselves on our pastoral support throughout those two incredibly important years. As stressful as it is for many young people across the country, we support our students, guiding them into good study habits to relieve stress and helping them to make the best choices as they embark on their new lives beyond school.

The transition to a new way of learning is never easy but we have high expectations of our students and through our encouragement and practical advice, we push our students to achieve.

The Dame Allan's community is completed by our Sixth Form. These older and more mature students are role models to the younger years. There are ample opportunities to lead and get involved and we hope that all of our Sixth Form students will reach out and grab as many of them as they can.

"Through hard work, kindness and commitment to a community, our sixth form students thrive."



Mr P Terry,
Director of Sixth Form

The Sixth Form is where independence truly begins for many young people. The freedom to choose courses they love, that will take them on a path to an exciting future, is as enticing now as it was when I first entered Sixth Form.

Who's who at Dame Allan's Schools



Mr W Scott
Principal



Miss N Shaw
Vice Principal (Pastoral)



Mr A Hopper
Vice Principal (Academic)



Mrs V McDonald
Bursar



Mr P Terry
Director of Sixth Form



Mrs K Fletcher
Deputy Director
of Sixth Form



Mr D Kelly
Head of Y12



Mrs K Medway
Head of Y13



Mrs R Miller
Head of Admissions
and Communications



Mrs J Downie
Director of
Pupil Welfare



Mrs B Whitehouse
Head of Careers



Miss J Rodrigues
Sixth Form,
Higher Education and
Careers Administrator

Renovations to the Queen's Building

We are thoroughly looking forward to opening the building in January 2024. The renovated Queen's Building will provide a fantastic environment for learning and we know that it will make a huge difference to the comfort and focus of all of our sixth form students.

It will house an enormous, dedicated silent study area, group work pods, a meeting room for students to book out and, most importantly, a cafe that will serve hot drinks and snacks throughout the day. There will also be the option of buying lunch at the cafe and eating it in the calming environment of the sixth form centre.

The ground floor will include a group work area, where students can grab a coffee and study in a more relaxed environment.

The first floor will provide a multi-functional work space, including working pods, where students can study or revise within a quiet work zone. This open plan space also contains a meeting room and staff offices, and can be used for presentations or curricular events.

The existing classrooms and toilets on both floors are also being refurbished. There will be integrated charging points for chromebooks and mobile phones, as well as a large locker room / bag storage area.



A Level Choices

Programme of Study

In Year 12 you will follow an A Level course of three subjects, plus a super-curriculum option in order to offer breadth to your studies.

THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WILL BE OFFERED

• Art and Design	• English Language	• Music
• Biology	• English Literature	• Philosophy
• Business	• French	• Physical Education
• Chemistry	• Further Mathematics	• Physics
• Computer Science	• Geography	• Politics
• Dance	• German	• Product Design
• Drama and Theatre Studies	• History	• Psychology
• Economics	• Mathematics	• Spanish

SUPER-CURRICULUM CHOICES CURRENTLY OFFERED

• Digital Futures	• Enterprise
• EPQ	• Sports Leaders
• Mandarin	

We expect pupils entering Sixth Form to have secured 45 points from their best 8 GCSE grades (grades of 3 or below may not be included). Students new to Dame Allan's will also be invited to interview.

How do I make my A Level choices?

We always recommend that students study the subjects they love and have strengths in, as this will further their love of learning, give them confidence and the best possible chances to gain the higher education place of their choice.

The Russell Group university website offers an interactive tool to allow pupils to see the subjects recommended for specific degrees and, conversely, students can also enter combinations of A-level subjects to see which degrees they would suit.

More information: www.informedchoices.ac.uk

There are three reasons why you might choose a subject to study at A Level or beyond.

1. You enjoy and are good at the subject at GCSE level.
2. You need the subject for a particular course or career.
3. You have not studied the subject before, but feel it would be interesting and suit your strengths.

Don't take our word for it, some of our students explain how they chose their subjects:

"I chose my A level subjects based on the subjects that I was strongest in and what I felt I would enjoy the most. Through career fairs earlier in the school I had a few ideas for what I wanted from my career, and through GCSEs I found what subjects I enjoyed the most. I knew that finding the subjects enjoyable and not struggling in them would be vital to my enjoyment of sixth form as a whole and my motivation in sixth form, so I picked the subjects I felt would consistently interest me. The taster days were also very important to this, as they gave me an idea of the kind of challenges I would face in the course."

"The most important factor for me was picking subjects that I loved. It made studying them and working hard so much easier and I knew it would lead to a career that I would enjoy. I found it helpful to talk to my GCSE subject teachers about what the course is like, you can never have too much information. Older students sometimes give bias views of what they study and so doing your own research and coming to your own decision is important."

The most important factor for me was...

...choosing subjects that I enjoy and would enable me to take the course I want at uni.

...picking a subject that would challenge me but also be enjoyable considering I was taking it for the next 2 years.

...how useful the subject would be in my future job.

...pure interest in the subjects that I was taking.

...the taster day. I was able to have a feel about the subjects I was taking and the teachers I would be having in the sixth form.

...interest and motivation.

Super-curricular choices

All students complete one hour a week of a super-curricular course. Browse the offering below to see which you would choose:

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The EPQ is the equivalent of half an A Level qualification. It is highly valued by universities as it can provide formal proof of a student's readiness for undergraduate study and research. Dame Allan's students normally submit a 5,000 word report that forms the basis of an assessed presentation. The award is based on the process that led to the production of the report and presentation and not just the content. Alternatively, there is the opportunity to submit a 1,000 word report along with a model, video or performance. This also requires an assessed presentation.

Titles previously submitted include:

- Do stem cells have the potential to regrow human limbs and should this be allowed?
- Is feminism relevant in the United Kingdom?
- To write and direct a script in Brechtian style and analyse its success in keeping to this style after the final performance.

Enterprise

Enterprise gives students the opportunity to set up and run a real business. They will raise the initial capital, come up with a business idea, negotiate with suppliers, advertise and sell. Through hands on experience, students can better understand the ups and downs of business decision-making, whilst improving their communication and team working skills. As an example, one group successfully raised over £1000 through their endeavours.

Mandarin

The course is based on the official Hanban examination resources with all students having the option of sitting the HSK I examination at the end of the year. Learn to communicate basic information about yourself and your family, understand and be able to actively use 150 words in Mandarin, gain a basic understanding of how Chinese characters are formed and be able to recognise the most common basic forms.

Learning Mandarin is very different from the European languages students will have previously learned at school and they might be surprised at how easy it is with no tenses or endings to learn. All we ask is that they have an open mind and the desire to wrap their tongue around a few new sounds!

Sports Leaders

Students study the Level 3 qualification worth 16 UCAS points. It covers theory aspects of leadership and also practical sessions where students are able to put their learning/skills into practice. During practical lessons, students are given responsibility for planning and leading simple activities to others in the group. Outside of the classroom, students are required to do ten hours of voluntary leadership either in school or a community setting.

We have had several students complete their voluntary leadership in the community in activities such as biking and squash.

Digital Futures

Spend time working towards your future by enrolling onto a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) learning about any subject you choose from medieval poetry to exploring the human genome. Every course has been designed according to principles of effective learning, through storytelling, discussion, visible learning, and using community support to celebrate progress.

Co-curricular choices

Dame Allan's Sixth Form students are encouraged to make the most of opportunities to extend their learning outside the classroom to make them not only a brilliant academic, but a well-rounded member of society.

Whether it's developing a wider interest in a subject area through educational visits or societies, enhancing their leadership and teamwork skills through our senior sports teams, participation in World Challenge, the Combined Cadet Force, the Duke of Edinburgh Award or our Derwent Hill leadership weekend, contributing to the arts in our drama productions, Vizavis dance company or musical groups or contributing to the wider community through Youth Parliament, community service or peer mentoring, we have something for every student to get involved in.

Sports clubs

Rugby	Hockey	Netball	Football
Cricket	Squash	Athletics	Basketball
Table Tennis	Rowing	Fencing	Climbing

Arts

- Vizavis dance company
- Symphony orchestra
- Senior choir
- Chamber choir
- String band
- Ceilidh band
- Senior wind band
- Upper school musical
- Upper school play
- LAMDA

Subject societies and student-led societies

- Science discussion group
- MedSoc
- Economics Society
- Debating Club
- Law Society
- Radio DAS
- Christian Union

Teamwork and leadership

- World Challenge
- Royal Marines Combined Cadet Force
- Derwent Hill leadership weekend
- Youth Parliament
- Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

Community and other miscellaneous opportunities

- Archivists
- Public Speaking competition
- Community Service
- Listening skills and peer mentoring
- Inspire programme with DAJS

Higher Education and Careers Guidance- Preparation for Life

Our aim is to equip our students for the future, by developing personal qualities, skills and talents as well as achieve the best examination qualifications possible. Throughout Dame Allan's students are informed of the many exciting opportunities on offer and how they should colour their lives with many rich experiences to ensure that they are career ready.

Linking Curriculum to Careers

Careers information, advice and guidance is on offer in many ways so that our students understand the benefits of their learning and are very well prepared for higher education and the world of work. Some of the many insights linking education and employability at Dame Allan's Schools are in the classroom, but also:

- 1:1 Careers Guidance Consultations
- Futures Fair
- UCAS Exhibition
- Trips to universities and workplaces
- Assemblies and Presentations about HE choices, Apprenticeships, World of Work and Labour Market Intelligence
- Work Experience and Virtual Work Experience
- Community Service/Volunteering
- CV / Portfolio Building and LinkedIn Training
- Personal Statement Workshops
- Interview Preparation and Mock Interviews for HE and Employment
- Aptitude Tests and Assessment Centre Training
- Allanian Return and Inspire events- our leavers return to inspire you by telling their success stories
- Morrisby Profile.

The well-established Morrisby Profile supports students with results of a psychometric assessment, which improves self-awareness and also a record of their aptitudes, interests, values, preference for learning and work styles, all in one place.

Careers consultations and enrichment lessons build upon a student's ability to make well informed choices for the future. The Morrisby Profile offers independent research, blended learning, personal profiling as well as **log in for life** bespoke careers guidance. We are proud that our students are

supported with this online careers guidance, even when they leave Dame Allan's.

Post-18 Choices and the World of Work

Alongside traditional degrees, Degree Apprenticeships are well worth considering as these link companies with universities and students are paid to study a degree affiliated with a university. These are very competitive courses, can be applied for alongside university applications, and could offer students the best of all opportunities. See www.amazingapprenticeships.com.

Work Experience is key to gathering skills and knowledge so try to gain as much insight as you can. You don't know what you will enjoy or not enjoy until you have tried it. We expect all of our Year 11 to have gained some insight into Work Experience in the summer of Year 11 and then plan more in Year 12.

Research

- Dame Allan's HE and Careers Websites - My Great Future - student login and parent portal
- www.morrisby.com - Morrisby Profile
- Jobs Explorer Database JED - student login
- www.ucas.com university and apprenticeship search tool
- www.theuniguide.co.uk/a-level-explorer see where your A Level choices will take you
- Prospects - Search careers via subjects
- Success at School - Subject Guides
- DAS HE, Careers Hubs and Library - university prospectuses, magazines and books about 16+/18+ choices and wider reading.
- www.futurelearn.com MOOCs massive open online courses
- www.springpod.com - virtual work experience and university insights

Life in the Sixth Form

Pastoral support

Dame Allan's Sixth Form is led by Mr Terry, supported by Mrs Fletcher as Deputy Director of Sixth Form, Mrs K Medway, as Head of Year 13 and Mr D Kelly as Head of Year 12.

Each student is allocated to a small tutor group of around 14 students. Students get to know each other and their tutor through regular morning form time and one hour of enrichment every week. Additionally, students have access to the school nurse and counselling services. All Sixth Form students are taught basic mental health first aid and, each year, a large cohort are trained in listening skills. While this is predominantly with the aim of supporting younger students, these skills are naturally transferable meaning that we have a welcoming and supportive year group dynamic.

Enrichment

Enrichment is one hour a week and covers a range of topics including planning for the future, safe driving, cancer screening and awareness, LGBT awareness, crime and violence reduction, healthy cooking on a budget, the labour market skills gap, risk taking, interview skills, first aid, tax, assessment centres, budgeting and many more. We revise our enrichment offer each year based on student feedback and are always interested to hear if a student has an idea of something to learn more about.

Games in the Sixth Form

There are two main strands of games options for students in the Sixth Form. Students who are lucky enough to be chosen to represent the school will continue to take part in

these performance sports which include rugby, hockey, netball, football, and cricket. Students who are not chosen to represent the school can choose to take these sports or they can choose a participation sport such as basketball, golf, surfing, rounders, tennis, badminton, fitness sessions and table tennis. Access is also provided to an offsite gym.

The games department listens to students and changes this list based on what students ask for. Some students who participate at an elite level will be permitted to train for their elite sport during this time.

Community Service

Some students opt to take community service instead of games. This is a chance for students to give back to their community by volunteering. The school has a range of partners that we work with including care homes, primary schools and others, but students are welcome to organise their own community service placements. If you wish to be linked to one of our partners outside of the community service session, that can also be arranged.

Study and support

Students receive study support sessions at the beginning of Year 12 and have access to a large study area, in addition to a separate section of the library reserved for Sixth Form students only. Each department has created an extensive list of wider reading material through our Strive website and students are regularly encouraged to access this to develop their learning further.

Alumni Advice

Once at Dame Allan's, you are an Allanian. When you leave us, you haven't really left us totally as the foundations of your future have been built at Dame Allan's - your education, your skills, your friendships and importantly your memories. You will connect with each other, you will network with each other around the country and across the world. This is the special bond you will all share and you'll continue to support each other.

Our Allanian alumni are wonderful. They return to Dame Allan's to inspire the next generation, because they love to give back. Students return a year after they have left, whilst they are on gap years or at university, to tell us about their degrees or their new jobs. They return to tell students to follow their dreams, to be determined. When we asked them what advice they would give to students going into the Sixth Form, they said:

- "Make the most of the co-curricular activities on offer, they will stand out on your CV."
- "Have ambition to strive after something meaningful, not just celebrated, but remember that the decisions that make up the journey are as important as grasping the prize."
- "Have a back-up plan. If you don't succeed at first, try again. It might not be what you wanted; however if you really want to do something, you will do it."
- "Get involved in as many activities as you can to help show a range of skills on university and job application. Take as many opportunities to develop and be aware of your learning style. Understanding the way

you learn best will help you throughout higher education and your career. Practise a range of stress management techniques to find which method suits you best. Ensure you take time to relax and speak to others if you feel you need any extra support."

- "Dame Allan's encourages you to strive and reach your potential. The staff are extremely supportive and are always willing to offer guidance. The careers service enabled me to make informed choices about which universities to look at, how to write a personal statement and by bringing in businesses and individuals from different sectors, gave a broad view of the career choices available. Most of all, Dame Allan's gave me the confidence to pursue a career in a highly competitive sector, which has paid off!"

“It is the passion inside that keeps you going. If I can give you any advice it would be this... serve the universe best, doing what you love most.” *Ian la Frenais*

You can discover more about the Allanian Society on their website - theallaniansociety.co.uk

Subject Information

Art

What is the subject about?

The study of fine art is the development of expressive and creative responses to thematic enquiry through visual research, analysis, observation and recording. Students will develop practical skills in a wide range of media including oil and acrylic paint, printmaking and graphic media.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

Visual communication skills including drawing (recording) in a range of media, problem solving, sequential development, interpretation, reviewing, modifying and refining, discussion, evaluation, critical appraisal and analysis.

What topics will I study?

Projects are broad and develop in a direction personal to students guided by department staff. Topics of exploration previously selected by students are diverse and include surveillance, equality and genetics. Component 2 is set by the exam board.

What is the examination board?

AQA

How will I be examined? How long is each exam? Are there modules?

There is synoptic assessment in both components of the A Level providing stretching and challenging opportunities for students as follows:

Component 1: Portfolio (60 per cent of total marks) 96 marks available

In Component 1, students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Practical elements should make connections with some aspect of contemporary or past practice of artist(s), designer(s) or photographers and include

a personal study (written work) of no less than 1000 and no more than 3000 words in support of the practical work.

Component 2: 40 per cent of total marks
96 marks available

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

What can I do with the subject in the future?

Creative industries are the fastest growing sector of the UK economy contributing over £115 billion gross value to the UK economy, more than the automotive, aerospace, life sciences & oil and gas industries combined! Feeding into this are careers in architecture, digital media, 3D design, graphic design, illustration, fashion, music, film, theatre, video games, TV and publishing sectors. The creative industries are one of the UK's greatest success stories, with British artists, fashion brands, musicians, and films immediately recognisable across the globe growing at almost twice the rate of the wider economy and worth a staggering £10 million per hour.

GCSE entry requirements

The course builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired by candidates taking art at GCSE level; it is expected that candidates have achieved a grade 6. Candidates embarking on the A Level course will have already developed understanding and skills which will contribute to their enjoyment and fulfilment of the A Level course. Be prepared to develop your curiosity, let go of perfectionism, get out of your comfort zone and explore ideas and media.

Biology

What is the subject about?

Biology A Level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. The course builds up from the chemicals of life, through cells, tissues and organs into whole organisms and concepts such as evolution and gene technology. Being such a broad topic, you are bound to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

Biology at A Level greatly extends the work covered at GCSE and introduces new topics and ideas. There is a high volume of factual content within the course, however the ability to apply your knowledge to unfamiliar contexts is also a crucial requirement. Sound numerical skills are essential, as well as strong written communication skills.

Biology is never far from the headlines and a desire to delve deeper into the biology behind headlines, enriching your subject knowledge beyond the limits of the specification, will be a great advantage.

Biology is a practical subject and during the course you will carry out practicals including:

- using microscopes to see cell division
- dissection of animal or plant systems
- aseptic technique to study microbial growth
- fieldwork.

These will provide the skills and confidence needed to investigate the way organisms behave and work. It will also ensure that if you study biology at university, you will have the skills needed to carry out successful experiments in your degree. You must demonstrate competency in practical work in order to achieve a pass in the practical endorsement awarded at the end of the course.

What topics will I study?

The unit titles are:

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression.

What is the examination board?

AQA

How will I be examined? How long is each exam? Are there modules?

There are three exams at the end of the two years for A Level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15 per cent of the marks for A Level biology are based on what you learned in your practicals and 10 per cent of the marks assess mathematical skills.

What can I do with the subject in the future?

A Level biology is a requirement for most degree courses in biological and medical sciences.

It is also useful for vocational courses such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing and other careers in the health service. In recent years our biologists have also pursued a variety of courses including law, architecture, psychology and geography to name but a few.

GCSE entry requirements

The study of biology at A Level builds on work already studied so students should have a minimum of a grade 7 at GCSE. The mathematical demands of the course require competence at mathematics equivalent to at least grade 6 at GCSE.

Business

What is the subject about?

We study businesses in a variety of contexts, from small to large, UK focused to global and within manufacturing and the service sector. Business, as a subject, is the analysis of the manner in which businesses are organised and run internally and how they are affected by external factors. The course aims to develop analytical and problem solving skills by relating business theory to real world situations. Within the department, we also run a comprehensive strive programme to support those aiming for top grades. External speakers are invited to present to pupils about their career, business endeavours or anything else that may be of interest. This has proven to be very popular and well received; as well as bringing the theory to life.

Areas of enquiry are more easily illustrated by examples of the kind of questions that might be prompted by the course:

- Will businesses need to adapt and change following COVID-19?
- Was it the leadership of Jürgen Klopp which led Liverpool to win the Premier League?
- How did Jeff Bezos become the richest person in the world?
- What is the most cost effective way of motivating your workforce?
- How does Google attract such high calibre employees?
- What is the best way to make a profit?
- How will Aldi alter their strategic position following improvements to the UK economy?
- Should stakeholders be given a greater say in a business' decisions?
- Can the changes at Tesco stop its decline?

Within the department, we also run a share trading competition. Students spend half a day learning about the stock market and taking

part in virtual trading to see who can make the most money before the market closes.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

You already have many of the key analytical and reasoning skills that will be helpful on this course. We will help you to understand and apply new business theories to real world contexts. By the end of the course the best business students will be able to process large amounts of information, to sift out the important from the marginal data and to critically evaluate the commercial impact on the business.

What topics will I study?

The specification involves the study of marketing, accountancy and finance, operations management, human resource management and the objectives and strategies of organisations. The course is broken down into four 'themes', allowing for a broad coverage of a range of units:

1. Marketing and people
2. Managing business activities
3. Business decisions and strategy
4. Global business

What is the examination board?

Edexcel

How will I be examined? How long is each exam? Are there modules?

Assessment takes the form of three two-hour examinations at the end of a two-year course.

Paper 1 will assess marketing, people and global business (Themes 1 and 4)

Section A and B each comprise one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including one extended open-response question.

Paper 2 will assess business finance and operations, business decisions and strategy (Themes 2 and 3)

Section A and B each comprise one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including one extended open-response question.

Paper 3 will assess content across all four themes.

There is a pre-released context document for this paper. Section A and B each comprise one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including one extended open-response question.

What can I do with the subject in the future?

Students aspiring to a future career in the business field should find this course invaluable. It combines well with most other subjects since commercial awareness is an advantage in virtually all occupations. It is hoped that the department could help inspire some future entrepreneurs and wealth creators but on a

more modest level we aim simply to encourage an appreciation of business principles.

GCSE entry requirements

No prior knowledge of business is assumed nor is necessary to enrol for this course; however minimum grade 6 at GCSE mathematics and English is expected. There is a minimum 10 per cent numeracy content in the examinations.

“It helps you understand what goes on in the real world and how businesses work.”

Eddie, Year 13



Chemistry

What is the subject about?

Many people think of chemists as being white-coated scientists mixing strange liquids in a laboratory, but the truth is we are all chemists and an understanding of basic chemistry concepts is important for almost every profession. Chemistry in today's society has far-reaching applications; chemists are responsible for the development and manufacture of medicines, vaccines, plastics and textiles to name but a few. The battle against pollution is being fought by chemists and they are developing nanotechnology that could change our lives forever.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

Chemists have the ability to think logically and have strong problem solving skills. You will need well developed practical skills and must pay meticulous attention to detail. Furthermore, you will need good communication skills as well as a high level of numeracy. Most of all, you need the ability to see beyond a set of facts and figures and apply what you have learned to a multitude of novel situations, showing how you have worked things out through logic and step-by-step reasoning.

What topics will I study?

Chemistry at A level is divided into 3 broad areas of study; physical, inorganic and organic chemistry and builds on the foundations laid at GCSE.

Physical chemistry is the most mathematical of the disciplines and covers topics such as atomic structure, bonding, thermodynamics, electrochemistry, kinetics and equilibria.

Inorganic chemistry is the study of the elements of the periodic table, their trends and the explanations for them. At A level we study the reactions of Group 2, Group 7 and the Transition metals in detail as well as the trends and reactions of the elements in Period 3.

Organic chemistry is the study of carbon chemistry. It includes the hydrocarbons, alcohols and carboxylic acids you are already familiar with along with a wide range of new functional groups including aromatic compounds, amines, and naturally occurring organic compounds such as proteins and DNA. We look at routes of organic synthesis and structural determination.

What is the examination board?

AQA

How will I be examined? How long is each exam? Are there modules?

The course is linear with all written papers completed at the end of Year 13. There are 3 papers, each lasting two hours with the content split as follows;

Paper 1: Inorganic chemistry, relevant physical chemistry and relevant practical skills.

Paper 2: Organic chemistry, relevant physical chemistry and relevant practical skills.

Paper 3: A synoptic paper with a strong focus on the practical skills and related content.

Practical work is carried out throughout the course and assessed both in the written examination papers and via a separate certificated endorsement of practical skills. This is teacher assessed and will be based on direct observation of your practical work in class.

What can I do with the subject in the future?

A Level Chemistry, often in conjunction with other science-based subjects, can lead to study of science related degree course such as; biomedical sciences, biochemistry, chemical engineering, dentistry, dietetics, earth sciences, environmental science, geology, medical science, medicine, optometry, pharmacy, pharmacology, physiotherapy, sports science and veterinary science to name but a few. However, chemistry is a well-respected A level and does not have to be studied alongside other sciences; it is not unusual to go on to study subjects such as law or accountancy having studied A level chemistry.

GCSE entry requirements

The study of chemistry at A Level builds on work already studied so students should have a minimum of a grade 7 at GCSE. The mathematical demands of the course require competence at mathematics equivalent to at least grade 7 at GCSE.

Chemistry is a demanding subject at A Level and students need to be prepared to work hard. Less than 35 per cent of marks at A Level are awarded for simply remembering what has been taught in class. To succeed students must be able to not only learn facts but also be able to interpret and analyse qualitative and quantitative data and apply their knowledge to unfamiliar problems.

“I feel sorry for anyone who doesn't understand anything about Chemistry. They are missing an important source of happiness!”

Linus Pauling, winner of the 1954 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Computer Science

What is the subject about?

Computers are everywhere. We use mobile phones, TVs and cars that include large amounts of software and almost everyone has a computer or digital device(s) in their home. These systems all rely on advanced computer science.

Computer science is a practical subject where learners can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement. Students will develop an ability to analyse, critically evaluate and make decisions. An A Level in computer science values computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

The project approach used within the course is a vital component of 'post-school' life and is of particular relevance to further education, higher education and the workplace. Each student is able to tailor their project to fit their individual needs, choices and aspirations.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

- An interest in computer science
- The ability to analyse and solve problems
- The capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of a subject
- Mathematical skills

What topics will I study?

- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices

- Software and software development
- Exchanging data - compression, encryption, databases, networks, web technologies
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues
- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms
- Students will also choose a computing project, covering the following areas:
 - Analysis of the problem
 - Design of the solution
 - Developing the solution
 - Evaluation

What is the examination board?

OCR

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

The course consists of three components:

The computer systems component contains the majority of the specification content and is assessed in a written paper, recalling knowledge and understanding. It includes the following topic areas: characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices; software and software development; programming; exchanging data; data types, data structures and algorithms; legal, moral, ethical and cultural issues.

The algorithms and programming component relates specifically to problem solving skills needed to apply the knowledge and understanding from the first component. The component covers a range of elements regarding computational thinking, such as: elements of computational thinking, programming and problem solving; pattern



recognition, abstraction and decomposition; algorithm design and efficiency and standard algorithms. The component also provides students with a short scenario in which problem solving skills are required.

The programming project is a practical portfolio based assessment, with a task produced using a suitable programming language. Students will need to analyse a given problem, design a solution, implement the solution and provide a thorough evaluation.

Mathematical skills are embedded throughout the three components:

Computer systems written examination - 40 per cent of A Level (2 hours 30 mins)

Algorithms and programming written examination - 40 per cent of A Level (2 hours 30 mins)

Programming project - 20 per cent of A Level

What can I do with the subject in the future?

Choosing computer science is the best preparation for students who want to go on to study computer science at a higher level and will also provide a good grounding for other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills. Possible careers include:

Application analyst, applications developer, cyber security analyst, data analyst, database administrator, forensic computer analyst, game designer, games developer, information systems manager, IT consultant, software engineer, systems analyst, UX designer, web designer, web developer.

GCSE requirements

Minimum of a grade 6 for both GCSE Computer Science and Maths, or for students who have not studied GCSE Computer Science, a minimum of a grade 7 for Maths.

“I learned that computer science is not just about syntax and coding. We can make a difference in people’s lives by developing applications.”

Kyle Rector

Dance

What is the subject about?

This specification reflects both historical and current dance practices, making it more relevant, and is intended to inspire a lifelong passion and appreciation for dance. As well as learning technique, choreography and performance, students will look at Rambert Dance Company in detail and one other area of study, the independent contemporary dance scene from 2000-present day.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

An interest in the subject is a must as are enjoying learning about dance history and looking to improve the way in which you move. You should also be able to work well with others, either in a choreographer’s role or that of a dancer.

What topics will I study?

There are three core strands.

1. Performance (solo and quartet)
2. Choreography
3. Critical engagement

What is the examination board?

AQA

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

This qualification is linear, this means that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course. The three core strands are divided into two components:

Component 1: Performance and choreography (50 per cent of A Level)

These elements will be assessed in a practical examination:

- A solo performance linked to a specific practitioner within an area of study

- A performance within a quartet
- Group choreography - the creation of a group dance.

Component 2: Critical engagement (50 per cent of A Level)

- Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of Rooster by Christopher Bruce and its location within the corresponding area of study
- Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of Sutra by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and its location within the corresponding area of study.

This component will be assessed as a written examination. The written paper (two hours and 30 minutes) will consist of short answer questions and three essay questions on the specific areas of study.

What can I do with the subject in the future?

A Level dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. All of these are sought after skills by higher education and employers and will help students to stand out in the workplace whatever their choice of career. Past students have gone on to study a wide range of subjects at university, including law, design, marketing to name just a few. We have also had students gain places at top conservatoires to study dance.

GCSE entry requirements

GCSE dance is not essential, but is helpful to have.

“Taking A Level dance has not only improved my physical skills but my communication too!”



Design and Technology

What is the subject about?

This course has been designed to encourage candidates to take a broad view of design and technology. It develops individual capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relationships between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

A Level product design is aimed at those interested in the way designers and architects identify potential gaps in the market to successfully research, design and develop innovative prototype proposals that challenge preconceptions.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

- Creativity
- Ability to communicate ideas clearly through sketching or 3D CAD software
- Appreciation of the need to develop a detailed understanding of materials and complex manufacturing methods delivered through weekly theory lessons.
- Keen interest in the analysis of new or innovative products, technologies and materials.

What topics will I study?

A Level Design and Technology: Product Design requires students to engage in both practical and theoretical study. This specification requires students to cover design and technology skills and knowledge as set out below.

These have been separated into:

- Technical principles
- Designing and making principles

Students should develop the ability to draw on and apply a range of skills and knowledge from other subject areas to inform their decisions in design and the application or development of technology.

Students must also demonstrate maths and science skills such as ratios, volumes, trigonometry and statistics. The ability to apply these skills to solve practical design problems will be assessed in both coursework submissions and the final examinations.

What is the examination board?

AQA

How will I be examined?

You will be graded on your independent coursework and your written examination performance. These two components carry 50% weighting each.

How long is each exam?

Paper 1: Technical principles.

Written exam, two hours and 30 minutes - 30 per cent of A Level.

Paper 2: Designing and making principles.

Written exam, one hour and 30 minutes - 20 per cent of A Level.

Non-exam assessment: practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles. 50 per cent.

The non-exam assessment (NEA) seeks to assess the candidate's ability to independently apply skills associated with the practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles. Candidates will submit a written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype.

Assessment criteria for NEA:

A01: Identify, investigate and outline design possibilities to address needs and wants.

A02: Design and make prototypes that are fit for purpose.

A03: Analyse and evaluate design decisions and outcomes, including for prototypes made by themselves and others. Awareness of wider issues in design and technology is also addressed.

A04: Demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of: - Technical principles - Designing and making principles.

“ Good design is intelligence made visible. ”

Le Corbusier

What can I do with the subject in the future?

Studying design technology at A Level and beyond can open doors into many career paths including: architecture, automotive design, fashion design, jewellery design, interior design, building services engineering, construction engineering, video game design, manufacturing production, marine engineering, mechanical engineering, product design, structural engineering.

GCSE entry requirements

Due to the increased level of demand and the necessity for candidates to plan and complete a detailed and independent investigation developed over the two-year period, candidates should have obtained a minimum grade 6 in GCSE design and technology to opt for this course. The ability to communicate through drawing and detailed self-assessment of candidates' own design work features strongly, therefore we consider these skills an important asset.



Drama and Theatre Studies

What is the subject about?

The course is designed for students who enjoy reading, writing about and watching plays and taking part in drama as a performer, director or designer.

During the course you will create, perform and respond to drama and theatre; explore the relationship between theory and practice in a range of theatrical styles and periods and historical, social and cultural contexts; learn how relevant research, independent thought and analysis of live theatre production can inform decision making in your practical work and put this understanding into practice; and experience the ways in which theatre makers collaborate to create theatre.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

- Creativity and confidence to try new things
- Enthusiasm and a keenness to explore new ideas
- Good analytical and reflective skills
- Strong communication skills - both orally and on paper
- Empathy for other people and situations
- Interdependence - an ability to work well with others while retaining your individuality
- Good research skills and the ability to select and then share relevant ideas

What topics will I study?

You will study a range of plays from the perspective of an actor, director and designer. You will develop your acting and directing skills as well as your drama knowledge and understanding, staging extracts from three different plays as well as creating your own original devised piece. You will see a wide range of live theatre in a number of styles to help inform your own ideas. You will also

research the work of key practitioners whose techniques you will draw upon when creating your own work.

What is the examination board?

AQA

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

1. Drama and theatre

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of two set plays, one chosen from List A, one chosen from List B
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

How it's assessed

Written exam: Three hours/ open book/ 80 marks/ 40 per cent of A Level

2. Creating original drama (practical)

- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)

Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner.

How it's assessed

- Working notebook (40 marks)/ devised performance (20 marks)/ 60 marks in total/ 30 per cent of A Level. This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

3. Making theatre

- 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 which is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)

- Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts
- Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks)/ Reflective report (20 marks)/ 60 marks in total/ 30 per cent of A Level. This component is marked by AQA.

What can I do with the subject in the future?

This course will provide an excellent foundation for university courses in drama and theatre studies, technical theatre or stage management or for applicants to drama schools. It is also a superb complement to courses in English and other humanities as well as performing arts courses such as dance and music. Previous A Level drama students

have gone on to careers in film, stage and musical theatre as well as a wide range of other careers from business, law, journalism, events management, psychology and politics.

GCSE entry requirements

A grade 6 in drama GCSE is useful as well as an English or dance GCSE grade 6. More important are the skills outlined above.

“We must all do theatre - to find out who we are, and to discover who we could become.”

Augusto Boal



Economics

What is the subject about?

The A Level economics course is open to all prospective Sixth Form students. No prior knowledge of course material is expected or presumed. The specification is designed to develop an understanding of contemporary economic problems. Issues for analysis are wide ranging, from 'why do we have poverty in rich countries and multi-millionaires in poor countries?' to 'can economists help save the planet from the effects of climate change?'

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

The greatest attribute any aspiring economist can have is an inquisitive mind. Curiosities are much more easily unravelled when thinking is done within a rigorous theoretical framework.

Economists have their own way of thinking and it is the aim of this course to pass on this methodology to others. Of course your early years in maths, English, science and other lessons will have equipped you with the analytical, quantitative and critical thinking skills that will allow you to make sense of the course material.

What topics will I study?

- Resource scarcity and the need for economics
- Demand, supply and the role of prices
- How businesses behave under different market conditions
- The market for labour - who does what and why and how much do they get paid for doing it?
- Income, wealth, poverty and inequality. How much inequality is efficient and tolerable?
- When, why and how markets can fail and how far should governments try to correct this failure?

- Macro-economic performance; how economies function at national level
- Globalisation, trade and economic development

What is the examination board?

Edexcel

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Economics is delivered as a linear programme with three, two hour exams at the end of the course:

- Markets and market failure
- The UK economy: Performance and policies
- Business behaviour and the labour market

What can I do with the subject in the future?

Career minded students may be drawn to economics for different reasons. It combines well with maths for those with an interest in banking, insurance, finance, stockbroking or accountancy. Modern linguists are increasingly being expected to have a background in economics in order to work in the business field abroad. The civic minded among you aiming for a career in government or the public services might consider it as a complement to politics or psychology.

In general it will appeal to those with a desire to understand how the world works.

GCSE entry requirements

A minimum of a grade 6 in mathematics GCSE is essential for those considering this course as twenty per cent of overall exam marks will be based on numeracy skills.

Since you are also assessed on your ability to produce structured answers to extended essay style questions you will also be expected to have a minimum grade 6 in GCSE English Language.

English Language

What is the subject about?

Many students are surprised that A Level English language bears little resemblance to the subject they have studied at GCSE. This interesting and stimulating course gives students opportunities to actively engage with everyday language and understand how it works.

You will explore many different types of language, from formal prose and political speeches to spoken interactions and emerging areas of communication used on social media platforms. By examining a variety of spoken, written and multi modal texts, you will develop understanding of the ways language use varies in different historical and geographical contexts, as well as between different social groups and situations. You will study the structure of English, how English emerged and how it is changing. The course is underpinned by the study of language methods, the key constituents of language, such as lexis, grammar and pragmatics. Engaging in critical reading, discursive essay writing and data analysis, students develop a wide range of essential transferable skills.

What skills do I have that will make me suitable for the course?

You will have excellent analytical skills and the ability to write confidently and coherently. A genuine interest in the English language, in its many and varied forms, and an enquiring mind are also needed.

What topics will I study?

- Linguistic analysis of authentic texts
- Original writing for real-world purposes on topical language issues
- Analysis of how children acquire language
- Language in the media
- How language changes over time

What is the examination board?

OCR

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

Paper 1: Exploring language

Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes (40% of A level). There are three sections to this component:

- Section A: Language under the microscope
- Section B: Writing about a topical language issue
- **Section C:** Comparing and contrasting texts

Paper 2: Dimensions of linguistic variation

Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes (40% of A level). There are three sections in this component:

- **Written exam:** 2 hours and 30 minutes (40 per cent of A Level)
- Section A: Child language acquisition
- Section B: Language in the media
- Section C: Language change

Coursework: Independent language research (20% of A level)

There are two sections in this component:

- Section A: an independent investigation into an area of language of particular personal interest (2000-2500 words)
- the academic poster, which allows learners to present research from their independent investigation in a concise and visually accessible way (750-1000 words)

Coursework is assessed by teachers and moderated by OCR.

What can I do with the subject in the future?

As well as providing the possibility of undergraduate study of English language and

linguistics, this subject opens up opportunities in the field of social sciences, including psychology and sociology. A Level English Language has also attracted students who go on to study law, journalism and medicine.

GCSE entry requirements - including skills and attributes

A grade 6 in GCSE/IGSE English is required to study English language at A Level.

English Literature

What is the subject about?

A Level English literature builds on the skills that students have developed at GCSE. Students analyse a range of literary texts (novels, plays and poetry) with a particular focus on the way writers use language, form and structure to create meanings.

You will explore set texts by a variety of writers from Shakespeare to Oscar Wilde to modern crime authors, examining the impacts of social and historical contexts. You will also study literary theories, including feminism, Marxism and ecocriticism, applying these to the set texts and also your wider reading. The course will develop your ability to think critically about what you read and shape your ideas into cogent arguments. Students develop a wide range of skills that can be transferred to other areas of study.

What skills do I have that will make me suitable for the course?

A genuine interest in English literature and a willingness to engage in wider reading are essential. You will have well developed analytical skills and the ability to write confidently and coherently. English literature is a rewarding subject: you will learn how to interpret texts in a range of different ways,

offering personal responses supported by critical perspectives. As literature is open to interpretation, you should also have an open mind.

What topics will I study?

Aspects of tragedy, including drama by Shakespeare and Arthur Miller, and poetry by John Keats. Elements of crime, including novels by Graham Greene, Ian McEwan and Kate Atkinson.

What is the examination board?

AQA

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

Paper 1: Aspects of tragedy

Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes (40 per cent of A Level); closed book

- Section A: extract-based question on a Shakespeare text, e.g. Othello
- Section B: essay question on a Shakespeare text, e.g. Othello
- Section C: essay question linking tragedy set texts, e.g. Keats poetry and Miller's Death of a Salesman

Paper 2: Elements of crime

Written exam: 3 hours (40 per cent of A Level); open book

- Section A: one compulsory analysis of an unseen crime extract
- Section B: one essay question on a set text
- Section C: one essay question about an element of crime writing linking two set texts

Coursework: Theory and independence (20 per cent of A Level)

The coursework element involves the study of two texts, one prose and one poetry text, chosen by the student with guidance from their teacher. They will produce two essays, of 1250-1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the critical anthology. One essay can be re-creative. The re-creative piece will be accompanied by a commentary. Coursework is assessed by teachers and moderated by AQA.

What can I do with the subject in the future?

This is a highly respected A Level. As well as providing the possibility of undergraduate study of English literature, students go on to study for degrees in a variety of subjects, including history, law, psychology, sociology and theatre studies. As the subject develops students' communication skills, it is also highly valued by medical schools.

GCSE entry requirements, including skills and attributes

A grade 6 in GCSE English literature is required to study this subject at A Level.

“The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.”

Dr Seuss



French

What is the subject about?

A Level French is a challenging yet rewarding course, which accommodates the linguistic level of students newly qualified in GCSE French. Through the study of A Level French, we hope you will develop a lasting appreciation of the language and the ability to communicate readily in French for a variety of purposes. We aim to increase your knowledge of French-speaking cultures and help you acquire valuable skills for foreign travel, further education and employment.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

A commitment to listening to, reading and speaking as much French as possible is very helpful as we expect you to fully embrace independent study to truly enhance your linguistic progression. Above all you need to have enthusiasm for the language and the countries where the language is spoken. You should be willing to consider participating in a study visit to really develop your fluency.

What topics will I study?

The course covers current trends in French-speaking society, as well as cultural and political aspects of countries where French is spoken.

In Year 12, these specifically include:

- The changing nature of family (La famille en voie de changement)
- The 'cyber-society' (La « cyber-société »)
- The place of voluntary work (Le rôle du bénévolat)
- A culture proud of its heritage (Une culture fière de son patrimoine)
- Contemporary francophone music (La musique francophone contemporaine)
- Cinema: the 7th art form (Cinéma: le septième art)

In Year 13, these specifically include:

- Positive features of a diverse society (Les aspects positifs d'une société diverse)
- Life for the marginalised (Quelle vie pour les marginalisés?)
- How criminals are treated (Comment on traite les criminels)
- Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment (Les ados, le droit de vote et l'engagement politique)
- Demonstrations, strikes - who holds the power? (Manifestations, grèves - à qui le pouvoir?)
- Politics and immigration (La politique et l'immigration)

There is also a study of a literary text, currently *L'étranger* by Albert Camus and a film, currently 'La Haine' by Mathieu Kassovitz which are examined in the essay Paper 2.

What is the examination board?

AQA

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

You will be examined during the exam season at the end of Year 13. There are three papers:

Paper 1

Listening, reading and translation, a 2 hour 30 minutes exam and worth 50 per cent of the overall grade.

Paper 2

Two essays in the target language relating to your study of the book and the film, a 2 hour exam and worth 20 per cent of the total exam.

Paper 3

A speaking exam, where you will answer questions based on a topic based stimulus card

and then present and discuss your Individual Research Project (IRP), which has been an area of in-depth research based entirely on a subject of your choice and directly links to any aspect of life in the target language speaking county.

What can I do with the subject in the future?

An A Level language enables you to move towards genuine fluency. It opens many doors, as there are a variety of language-related jobs and statistically, employers like to take on able linguists even for employment that is not directly related to languages. It is a respected achievement to become proficient in another language and equips you with the skills and knowledge to take full advantage of 21st century opportunities.

GCSE entry requirements

If you coped well with GCSE French and gained a grade 7 and above, then French is the A level for you. You need to be committed to the subject and enthusiastic about expanding your knowledge and understanding of the subject and the culture, including reading and listening to a wide range of resources in French.

“Une langue différente est une VISION de la vie différente.”

Federico Fellini



Geography

What is the subject about?

The A Level geography course gives learners the opportunity to engage critically with real world issues and places, apply their own geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to make sense of the world around them, and to help prepare them to succeed in their chosen pathway.

Through the study of Dynamic Landscapes, learners will develop an understanding and appreciation of tectonic processes and hazards, as well as glaciated landscapes and the ways in which these change.

Learners will gain a deeper understanding of how tectonic processes can be managed, and the ways in which vulnerability can be reduced amongst populations living in areas of tectonic activity. They will also gain insight into the ways in which ice sheets and glaciers interact with geological and lithological processes to produce distinctive landscapes.

Learners will explore Human interactions through the study of Dynamic Places focusing on globalisation and its impacts on people, the economy and the environment, as well as regeneration and how urban and rural regeneration programmes involve a range of stakeholders.

Through the study of Physical Systems and Sustainability, learners will study the water and carbon cycles, and how each is crucial for planetary health, as well as the importance of the sustainable management of water and energy.

In the study of Human Systems and Geopolitics, learners will study the role and impact of past, present and future superpowers, and the impact that migration has on the identify and sovereignty of nations.

The Non-Examined Assessment component of the A level course allows learners to

satisfy their intellectual curiosity through an independent investigation linked to any aspect of the specification. This encourages learners to deepen their knowledge and understanding of their chosen topic whilst developing a number of geographical and study skills relevant to higher education and work.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

Students should be keen to develop as critical and reflective learners able to articulate opinions, suggest relevant new ideas, and provide evidenced arguments in a range of situations. They should be willing to participate in discussion, cooperate as part of a group, and engage with a wide range of written and practical tasks. Students should also be prepared to study independently and fully engage with the subject through regularly reading and revising of classwork. The ability to plan, think and work independently is essential for the coursework which requires high levels of organisation and motivation. Most importantly, students should have an enquiring mind and an enthusiastic interest in studying the world and our interactions with it.

What topics will I study?

Physical geography: Tectonic Processes and Hazards; Glaciated Landscapes and Change; The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity; The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security.

Human geography: Globalisation; Regenerating Places; Superpowers; Migration, Identify & Sovereignty.

Geographical and fieldwork skills: this is an essential part of the course and students will undertake five days of fieldwork in Year 12 including a three day residential trip to the Lake District. Pupils will acquire the understanding and skills needed to enable them to produce their coursework independently.



What is the examination board?

Edexcel

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

The course is linear, so there are no modules, but examination is as follows:

Paper 1

Dynamic Landscapes and Physical Systems and Sustainability: Includes short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 12-mark and 20-mark extended writing questions: Two hours and fifteen minutes (30% of A level)

Paper 2

Human Interactions, Systems and Geopolitics: The examination includes 12-mark and 20-mark extended writing questions: Two hours and fifteen minutes (30% of A level)

Paper 3

Geographical Debates/Synoptic: The examination includes short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 8-mark, 18-mark and 24-mark extended writing questions, which are based on a geographical issue within a place-based context that links to the three synoptic themes and is rooted in two or more of the compulsory content areas. Two hours and fifteen minutes (20% of A level).

Coursework

Independent fieldwork investigation (3,000 - 4,000 words) (20% of A level)

What can I do with the subject in the future?

Geography students acquire skills needed across the school curriculum, at home and at work. They learn about map use, data analysis, problem solving, ICT and geographical information systems. They find out how to work alone and in a team. They work directly in the real world - on 'fieldwork'. They gain an awareness of social and environmental responsibility.

The close link between geography and the world around us opens up many varied related careers, for example with development or aid agencies, environmental work, and jobs in tourism and recreation. Statistics show that compared with other subjects, geographers are amongst the most employable. Many leaving university with a geography degree enter employment in administration and management, marketing or financial work. Geographers possess skills attractive to employers, and a 2020/21 report on graduate employment showed that of social science disciplines, geographers have the highest percentages in full-time employment fifteen months after graduation with about 75% in professional-level jobs.

GCSE entry requirements

A grade 6 at GCSE is expected, but there are no other specific requirements for studying geography at A Level. As the course involves some numerical skills including simple statistics a good GCSE result in maths would be an advantage.

German

What is the subject about?

You will develop your ability to understand, speak and write in German on a wide range of topical issues including music, fashion and image, German festivals and traditions, the city of Berlin, German reunification and the digitalisation of society. You will also study a German film and novel.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

You enjoy learning German, are a confident speaker and have a good understanding of grammar concepts. You take an interest in, and have an opinion on, wider contemporary social and political issues affecting young people. You are hard-working and keen to become as proficient as you can in the language and to learn more about German-speaking countries.

What topics will I study?

Fashion and Image; The Digitalisation of Society; Changing Family Relationships; Music and Television; Multiculturalism; Berlin Cultural Life; German Festivals and Traditions; German Reunification; Art and Architecture; Young People and Politics; Germany and The EU.

'Die Verwandlung' (Metamorphosis) by Franz Kafka, one of the greatest and most atmospheric short stories ever written. Also a film study of 'Goodbye Lenin', directed by Wolfgang Becker: an exciting portrayal of a young East German's experiences as his country undergoes the rapid change from socialism to capitalism.

What is the examination board?

AQA

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

You will take three exams at the end of Year 13:

Paper 1: Listening, Reading & Writing (Two hours and 30 minutes / 100 marks)

Paper 2: Essay on film and novel (Two hours / 80 marks)

Paper 3: Speaking on your chosen research topic + one other topic (21-23 minutes / 60 marks)

What can I do with the subject in the future?

The ability to understand, speak and write German is much in demand by employers in the areas of science and research and development, technology and renewable energies, car engineering and manufacture, finance and business, primary and secondary teaching and leisure and tourism. Universities regard A Level German very highly and recognise it as a qualification demonstrating high academic rigour.

GCSE entry requirements - including skills and attributes

If you coped well with GCSE German and gained a grade 7 and above, then German is the A level for you. You need to be committed to the subject and enthusiastic about expanding your knowledge and understanding of the subject and the culture, including reading and listening to a wide range of resources in German.

“Wer fremde Sprachen nicht kennt, weiß nichts von seiner eigenen.”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

History

What is the subject about?

Quite apart from the fact that history is a fascinating and absorbing subject, 'the truth is that without a sense of history human life as we know it would be unthinkable,' (A L Rowse). The study of history enriches our understanding of the world and gives a context to our lives.

The study of history at A Level encourages our students to develop their critical thinking and their ability to make meaningful connections between the different aspects of history, such as between its political, economic, social and cultural dimensions.

History gives students the opportunity to develop sophisticated communication skills, a capacity to think logically and the skills to analyse evidence and construct a sound argument.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

Students wanting to study history at A Level will be avid readers, excellent communicators and will be comfortable putting forward their arguments during debates. Students need to have a good command of written English, be able to write well-structured and logical essays and be able to analyse, evaluate and pass judgement on historical sources. Importantly they will have a passion for the subject.

What topics will I study?

Unit 1: The Making of a Superpower USA 1865-1975. This includes topics as varied as the ending of slavery, the 'Jazz Age', the New Deal, The Vietnam War and the civil rights movement.

Unit 2: The Making of Modern Britain. This includes topics such as the Suez Crisis, social

change during the 1960s, Thatcherism and the growth of the environmental movement.

Unit 3: Historical Investigation. Students will undertake extensive research using a broad range of primary and secondary sources to write a 4000 word essay. Previous studies have included the witch crazes of the 17th century, the Russian Revolution the Crusades and Tudor rebellions.

What is the examination board?

AQA

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

There are two exams that are 2 hours and 30 minutes each.

What can I do with the subject in the future?

A qualification in history is highly regarded by both universities and employers. The skills that it signifies are valued in countless occupations such as law and journalism as well as medicine and research.

GCSE entry requirements - including skills and attributes

It is advisable to have at least a grade 6 at IGCSE/GCSE level.

“Life must be lived forward but it can only be understood backward.”

Seren Kierkegaard

Mathematics and Further Mathematics

What is the subject about?

The subject breaks down into pure mathematics and mathematical applications (mechanics and statistics). In the pure section, which covers two thirds of the course, students are introduced to methods of proof, algebraic functions, co-ordinate geometry, sequences, series, trigonometry, exponentials, logarithms, differentiation, integration and numerical methods. The mechanics section introduces units, quantities, kinematics, forces, Newton's Laws and moments. The statistics section involves sampling, data presentation, data analysis and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions and hypothesis testing. There is also the new big data set to get grips to. In further mathematics the key themes are developed in much more detail in both the pure and applied sections and weightier topics introduced like proof by induction, complex numbers, polar co-ordinates and second order differential equations.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

You will have an interest in the subject, a fine grounding in algebra and a first class work ethic. On top of this a willingness to ask questions, research independently and grapple for answers would be beneficial. You will have much practice via homework assignments and classwork but to get the most out of the course you must be responsible to some extent for your own learning and keep going over the material in a structured way and on a regular basis. To help facilitate this, students will be expected to produce a folder of independent work based on the course content.

What topics will I study?

Pure mathematics concepts include algebra, quadratic equations and inequalities, straight lines and circles, trigonometry, binomial expansions,

vectors, differentiation, integration, exponentials, logarithms, functions, graphs, sequences, series, radians, parameters and numerical methods.

In statistics collecting data, measures of location and spread, correlation, probability, key distributions and hypothesis tests are studied and one has to get familiar with the large data set.

In mechanics one studies forces, constant and variable acceleration, statics, kinematics, moments, projectile motion, and connected particles amongst other things.

Further mathematics takes all these concepts and develops them further whilst introducing new topics like complex numbers and second order differential equations.

What is the examination board?

Edexcel

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

In single mathematics there are 3 papers each of 2 hours duration.

In further mathematics there are 4 papers each of 1.5 hours duration.

What can I do with the subject in the future?

Mathematics is very adaptable and you can go into a wide variety of careers. The ability to present and analyse data, think logically and be highly numerate will put you high in the pecking order for careers like teacher, air traffic controller, weather forecaster, investment banker, computer programmer, medical statistician, actuary, accountant, economist, engineer, architect, psychologist etc.

GCSE entry requirements

To study A Level mathematics grade 7 at GCSE is required and to study further mathematics an 8 is required. A very good basis in algebra and a willingness to work hard would give you a flying start.

Music

What is the subject about?

Music is a multifaceted subject, allowing students to develop the interdependent skills of performance, composition, analysis and listening. This diverse skill set allows those who love music to flourish and develop their all-round musicianship, inspiring a passion for music for life.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

First and foremost, a passion for music making and a musically inquisitive mind are essential characteristics for the study of music during Sixth Form.

Music A Level requires students to have previous musical experience of performance and a familiarity with musical notation. Having a good ear will also prove beneficial when listening to and appraising a variety of musical styles and genres; and a creative approach and previous experience of music theory will be very helpful when composing music for coursework.

We encourage all our sixth form musicians to become actively involved with co-curricular life, employing their performance skills in the many concerts, recitals, choirs and ensembles on offer.

What topics will I study?

Students will study 13 set works taken from a wide variety of musical styles and periods, including film music, vocal music, instrumental music and popular and jazz music. They will explore the context and background of the set works, as well as the musical features exhibited within them. Students will look to develop their performing skills as well as expanding their knowledge of musical theory and how to apply it within their own compositions.

What is the examination board?

Edexcel

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

Music A Level is assessed via coursework and a final examination.

The coursework consists of performance (30 per cent) and composition (30 per cent). You will have to design and perform your own eight minute recital, combining or choosing solo, ensemble, improvising or music technology performances. You will also complete two compositions, one free or set brief and a theoretical based technical composition.

The examination is two hours long and will be worth 40 per cent of the qualification. It will include a listening and appraisal section, asking students to identify musical features from the set works as well as being asked to transcribe a short passage of music. Students will also be required to write two essays: analysing one of the set works, the other asking students to draw links from their study of the set works to the music heard in an unfamiliar extract.

What can I do with the subject in the future?

Music A Level is often a requirement for those hoping to study music or performing arts at higher education. It can also highlight on your UCAS form vital analytical skills, as well as characteristics of perseverance, problem solving, self-assessment and creativity: all transferable skills that will be useful in any discipline.

GCSE entry requirements

Music GCSE is required, preferably at grade 7 or above, and a good knowledge of music notation is essential. Grade 6 (or equivalent) on your instrument is also required. Grade 5 Theory would also be useful.

Physical Education (Academic)

What is the subject about?

A-level Physical Education is a challenging and interesting course which allows students to play to their strengths and gain dynamic theoretical and practical skills for further education or work. Students will develop an understanding of how our bodies react to exercise and the changes that occur when we participate in sporting activity - both physiologically and psychologically. The sociology of sport, the history of sport and contemporary issues in sport are also studied. Students will be encouraged to draw upon their own experiences and apply the theories in practice, which will be important for the detailed answers in both written papers and the coursework.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

You must have an enthusiasm and passion for sport, be motivated and eager to learn new and exciting information. It is vital that you will be driven to always perform to the best of your ability both inside and outside the classroom - being an organised student who is able to cope with the demands of independent homework as well as pressures of class work is vital. Finally, you must be willing and confident enough to contribute fully to verbal class discussions.

What topics will I study?

Students will cover seven main topic areas - Applied anatomy and physiology; Skill acquisition; Sport and society; Exercise physiology; Biomechanical movement; Sports psychology; Role of technology in physical activity and sport. Students will also submit one piece of written coursework, which will incorporate theoretical knowledge drawn from all seven topic areas.

What is the examination board?

AQA

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

There are two written papers at the end of the two year course. Each paper has a mixture of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and extended writing questions.

Each paper is two hours long and each worth 35 per cent of the final mark.

There is one piece of non-exam assessment (coursework). Students are assessed as a performer or as a coach in one activity from an approved list provided by AQA - worth 15 per cent of the final mark. Students also produce a written, scientific analysis and evaluation of their performance as part of the coursework - worth 15 per cent of the final mark.

Overall - Written examinations worth 70 per cent and coursework worth 30 per cent.

What can I do with the subject in the future?

Higher Education establishments recognise Physical Education A level - with many of them accepting it as a science. It offers obvious career opportunities and also routes to other linked courses. Former A level PE students have gone on to study everything from - sports coaching, sport with business, sports psychology, personal training, health and fitness; to - bio-medical sciences, medicine, sports medicine, sports injury prevention, physiotherapy and PE teaching.

This subject can complement many others including history, sciences, psychology, business as well as art, DT and English.

GCSE entry requirements

A good level of performance (school/club team) in at least one sport is required. It would be preferable to have a level 6 in Biology GCSE.

Philosophy

What is the subject about?

Philosophy is an exciting and challenging A Level course which appeals to a wide range of students and is highly regarded by top ranking universities and employers. It offers you a philosophical training that you will find extremely useful and gives you the opportunity to explore fundamental questions, to critically examine the answers others have given and to develop and justify your own conclusions.

Philosophy gives you the opportunity to consider complex and challenging questions which explore the very nature of what it means to be human and how we should approach those subjects where there may not be an initial apparent answer. Philosophy gives you the tools to analyse and examine concepts you use in everyday life and your other subjects. It will help you for example to become a sharper thinker, more articulate, and more confident in your ability to reason.

In particular it will help you to:

- Be more persuasive - argue clearly for your university place, your job, your court case, your business proposal etc.
- Analyse and spot the flaws in the reasoning of others and construct a better argument.
- Cut through waffle and make points succinctly and with precision.
- Develop imaginative and novel solutions to problems - think outside of the box.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

Philosophy is a natural choice for those of you who are inquisitive and wish to explore questions where you think outside of the box. It will also appeal to those of you who enjoy constructing arguments, playing devils' advocate, and analysing the argument of others. You may also have an interest in language and be aware of how the language we use shapes the debate on an issue.

What topics will I study?

Year 12:

Moral Philosophy

How do we make moral decisions? What makes something 'good'? What is the nature of moral language? Does it point to something real in the world or is it just an expression of my values?

Epistemology

What is perception? What can we know and how? Can I trust my senses? Are we born knowing anything?

Year 13:

The Metaphysics of God

Does the idea of 'God' make sense? Can the existence of God be proven? Is it possible to use human language to talk about God?

The Metaphysics of Mind

Are mind and body separate? Is your 'mind' the same as your 'brain'? What is it to be a 'person'?

What is the examination board?

AQA

How will I be examined?


How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

There are two three-hour exams at the end of Year 13. The first exam consists of a set of questions on each of the modules studied in Year 12, with the second exam consisting of a set of questions on each of the modules in Year 13.

What can I do with the subject in the future?

Philosophy is a highly regarded A Level. Universities and employers place great value on the abstract reasoning and communication skills developed in this course. Apart from choosing to specialise in philosophy, former



students have found this A Level extremely helpful in degrees and careers as varied as law, medicine, business, veterinary science, advertising, politics and education. It works well with many diverse A Levels including psychology, English, economics and the sciences.

GCSE entry requirements - including skills and attributes

Philosophy is only taught at A Level and therefore no previous knowledge of the subject is necessary. A grade 6 in a GCSE essay-based subject is needed for acceptance on to this course.

“The point of philosophy is to start with something so simple as not to seem worth stating and to end with something so paradoxical that no one will believe it.”

Bertrand Russell

Physics

What is the subject about?

The core purpose of physics is to discover the laws of nature that explain the universe and our place within it. Physics spans the widest field of knowledge of all the sciences; from the size of a galaxy right down to smaller than the quarks that make up the protons and neutrons. Fundamentally it is the pursuit of knowledge for knowledge's sake, but it leads to discoveries which in time leads to technologies that impact on the quality of our lives in just about every arena.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

You will be inquisitive; you will naturally ask questions in order to satisfy a desire for more detail. You will be able to draw upon your prior knowledge and you will always be willing to have a go at applying it to novel situations. You will be able to use mathematics competently and you will not give up when solving problems. Whatever your perceived ability in physics, we find that any pupil with these skills will do very well at A Level.

What topics will I study?

Year 1: Mechanics, Materials, Electricity, Waves, Particle Physics and Quantum Physics.

Year 2: Further Mechanics (oscillations/circular motion), Fields and their effects, Thermal Physics, Gases, Radioactivity, Nuclear Physics and an option topic.

What is the examination board?

AQA

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

This is a linear course; you will be examined at the end of Year 13. You will sit three two-hour papers. One will assess Year 12 material; one will assess Year 13 material, though you will be expected to apply Year 12 material to questions

on this paper, and the third paper will assess practical skills, data analysis and the option topic.

What can I do with the subject in the future?

Obvious careers would be in physics, maths, all branches of engineering, computer science, architecture, design or other physical science fields such as chemistry. This is also a subject that will make you stand out in competitive vocational fields (because of the high-level analytical, problem solving and mathematical skills you will be able to demonstrate) such as medicine, dentistry and veterinary science. Don't forget about fields such as the biological sciences, geography, law and economics, business courses as there are many exciting and modern careers opening up in fields like biophysics, space technology, renewables and quantum computing. In short, physics at A Level will open many and varied doors that you might not have thought about.

GCSE entry requirements

The study of physics at A Level builds on work already studied so students should have a minimum of a grade 7 at GCSE. The mathematical demands of the course require competence at mathematics equivalent to at least grade 7 at GCSE.

We recommend that you also take maths at A Level, but this isn't a definitive requirement and you can still be very successful without it. Please speak to a member of the department if you are considering going down this route - this is just to check you are not closing the door on future career options you might be interested in.

“I love physics with all my heart. It is a kind of personal love, as one has for a person to whom one is grateful for many things.”

Lise Meitner

Politics

What is the subject about?

Politics is about debate, controversy and ideas, so if you like to argue and are interested in current affairs, you will enjoy the subject. Many of the topics we study will directly affect you, such as the debate about university tuition fees and you may already have strong opinions on them. Other issues may arouse passionate opposition or support such as the use of the death penalty in the USA.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

Politics will suit you if you are interested in current affairs and like to debate and discuss controversial topics and ideas. Good written skills are essential too, especially the ability to weigh up different arguments and explain which are the most persuasive. One example would be to explain the benefits and drawbacks of the use of referendums and then to set out which side you are on using recent examples.

What topics will I study?

UK Politics: Democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.

Core political ideas: conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

UK Government: The UK Constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches.

Non-core political idea: feminism

Comparative Politics USA: The US Constitution and Federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories.

What is the examination board?

Edexcel

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

There are three papers of two hours, each made up of short answers and essays.

Paper 1 is UK Politics and core political ideas.

Paper 2 is UK Government and non-core political idea.

Paper 3 is US and Comparative Politics.

What can I do with the subject in the future?

Many politics pupils go on to study the subject at university, either by itself or in combination with other subjects. Popular courses include: Politics, Philosophy and Economics; Politics and History; International Relations and Law. Politics leads to a wide range of graduate opportunities that benefit from the skills gained at degree level from the civil service, local government, journalism, law, business, teaching and, of course, politics itself. Former politics pupils from Dame Allan's include a journalist on the Financial Times, a chair of the Oxford Union and a clerk in the House of Commons.

GCSE entry requirements - including skills and attributes

Grade 6 in an essay-based subject. The ability to listen to and evaluate different arguments is important as you will need to say why one argument is stronger than another and why one group or individual is right. Being able to write clearly and persuasively is also essential.

“Politics is fact and fascination combined; from it comes great knowledge, skill and opportunity, where studying it is an art of its own.”

Nasif, Year 13

Psychology

What is the subject about?

Psychology is described as “the scientific study of the mind and behaviour”. The course is an exciting and engaging introduction for students who have an interest in how and why people behave the way they do according to different schools of thought in psychology. You will examine evidence from scientific research into these questions and take a critical and evaluative approach to this, learning how to discuss topics and bring in alternative views. The study of psychology will help you to develop both oral and written communication skills. It will also give you experience of bringing together information from a wide variety of sources, and encourage you to take an objective and scientific approach to the evaluation of research and the practical application of psychology in the real world today.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

Do you have...

- Strong mathematical skills?
- Strong literary skills?
- A scientific as well as a humanistic preference?
- The ability to think critically?
- The skills to work as part of a group as well as independently?
- Communication skills to discuss a wide range of issues and debates?
- Resilience and determination to persevere when you find an area challenging?
- Organisation skills?
- Enthusiasm and a real passion for trying to understand why people act the way they do?

If so, then psychology may be the right subject for you.

What topics will I study?

Research methods (component 1)

This unit comprises planning, conducting, analysing and reporting psychological research across a range of experimental and non-experimental methodologies and techniques.

Mathematical skills and research methods are imperative to establishing theories and experimental design and as such are embedded throughout the course. You will have the opportunity to plan, conduct and write up your own psychological studies.

Psychological themes through core studies (component 2)

This unit introduces some of the central areas of investigation in psychology such as Social, Cognitive, Developmental, Biological and Individual differences. The areas are organised into key themes represented by a classic and contemporary core study.

We also investigate the Behaviourist and Psychodynamic Perspectives and key debates surrounding psychological issues.

Applied Psychology (component 3)

We study the compulsory section on issues in mental health. This will include looking at psychological and biological attempts to explain mental health disorders and their treatments, including Anxiety, Phobias and Depression. We also study Criminal psychology and one option from Child, Environmental or Sport Psychology decided by the Head of Department.

What is the examination board?

OCR

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

You will be externally assessed via three linear exam papers at the end of Year 13. These exams cover a variety of questions encompassing multiple choice, short answers, essays and mathematical problems.

Research methods (component 1)

90 marks written paper. Two hours
30 per cent of total A Level

Psychological themes through core studies (component 2)

105 marks written paper. Two hours
35 per cent of total A Level

Applied Psychology (component 3)

105 marks written paper. Two hours
35 per cent of total A Level

What can I do with the subject in the future?

Psychology is a science subject. It can be a great standalone subject for those with interest in the subject, but also could complement other sciences. For example, medical students hugely benefit from psychological insights in order to deepen their understanding of clients and patients.

In terms of careers, you may choose to pursue an option which directly utilises a particular aspect of psychology, for instance clinical,

occupational, forensic, developmental or sport. Related careers make use of psychology in a broader sense, for example law, human resources, media, journalism, as well as business roles in promotions, advertising and sales.

GCSE entry requirements - including skills and attributes

Within A Level psychology, 10 per cent of the marks available within component 1 will be for the assessment of mathematics (in the context of psychology). A clear interest in figures as well as facts should be evidenced and as such, a grade 6 in GCSE Maths is expected. Grade 6 in English and Science are also expected.

“Don't become a mere recorder of facts, but try to penetrate the mystery of their origin.”

Ivan Pavlov (1849 - 1936)

Spanish

What is the subject about?

A Level Spanish is a challenging yet immensely rewarding course, which accommodates the linguistic level of students newly qualified in GCSE Spanish. You will develop a lasting appreciation of the language and the ability to communicate readily in Spanish for a variety of purposes. We aim to increase your knowledge of Spanish-speaking countries and help you acquire valuable skills for foreign travel, further education and employment.

What skills do I have that will make the course suitable for me?

You need to enjoy the language and have a strong capacity to organise your work, carefully learn all new vocabulary by heart and want to understand and develop your grammatical knowledge as much as possible. You need to be committed to listening, reading and speaking Spanish in and out of class as this will truly enhance your progression. You should be willing to develop your skills and confidence in the spoken language and perhaps consider participating in a study visit or work experience in Spain or Latin America.

What topics will I study?

The course covers trends in Spanish speaking society as well as cultural and political aspects of countries where Spanish is spoken, e.g. family life, marriage, social networks, music, machismo, immigration and racism.

You will also study a film and a play in Year 13 which are examined in written form.

What is the examination board?

AQA

How will I be examined?

How long is each exam?

Are there modules?

You will be examined during the exam season at the end of Year 13. There are three papers.

Paper 1 is listening, reading and translation and lasts two hours and thirty minutes. It is worth 50 per cent of your A level result.

Paper 2 is the written exam and you will write two essays; one based on the film and the other based on the play. The exam lasts two hours and is worth 20 per cent of your A level result.

Paper 3 is your speaking test. It will be held in school with one of your Spanish teachers. It lasts about 21-23 minutes (including five minutes preparation time). You will discuss a photo card and then present and discuss a project, related to Spain or Latin America, that you have researched over the A level course. This exam is worth 30 per cent of your A level result.

What can I do with the subject in the future?

An A level in Spanish will enable you to move towards genuine fluency. It opens many doors as there are a variety of language-related jobs and statistically, employers appreciate the qualities an able linguist can bring to a position. It's a global language and the second most spoken in the world. It's a useful language to know when doing business with Spanish or Latin American firms, and a great way to improve your career prospects. In the United States alone there are over 50 million people who speak Spanish as their native or second language. So even if you don't fancy yourself a globetrotter, Spanish is definitely an important addition to your CV.

GCSE entry requirements

If you coped well with GCSE Spanish and gained a grade 7 and above, then Spanish is the A level for you. You need to be committed to the subject and enthusiastic about expanding your knowledge and understanding of the subject and the culture, not only in Spain, but in Latin America, too.



Notes:

A series of 20 horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.