Langley Grammar School

2017

Course Guide

Langley Grammar School

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YOUR CHOSEN A LEVEL SUBJECTS

The nature of GCE A level qualifications has changed significantly over the last few years. Consequently, all students joining the Sixth Form in 2017 will be studying reformed qualifications. All are linear A Levels, qualifications are designed to be more challenging and lead to the whole qualification being examined and certificated at the end of two years. This means that there will be no opportunity for re sitting any separate units.

We urge all students to think carefully about their subject choices and combination. Each A level course is allocated nine hours per fortnight of teaching time, together with one hour of directed, supported independent study. Your progress into Year 13 will depend on your progress in Year 12 and your achievement in the first year of A levels.

We expect most students to take four A level courses in Year 12. We encourage you to choose at least one subject which contrasts with or complements the others, for example, a language or humanity to complement science studies, a science or maths to complement arts or humanities subjects to provide breadth.

Most students will be entered for an AS in one subject at the end of Year 12 and take three of their subjects forward to A level, although some will decide to continue with all four subjects

AS AND A2 COURSES

Linear A Levels

The availability of each course is subject to the number of students who apply.

SUMMARY TABLE OF SPECIFIC SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

The table below summarises the entry requirements to study specific subjects at A level. Further information is also detailed in the course guide for each subject on the subsequent pages.

Grade A required at GCSE	Grade B or grade 6 required at GCSE	GCSE not essential	Other requirements
Biology	Art	Design and Technology: Fashion and Textiles	Classical Civilisation grade 6 in English Language or Literature at GCSE
Chemistry	Computing (or an aptitude for programming)	Design and Technology: Product Design	Economics- grade 6 in Maths and English
Physics and grade 7 in Maths	Classical Civilisation- or History or grade 6 in English Language/ Literature	Drama and Theatre Studies	Further Maths- grade 8 at GCSE. An additional stand-alone qualification in Maths is also desirable.
Maths require a 7 at GCSE.	English- grade 6 in English Language and English Literature	Physical Education	Music – in depth knowledge of music
	French		Psychology- grade 6 in English, grade 6 in Maths and grade B in Biology.
	Geography		Sociology- grade 6 in English Language
	German		
	History		

Entry to a subject may be considered where an applicant has not met the subject-specific GCSE grade requirement but has an evidence-based track record of performance at the required level during Years 10 and 11

LINEAR A LEVELS

ART & DESIGN

Edexcel specifications 8FAO AS Level (Fine Art) and 9FAO A Level (Fine Art)

A Level Art is about developing your creativity and the way you express ideas about the world around you, very much as a practicing artist would. The purpose of this course is to develop your ability to appreciate the visual world, respond in a personal and creative way and perhaps even contribute for the benefit of everyone. The skills you will develop will be varied. Among them, you will develop a working knowledge of materials, practices and technology within art; develop the skills to interpret and convey your ideas and feelings using art, craft and design; develop your imaginative and creative powers and your experimental, analytical and documenting skills, and do these in increasingly independent ways

What will I be studying on the course and what will I do in lessons?

During the AS course you will explore ways of working and ideas within a given theme. There will be an experiment and exploration phase where you will be taught different techniques by your teachers. You will expand on existing skills such as painting and drawing and will also explore new techniques such as etching and screen printing. Beyond this you will be expected to progress ideas and techniques in an independent way aiming to achieve a personal style and approach to your work. Lessons are largely practical based and once in the independent development phase are tutorial based with one to one and small group discussions about your work. The A-Level course is intended to be very self directed; the theme and ideas are to be generated by the students informed by discussions with teachers, in addition there is an essay (1000 words min) that needs to be submitted as part of the project. Both the AS and A Level courses have a second unit where a broad theme is set by the exam board and will result in a piece of work completed in exam conditions.

How will the course be assessed?

There are two projects or components in each course, a coursework project and an externally set assignment (exam unit). Each project of work is assessed in the same way, against the same criteria which has four assessment objectives. At AS each project is weighted 50% of the marks and at A Level it is 60% coursework and 40% exam. 20% of the coursework mark at A level will be attributed to the essay. The criteria require you to develop ideas using the inspiration of the work of others (AO1); explore, experiment and refine different ways of working and materials to help you with your development (A02); record your observations, ideas and experiences which are relevant to the intentions of your work (A03); and produce a meaningful outcome or set of outcomes which reflect the rest of your investigation work (A04).

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

Whilst it is not essential to have taken the GCSE Art course, if you have done so you will need to have achieved at least a B grade. If you have not taken the GCSE course you need to show that you have an in depth interest in the subject and be able to demonstrate a solid ability in the subject.

And after the course?

There are many careers in art, craft and design, many of which require further study. However, you may wish to take art A level for its own sake, perhaps as the basis of a future interest or as part of a range of other subjects. Or you might wish to pursue a career in a field such as advertising, marketing, design, architecture,

publishing, creative events management and the media where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course.

BIOLOGY

OCR Biology A H420

Studying Biology at A level will enable you to gain an understanding of the dynamic and exciting nature of biology today, and an awareness of the ethical, technological and economic aspects of the subject. This course develops many of the topics you may have already studied and introduces you to some of the exciting new areas of biology. Biology is a practical science so you will develop experimental skills and an understanding of the scientific method.

What will I be studying on the course?

At AS level you will learn about cells (which are the basic units of living things); the exchange and transport systems of both plants and animals; the biological molecules which have important roles in living things; variation and adaptation; biodiversity and classification; and disease.

At A2 level you will learn about the nervous system; hormones; excretion; photosynthesis; respiration; genetics and inheritance; control of gene expression; biotechnology including the production of food and drugs and gene technology; ecosystems, populations and sustainability. The teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and ecological skills are taught through a field course. Candidates will carry out twelve core practicals over the A level course.

What will I be doing in lessons?

Lessons will consist of the use of text books, making notes, participating in discussions, volunteering opinions, playing games, role play, research and the use of ICT and practical work. Much emphasis is placed on students reading around their subject, in their own time, to supplement learning in class. Resources are available

How will the course be assessed?

The assessment is 100% via examination but will assess your practical experience within the written papers.

What other subjects could I do with biology?

Biology goes well with a range of subjects such as chemistry, physics, psychology, geography and mathematics. You may wish to take biology as your only science and combine it with subjects such as history, art, English, or a foreign language.

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

The only qualifications which are essential for admission to the course are GCSE grade A or better in Science and Additional Science, or in separate sciences.

And after the course?

An A level qualification in Biology could prepare you to study biology or one of the biological sciences in further or higher education. The ability to combine biology with chemistry or mathematics gives access to more vocational courses leading to careers in medicine, veterinary medicine, food, healthcare, agriculture or pharmacy. The specialist skills of a biologist are not restricted to practical or laboratory work but can also be applied to professions such as journalism, marketing, legislation and human resource management.

LINEAR A LEVELS

CHEMISTRY

OCR specification Chemistry A – H432

The course aims to provide a stimulating and worthwhile range of experiences which help you to understand the theory and practice of modern chemistry. The approach is content-led with a flexible approach where the specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of chemistry. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics.

What will I be studying on the course?

The course is divided into six teaching modules and each module is further divided into key topics. You will study; Foundations in chemistry, The Periodic table and Energy, Core Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements, Organic chemistry and Analysis There is no practical exam but practical skills are developed within the course. Candidates will carry out twelve core practical sessions over the A level course.

What will I be doing in lessons?

You will gain a good understanding of chemistry and will participate in practical activities either on your own or in pairs. It is therefore essential that you enjoy practical work, work well in group activities and are prepared to participate in class assignments ranging from group presentations to model building. You will develop your use of scientific language, write experimental reports, develop your numeracy skills and should be prepared to work independently. You will also develop your research skills.

How will the course be assessed?

You will sit 3 written examination papers at the end of the course. Paper 1; Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry. Paper 2; Synthesis and analytical techniques and Paper 3; Unified chemistry.

What other subjects could I do with Chemistry?

Chemistry can be an ideal subject to choose because it complements many other subjects. It is an excellent subject to broaden the curriculum and to develop various skills relevant for future careers.

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

The qualifications which are essential for admission to the course are GCSE grade A or higher in Additional Science, or in GCSE Chemistry.

And after the course?

Chemistry provides the rigorous academic training for careers such as chemical engineering, dentistry, food industry, forensic sciences, medicine or pharmacy. Chemistry can be an ideal subject to choose because it complements many other scientific disciplines such as the biological sciences, physical sciences and engineering, environmental studies, physical geography and geology. So if you study chemistry at this level there will be many excellent opportunities in the future. Alternatively it can complement other A levels to help secure a university place for courses in other disciplines.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

OCR A Level specification H408

This new specification has shaken up the study Roman and Greek culture, crafting a well-balanced, yet rigorous and rewarding course of study to capture and extend students' interest and enthusiasm for the classical world. The emphasis on enabling students to respond critically and engage with a wealth of sources and ideas, equips them with readily transferable analytical skills, together with the ability to formulate coherent arguments with substantiated judgements. The AS (specification H008) sits within the A Level and is easily co-teachable.

What will I be studying on the course?

In Year 12 (A and AS Level courses):

- **The World of the Hero:** Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* are the oldest surviving literature of Western civilisation. The *Iliad* captures brilliantly the struggles between heroes, gods and egos as the Greeks battled not just for victory, but also glory and honour.
- **Culture and Arts:** Either *Greek theatre* or *Imperial Age*: each cohort will decide which of these we study. Greek Theatre introduces Aristophanes' biting comedy *Frogs*, balanced with the tragedies *Bacchaes* and *Oedipus Rex*. Imperial Age investigates Augustus' careful manoeuvres (in architecture, literature & public works programmes) to convince all parts of Roman society to turn away from its fundamentally anti-monarchical republican values and instead accept his one-man rule.

Summer Term Year 12 and Year 13 (A level course only):

- **The World of the Hero:** Close to a millennium after the events in Homer, Virgil wrote his competing epic under the first emperor Augustus, seeking to identify the Romans as the descendants of the Homeric age via the wandering Trojan survivor Aeneus.
- **Beliefs and Ideas:** Either *Love and Relationships* or *Cicero* (the end of the Republic). Again, each cohort choses the option we will study based on which they are more passionate about: the romance, passions and despairs of personal relationships, or the political fights for survival as the Roman republic lurched towards civil war.

What will I be doing in lessons?

Work together to become deeply familiar with the ancient material, then use this firm knowledge to dive into analytical and evaluative questions in a range of formats (beyond writing essays). Construction of personal judgements is a vital transferable skill for higher education and life beyond education.

How will the course be assessed?

AS & A:		**June Yr 12**	**June Yr 13**
Paper 1	World of the Hero	AS 50%	A Level 40%
Paper 2	Culture and Arts	AS 50%	A Level 30%
A Level only:			
Paper 3	Beliefs and Ideas		A Level 30%

Each paper has a mix of structured, source-based questions and longer essay questions.

What other subjects could I do with Classical Civilisation?

Classical Civilisation is an ideal subject to complete a set of arts, humanities or social science A Levels or to balance a heavy maths/science selection to demonstrate a breadth of skills.

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

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You do not need to have studied Classical Civilisation at GCSE level, but students will need at least a B grade in GCSE History or 6 in English Language or Literature.

Ancient History or Classics courses at University are an option, but as a traditional A Level subject involving articulation of thought in essay based analysis, Classical Civilisation strongly supports any Arts or Humanities degree or indeed most other disciplines.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

AQA A Level Computer Science (7517)

What will I be studying on the course?

The course provides a very comprehensive introduction to all aspects of computing, including programming, computer hardware, software and communications:

- Fundamentals of programming
- Fundamentals of data structures
- Fundamentals of algorithms
- Theory of computation
- Fundamentals of data representation
- Fundamentals of computer systems
- Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture
- Consequences of uses of computing
- Fundamentals of communications and networking
- Fundamentals of databases
- Big Data
- Fundamentals of functional programming
- Systematic approach to problem solving
- Non-exam assessment – the computing practical project

What will I be doing in lessons?

Initially, the lessons will be biased towards programming in Visual Basic so that the students will be able to develop their programming skills. This is necessary because many of the theory elements of the course, and the A Level Computer Science text book, are illustrated using examples written in Visual Basic code. Later in the course, the lessons will be biased towards the theory topics in the ratio of approximately 4 to 1 to reflect how the course is assessed.

How will the course be assessed?

Paper 1	Paper 2	Non-examined assessment
On-screen examination 2 hrs 30 mins 40% of A Level	Written examination 2 hrs 30 mins 40% of A Level	75 marks 20% of A Level

What other subjects could I do with Computer Science?

Because computers are integrated into so many different aspects of our lives, Computer Science can be combined with a very wide range of other subjects. The most obvious subjects are mathematics, any combination of the natural sciences, Design and Technology and economics. More unexpectedly perhaps, subjects such as art, music and languages can also create excellent combinations with computer science.

What qualifications do I need to take your course?

Students will need to have gained a GCSE Computing at grade B or an aptitude in programming.

And after the course?

Most probably you will go on to university to study for a computer science degree, possibly specialising in artificial intelligence, cyber security or robotics for example. Alternatively, you may wish to do a combination degree with mathematics. Other options include using your computing skills to enhance your eligibility for other science-based degrees including all areas of engineering.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY: FASHION & TEXTILES

AQA specification AS 7561 and A Level 7562

The specification offers candidates the opportunity to further develop their knowledge and practical skills through a scientific base. There is a strong experimental influence to use a number of different media to enable the students to create visionary textiles.

What will I be studying on the course?

The examination board and specification code is AQA 7561 (AS) and 7562 (A2).

The specification content at AS is divided into two sections:

- **AS Paper 1 – Core technical principles and core designing and making principles** – which includes the study of: fibre types, yarns, fabric manufacture, product components, working properties of fibres and fabrics, manipulating and combining materials, history of design, product evolution and analysis, design in practice, design in the human context as well as industrial and commercial practice. Students will also be looking in CAD/CAM and how it is used to manufactured textiles products.
- **AS Non-exam assessment (NEA)** – Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge. This is a design-and-make unit where knowledge of the AS subject content is applied to the design and making of the candidates project. This involves 35 hours to make a single design and make project. Context set by AQA.
- **A Level Paper 2** – Additional specialist knowledge, core technical and core designing and making principles. Includes Materials and their applications, the requirements for product design, development and manufacture, design communication, efficient use of materials, design for manufacturing, maintenance and repair, protecting designs and intellectual property, enterprise and marketing in the development of products.
- **A Level Non-exam assessment (NEA)** – Design and Making in Practice – This is similar to AS-level but tests the knowledge and skills that you have learnt cross the two years.

What will I be doing in lessons?

There is a high practical element to the course, activities include: demonstrations of pattern drafting, production of samples representing different techniques and finishes, research assignments of different design movements, group discussions, student centred production of practical outcomes including individual coaching.

How will the course be assessed?

AS Paper 1 – 2hr Written Paper – 50% of AS or over the two years – 25% of the A-level.

AS Non-exam assessment (NEA) – 50% of AS or over the two years – 25% of the A-level.

A Level Paper 2 – 2hr Written Paper – 25% of A Level

A Level Non-exam assessment (NEA) – 50% of A Level

What other subjects could I do with Product Design: Textiles?

Art, Business Studies, ICT, Chemistry, Biology.

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

It is desirable to have studied GCSE Textiles Technology but many students have chosen the course without having studied it at GCSE and have achieved the top grades, so it is not essential.

And after the course?

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Further areas of study and possible career fields include: clothing and textile technology, editorial assistants for fashion magazines, fashion design, fashion illustration, fashion journalism, fashion photography, fashion prediction, fashion styling, retail merchandising and buying, textile designer, textile engineer, product designer.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN

AQA specification AS 7551 and A Level 7552

This course places the emphasis on designing and making, use of computer aided design, high quality sketching and rendering skills. The specification allows students to be creative and innovative in their approach to their work and also provides the opportunity to study, propose and realize prototype solutions in Product Design.

What will I be studying on the course?

The specification content at AS is divided into two sections

- **AS Paper 1**– Core technical principles and core designing and making principles– which includes the study of: fibre types, yarns, fabric manufacture, product components, working properties of fibres and fabrics, manipulating and combining materials, history of design, product evolution and analysis, design in practice, design in the human context as well as industrial and commercial practice. Students will also be looking in CAD/CAM and how it is used to manufactured textiles products.
- **AS Non–exam assessment (NEA)** – Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge. This is a design–and–make unit where knowledge of the AS subject content is applied to the design and making of the candidates project. This involves 35 hours to make a single design and make project. Context set by AQA.
- **A Level Paper 2** – Additional specialist knowledge, core technical and core designing and making principles. Includes Materials and their applications, the requirements for product design, development and manufacture, design communication, efficient use of materials, design for manufacturing, maintenance and repair, protecting designs and intellectual property, enterprise and marketing in the development of products.
- **A2 Level Non–exam assessment (NEA) – Design and Making in Practice** – This is similar to AS–level but tests the knowledge and skills that you have learnt cross the two years.

What will I be doing in lessons?

Due to the nature of Design and Technology, these sections are not taught as discrete modules but rather using a holistic approach. Topics covered include: working characteristics and physical properties of materials, knowledge of a wide range of components used in the making of products, how to apply the basic elements of design to products, both 2D and 3D, developing designs and manufacturing finished prototypes.

How will the course be assessed?

AS Paper 1 – 2hr Written Paper – 50% of AS or over the two years – 25% of the A–level.

AS Non–exam assessment (NEA) – 50% of AS

A Level Paper 2 – 2hr Written Paper – 25% of A Level

A Level Non–exam assessment (NEA) – 50% of A Level

What other subjects could I do with Product Design – 3D Design?

Physics, Chemistry, Business Studies and Mathematics.

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

GCSE Design & Technology: Graphic Products, Resistant Materials or Textiles, it is not essential to take Design and Technology to be successful in Product Design.

And after the course?

Product Design can lead to a career in product design, architecture, industrial design, interior design, human factors engineer, sportswear developer, games designer, interaction design, fashion design, civil engineering, graphic design and many other engineering and design related employment opportunities.

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

Specification to be confirmed

Drama and Theatre Studies is an exciting and diverse course; it is a practical, intellectual and artistic subject. The Drama and Theatre Studies course combines the activities of exploring plays, creating theatre, the performing of plays, the analysis of theatre and the critical evaluation of all these elements. Students completing the course successfully will have a thorough understanding of drama and theatre, highly toned analytical and creative skills and an ability to communicate effectively with others. The skills gained from this course provide excellent support to many other subjects particularly those where evaluation and analysis is fundamental.

What will I be studying on the course and what will I be doing in lessons?

Year 12 consists of the exploration of a play from the perspective of actor, director, designer and audience member together with the exploration and analysis of a live production. Although many of the lessons will be of a practical nature, all practical work is supported by understanding shown through written work. The second of units requires students to specialize as a performer. The students will work together in a group to produce a performance from an extract of a play which will be highly influenced by their exploration and practical experiences throughout the duration of the course.

Year 13 brings new experiences with the exploration of dramatic performance through the creation and production of an original piece of theatre for an invited audience. Students can specialize as a performer, designer or director for this unit. The final unit is the study and exploration of a further two plays and this is assessed through a written examination in June of Year 13. Over the two years students will attend live theatre performances on a regular basis to broaden their understanding of the subject.

How will the course be assessed?

External assessments to be confirmed.

Assessment is both internal and external.

What other subjects could I do with Drama & Theatre Studies?

Drama could sit well with most other subject combinations, either as part of an Arts based programme or as a contrast to a set of science based A levels

What qualifications do I need to take your course?

The course builds on the knowledge and skills attained at GCSE. Students may take

it without prior study provided they have a real commitment to, and keen interest in the subject. We encourage students to approach us to discuss the course in greater detail, as well as the particular individual practical skills they would be interested in developing throughout the course.

And after the course?

The A level course can lead to many different paths including careers within the arts and entertainment industry and studying to and beyond degree level. Communication, confidence and analytical skills are valued in any field of work and this course is invaluable in developing these.

ECONOMICS

Edexcel specification 9ECO

Economics is a social science. Economics develops an analytical mind and the higher academic skills which are greatly valued by universities and employers. The course was designed in consultation with top universities, multinational business and professional economists. In choosing Economics, you will find that it offers a lively and stimulating two years that combines theory with a practical approach to key events and issues of the present day.

What will I be studying on the course?

The department will follow the Edexcel Economics A Specification A-level [9ECO], structured into four Themes. Students build knowledge and understanding of core economic models and concepts in Themes 1 and 2, and then further develop this in Themes 3 and 4. The course looks at:

- Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure
- Theme 2: The UK economy – performance and policies
- Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market
- Theme 4: A global perspective

What will I be doing in lessons?

The subject content explores Britain's underlying strengths, problems and the issues of today, and makes comparisons with countries in Europe and the developing world. Theory is applied to current events and so is studied in a meaningful and topical fashion. Examples of topics covered are:

- How can government policy reduce pollution and improve our environment?
- Should we chase economic growth and how can it best be achieved?
- Wage determination in competitive and non-competitive markets.
- How can developing countries in Africa be helped out of poverty?

The department enters the Target Two Point Zero competition run by the Bank of England and we attend an annual conference of leading speakers in London.

How will the course be assessed?

The AS consists of two papers and examines Themes 1and 2 only, while the A-level consists of three papers examined in Year 13. A combination of assessment techniques is used: multiple-choice; data response, where the students apply theory to a context; and essay questions, to enable students to develop their arguments, apply economic models and draw their own conclusions.

What other subjects could I do with Economics?

Economics combines with all other A-levels and is welcomed by leading universities.

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

A grade 6 or better in mathematics and English.

And after the course?

Many students go on to study Economics, Management Science or related degree courses. If you anticipate a career in science, accountancy or finance, then some knowledge of economics will probably be expected and career opportunities are many, varied and widespread.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Edexcel specification 9ETO

It is expected that any student who is considering taking English Literature to A level has a genuine enjoyment of reading. In studying literature from within and outside the UK, and by analysing and responding to themes, topics and characters, it is hoped that students will become aware of cultural and moral issues as they affect others and themselves.

What will I be studying on the course?

This course is purely literature based. The department follows the Edexcel board. There are three external examinations, one covering Drama, one Poetry and one Prose. You will study two plays, including one Shakespeare play, two prose texts and two poetry collections. There is also a coursework section, for which you will study two linked texts and write an extended comparative essay.

What will I be doing in lessons?

Some reading in class will be done, although most of this will be done by you at home in order to maximize discussion time in class. There will be a mixture of group discussion, pair or small group work and individual work in class, with all activities based around the texts you study and designed to develop your enjoyment and understanding of them. Some writing tasks will be done in class but many will be done at home, again to maximize the time you get as a class to discuss the texts.

How will the course be assessed?

The external examination is worth 80% of the total marks at A level, and the coursework is worth 20%.

What other subjects could I do with English?

Subjects that go well with English Literature include: History; Art; Psychology; Theatre Studies, and Philosophy and Ethics because these subjects will further consolidate your understanding of different cultures and societies.

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

You will need to obtain at least a grade 6 in English Literature and English Language at GCSE level.

And after the course?

Possible careers where A level English Literature would be an asset include: law; media; sales and advertising; teaching; government and politics; the civil service; performing arts, and business and commerce. Bear in mind, however, that we have had many students in the past who have taken A level English Literature and gone on to study medicine, dentistry, engineering and veterinary science which just goes to show how valued this subject is by universities and employers.

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FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Specification to be confirmed

Students who particularly enjoy Mathematics and who wish to widen their experience and take their study of mathematics to a more advanced level can opt for the Further Mathematics course.

What will I be studying on the course?

There are compulsory pure mathematics units, which comprise the A level mathematics units and extend into the realms of complex numbers, matrices, proof by induction, advanced calculus and further algebraic techniques.

The rest of the course comprises a wide variety of applied units. Topics covered include the analysis and solution of first and second order differential equations, and well as extending students' repertoire of modelling techniques in statistics, mechanics and decision mathematics.

What will I be doing in lessons and how is the course assessed?

At the time of publication, the specification has not been confirmed so no detail can be provided about the assessment. However, students will sit all their exams at the end of two years.

What other subjects could I do with Further Mathematics

Subjects chosen could be from any area of science, arts, humanities or languages.

What qualifications do I need to take the subject?

This course assumes certain prior mathematical knowledge beyond grade 8 on the new 9 –1 GCSE and proceeds at a brisk pace, so is only suitable for students who have already studied the FSMQ Additional Mathematics unit, or alternatively have undertaken some equivalent AS level study in Year 11. Minimum GCSE grade 8 and an additional standalone qualification is desirable.

If you do not fit this category but have a genuine interest in pursuing an A level in Further Mathematics, you should discuss this with the Head of Mathematics during the first week of September

And after the course?

Your most likely route would be to study Maths or a strongly related subject at degree level, but a wide variety of options could be available depending on your choice of other A levels alongside Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

Note: This course is not recommended for students who wish to pursue medicine as a career; medical schools do not require knowledge of mathematics beyond A level standard and would strongly prefer their candidates to pursue a wider range of A level subjects.

GEOGRAPHY

EdExcel (Pearson) Specification 9GE01

EdExcel A level Geography is a dynamic and forward-thinking course. It has high regard at university because of the breadth of geography it covers and the challenging topics is provides. The content of the specification will challenge your view of the world and encourage you to think locally and globally. Fieldwork and research plays a key role in, alongside developing your ability to think for yourself.

What will I be studying on the course?

We follow Edexcel specification code 9GE01. There are two taught units as follows:

Unit 1 Dynamic Landscapes

AS Only

- Tectonic Processes, Disasters and Management
- Coastal Landscapes and Change

A-Level

- Energy Security
- Water Insecurity – processes, change, and 21st Century conflicts
- Carbon Cycle and Energy Security, and links to global climate

Unit 2 Dynamics Places

AS Only

- Globalisation – acceleration, impacts on culture, and ethical challenges
- Diverse Places – contrasts, challenges, conflicts and management.

A-Level

- Tectonics
- Superpowers – maintain power, influence and impacts and contesting sphere of influence
- Option 1: Health, Human Rights and the need for intervention
- Option 2: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

What will I be doing in lessons?

Lessons will often follow an enquiry based approach, focused on issues. Year 12 students are required to a five day residential field trip to Northern Ireland in order to develop skills and techniques as well as better knowledge and understanding of the topics. These are examined (for AS) and give you core skills and techniques for your year 13 fieldwork.

How will the course be assessed?

- At AS assessment is entirely through examination, and this includes our NI fieldwork in January. At A2 although the majority is examination, Unit 4 (20%) is examined through coursework, based on independent fieldwork. We can guide you, but you have free choice to do fieldwork on anything across the course. (No controlled assessment or coursework).
- Unit 3 (20%) is a decision making paper, focusing on one part of the world and drawing together content from across the syllabus.

What other subjects could I do with Geography?

Geography is a hugely versatile A level subject sitting comfortably alongside both arts and science subjects. It teaches many skills (technical, holistic, decision making, mathematical, literacy), and opens access to many other subjects. The employability rate of geographers is extremely high.

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

If you have taken GCSE Geography, you should have attained at least a grade B. If you have not taken geography at GCSE

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level, then you may be guided towards some preparatory work prior to starting Year 12.

And after the course?

Geography is particularly useful in developing an enquiring mind, the ability to investigate issues or problems and the ability to ask challenging and probing questions, skills relished by employers. Students from Langley have chosen to continue studying geography at many universities, including Oxford, Royal Holloway. Others have pursued International Relations and Earth Sciences degrees.

HISTORY

Edexcel specification 9H10

In the Sixth Form you will explore a mixture of modules from Germany, Italy, Britain, and the causes of the First World War. This combination has been carefully chosen to extend the skills that you developed at GCSE and broaden your awareness of the past.

What will I be studying on the course?

The course that you will take is Edexcel GCE History (9H10). During Year 12 students will study two components. These units will also make up the AS exam:.

- The first component will concentrate on 'Germany from 1918–89'. You will examine some of the political changes experienced by Germany and West Germany, including the Nazis and reunification in 1989
- In the second component you will carry out an in-depth study of the turbulent years of 'The rise and fall of fascism in Italy, c1911–46'

In Year 13 you will take two further components:

- The third component will look at 'Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928'. You will study the key episodes in the transformation of Britain over 200 years, developing an appreciation of the transformation of your own country into a modern state.
- In the fourth component you will carry out personal research, using an extensive range of documents, on the causes of the First World War.

What will I be doing in lessons?

Lessons are adapted to suit a range of learning styles. Many of the activities will be familiar to you, such as acquisition of knowledge and the use of sources. There is much more scope for independent learning, interaction of ideas and discussions.

How will the course be assessed?

The components are examined at the end of Year 13: 80% of the marks are from written examinations and 20% from the internal assignment.

What other subjects could I do with History?

History naturally rests alongside English and other Humanities. It also provides academic breadth to those who wish to specialize in mathematics and the sciences.

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

The normal entry qualification is a B grade or above in History at GCSE. We do, sometimes, take students who have not studied History at GCSE.

And after the course?

History leads to a wide variety of careers. Each year a number of our students go on to study history at university. The skills developed in History are naturally suited to law and journalism while it is also a highly respected general subject. In recent years

there has been a significant trend for those entering the medical profession to study a Humanities subject, such as History, in the Sixth Form, especially at AS. This subject has consistently achieved Oxbridge success.

MATHEMATICS

Specification to be confirmed

Mathematics at A level extends the knowledge and skills you will have acquired at GCSE, increasing your understanding of some familiar ideas as well introducing you to new and more advanced concepts and techniques. You will develop strong analytical skills alongside the capacity to apply a systematic approach to problem solving, and you will apply these skills in the context of real world problems as well as in the pure maths arena.

What will I be studying on the course?

The AS will be covered in the first year and will cover concepts such as the solution and graphing of quadratic and cubic equations, coordinate geometry, analysis of sequences and series, and using calculus techniques to analyse the gradients of curves and to find the area under a graph line. Your applied unit will teach you the use of mathematical models to analyse and solve problems in either statistics or mechanics.

The second year will be studying towards the full A Level, comprising a mixture of Pure and Applied Mathematics.

What will I be doing in lessons?

You will be taught using a wide range of activities and resources including use of the comprehensive MEI online resources.

Students are expected to make the most of the opportunities offered to go on lecture trips, university visits, and take part in the UKMT Mathematics challenge and team challenges. Students in year 12 are also given the opportunity to be on the Mathematics committee, which helps with the running of extra curricular activities in the lower school

How will the course be assessed?

The programme of study is assessed entirely by written examinations in the June examination session of Year 13.

What other subjects could I do with Mathematics?

Mathematics is complementary to a wide variety of other subjects especially pure or applied sciences, economics, computing, business studies, psychology and geography. It can also provide an excellent balance to a predominantly humanities, arts or languages A level programme

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

To successfully study the mathematics A level course you will need to have achieved a grade 7 or above in the new 9 – 1 GCSE.

And after the course?

If you study A level Maths as part of a full A level programme your scope for choices of university courses will be vast. The most obvious route would be to study Maths or some other discipline which requires Maths, such as pure or applied sciences, economics, business studies, accounting or computer science, but the analysis and problem solving skills developed through A level Maths could support a huge variety of degree courses and subsequent careers.

LINEAR A LEVELS

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: FRENCH OR GERMAN

Exam board to be confirmed

What will I be studying on the course?

The course aims to develop students' fluency in their chosen language, as well as developing essay writing skills and general language awareness. The topic areas at AS level are likely to be:

- Social issues and trends eg. family life, youth culture
- Artistic culture – eg. literature and film in France/Germany, historical background
- Grammar– revisiting GCSE topics and introducing more complex ideas

A level is likely to include the above topics and also 2 further topic areas:

- Multiculturalism in modern day France/ Germany eg. globalisation
- Aspects of political life in France/Germany eg. attitudes to the EU and contrast with the UK

Within these broad topic areas there is considerable flexibility to discuss a range of issues, depending on students' own interests, or current events in French/German speaking countries. Students will spend half an hour a week with the language assistant to develop their oral fluency and confidence, and there is the opportunity to do a week's work experience in France or Germany.

What will I be doing in lessons?

There is a great emphasis on developing students' ability to use language independently to express their own ideas and opinions, and students are expected to contribute orally in lessons, especially as class sizes are usually small. Lessons might involve discussing an article from a French or German magazine, or an authentic radio or TV broadcast. There are frequent opportunities for debate and pair and small group work. Listening and reading continue to be practised through more traditional comprehension exercises which will be familiar from GCSE, although a significant change is that students have control of the recording for listening tasks, so students will often be working from individual sound files. In addition, at least one lesson a week is spent on more formal grammar practice, including developing the ability to translate accurately.

How will the course be assessed?

Unlike GCSE, the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are merged at AS and A level, so students begin to appreciate the language as a whole. The precise format of the examinations is still to be confirmed by Ofqual.

What other subjects could I do with MFL?

Languages complement many other subjects. The presentation skills, both oral and written which are developed, will complement both humanities and sciences.

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

Students will need to have gained a B or above at GCSE. Those with a lower grade are likely to find the course extremely demanding.

And after the course?

There are many paths open to students with A-level languages. They can be combined with a whole host of subjects at degree level, with many courses in both humanities and sciences courses offering the opportunity to do a year abroad in French or German speaking countries. There is a wide variety of jobs open to people with language skills,

and there is clear statistical evidence that there is a low rate of unemployment among language graduates.

MUSIC

Edexcel Specification AS (8MU0) A Level (9MU0)

A Level Music offers you the opportunity to develop your skills as a musician. You will develop your performing, composing and writing skills, as well as study a huge range of musical styles. You will acquire the technical skills to analyse music and learn about the historical and social contexts of many musical genres. There is also the option to learn about and use the latest music technology.

What will I be studying on the course?

The course is broken up into three components at A level:

Performing

Composing

Listening and written skills

What will I be doing in lessons?

You will be developing composing techniques of harmony, form, melody etc. in a range of musical styles, and developing listening, written and analytical skills. You will learn about best performance practice and develop ensemble skills

How will the course be assessed?

These are the requirements for A level music. If students wish to study AS, the Appraising component will differ.

Performing – A public performance of one or more pieces, performed as a recital. Performance can be playing or singing solo, in an ensemble, improvising, or realising music using music technology.

Composing – Total of two compositions, one to a brief set by Pearson and one either free composition or also to a brief. One composition must be from either a list of briefs related to the areas of study, or a free composition, carrying 40 marks for this component. This composition must be at least 4 minutes in duration.

One composition must be from a list of briefs assessing compositional technique, carrying 20 marks for this component.

Appraising – One written paper of 2 hours, with a total of 100 marks. One audio CD with the extracts to accompany questions on the paper will be provided per student. This paper comprises two sections: A and B. Section A: Areas of study and dictation (50 marks) Three questions related to the set works (audio and skeleton score provided). One short melody/rhythm completion exercise. Section B: Extended response Two essay questions – essay one (20 marks) and essay two (30 marks).

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

GCSE music is not a prerequisite for advanced level, but a considerable amount of musical knowledge and experience is necessary to begin. The Director of Music will advise individual candidates.

And after the course?

A good musical education is held in high regard by both universities and employers, as it is an indicator of a huge range of desirable skills and attributes, both technical and creative. Career opportunities are limited only by your imagination, but could include the following: *journalist, producer, promoter, publisher, broadcaster, teacher, lecturer, music therapist, counselling, social work, DJ, events management, programme director, session musician, conductor, merchandising, record industry practitioner, music business,*

recording engineer, sound engineer, speech pathologist, booking agent, radio presenter, performer.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS STUDIES

OCR Physical Education – H155, H555

The study of Physical Education at A level constitutes a rigorous, interesting and challenging option. It is a very diverse course with a broad ranging topic base that plays to the strengths of a well rounded academic and sporting individual. It should be pursued by someone with an interest in the wider world of sport yet is not the preserve of the sporting elite. Sporting ability is now assessable in areas such as coaching and officiating meaning that high levels of personal sporting performance are less important overall. A minimum of one strong area of practical ability is advisable. The examinable content draws on a wide range of academic skills, applying the study of sport to the contexts of science, psychology, sociology and analyses of human movement.

What will I be studying on the course?

During Year 12 you will study the following theoretical / coursework components: Anatomy and Physiology; Acquiring Movement Skills; and socio-cultural studies in PE. You will be assessed in a combination of either performing two chosen activities or performing one chosen activity plus coaching / leading or officiating another, together with Evaluating and Planning for the improvement of performance.

During Year 13 you will study the following: Comparative Studies; Sports Psychology and Exercise and Sport Physiology. You will be assessed in: Performing, Coaching / Leading or Officiating one chosen activity from one of the activity profiles and the Evaluation, Appreciation and Improvement of Performance.

What will I be doing in lessons?

You will have three theory lessons per week and one or two practical. In the theory lessons each will cover one of the above units. The practical component will, in part, be dictated by the needs and specialisms of the candidates. It will also include preparation for the verbally assessed movement analysis coursework.

How will the course be assessed?

To be confirmed

What other subjects could I do with PE?

PE straddles both the sciences and humanities and complements most courses. Predominant areas of commonality are with biology and psychology in terms of areas covered.

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

GCSE PE is not a prerequisite for this course. However if GCSE PE has been taken it will have provided you with a useful foundation for the course and we ask that you attain at least a B in this subject at GCSE.

And after the course?

Sport permeates all aspects of life and has been an emergent field of study in the last decade. Variations in higher education courses reflect this permutation and sport specific courses include Sports Science, Sports Psychology, Physiology, Physiotherapy, Sports Technology, and Sports Management. From politics to the playing fields sport mirrors society and therefore forms an interesting medium through which to study all aspects of modern life.

PHYSICS

AQA specification 7408

Physics is the subject for those who wish to delve into the fundamental questions of the existence of the universe and the practical use of simple, basic principles which affect us all. It is an integral part of all walks of life, from Engineering to Art and Medicine to Mathematics. The study of Physics at A level is not only designed to convey the fundamentals of the subject, but also to challenge you to develop thinking processes and so create interest and understanding of a wide range of issues. Specifically the course will develop your skills in the following areas: problem solving, manual dexterity, practical work, team working, IT, presentation, analysis and mathematics.

What will I be studying on the course?

We follow the AQA AS/A Level GCE Physics A specification – 7407 and 7408. We have developed an extensive range of subject material, practice questions, worked answers, exam preparation booklets, presentations and notes that are available on Sapitentia (our VLE). The AS course covers the following topics: Measurements and their errors; Particles and radiation; Waves; Mechanics and materials and Electricity. The A2 course also covers the AS content, but the following topics are also studied: Further mechanics and thermal physics; Fields and their consequences; Nuclear physics along with an optional unit covering either Astrophysics, Medical physics, Engineering physics, Turning points in physics or Electronics.

What will I be doing in lessons?

The lessons consist of a variety of different activities, including didactic teaching, group work, discussion and a set of pre-designated practical activities which will contribute to the final practical skills grade. Lessons are exceptionally well resourced and there is a wealth of material for you to independently consolidate what has been covered every day.

How will the course be assessed?

All new AS and A-level courses now have terminal examinations. All students will complete an AS level in Physics by sitting two 90 minute examinations. The first examination consists of 70 marks of both short and long answer questions on each of the 5 topics. The second examination combines 20 marks of both long and short answer questions on practical skills and data analysis, 20 marks of both long and short answer questions on all of the AS content and 30 marks worth of multiple choice questions. The full A-Level content will be assessed at the end of Year 13 with three 2 hour examinations covering all of the A-Level

What other subjects could I do with Physics?

Subjects which complement this study are any of the sciences and mathematics, philosophy, computing, IT, and geography in particular, but, in fact, physics has such wide applications that it can fit in most contexts.

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

The only qualifications which are essential for admission to the course are GCSE grade A or better in Science and Additional Science, or in Physics and a grade A in Mathematics.

And after the course?

Physics is ideal for the following subjects at university: Engineering, Scientific Research in any pure science, Medicine, Astrophysics, Astronomy, Space Science, Radiotherapy, Nursing, Management, Accountancy, IT, Media courses, Telecommunications, Architecture, Armed Forces & Emergency Services admissions, Aviation, Meteorology, Design and Banking.

LINEAR A LEVELS

PSYCHOLOGY AS level

AQA specification 7181

Psychology is a popular A level subject which offers students a chance to understand in a scientific manner the way in which individuals act, behave, think, perceive and make sense of the world. We also consider different factors that can affect individual behaviour such as genetics, nurture, cognition, stress, evolution and childhood.

What will I be studying on the course?

We teach the AQA specification. At AS level we cover the modules of:

- **Memory**: The theories of the structure and functioning of memory and eye witness testimony
- **Attachment**: Looking at early social development and theories and stages of attachment
- **Social Influence**: Social conformity and the reasons behind it. Why people obey authority figures in society
- **Research Methods:** How psychologists conduct their research in the real world
- **Approaches with Biopsychology**: Examining the role of the nervous system, the endocrine system and the fight/flight response, as well as examining the emergence of the behavioural, cognitive, psychodynamic, humanistic and biological approach
- **Psychopathology**: Definitions of abnormality and the different approaches used to diagnose and treat mental disorders such as phobias, OCD and depression

What will I be doing in lessons?

In lessons you should expect to be taught about psychological studies/research/theories and then to evaluate them in depth in terms of positive and negative criticisms. You will be expected to write short essays that are constructed in a logical manner. Sometimes lessons might take the format of debates/discussions and also investigation/research related activities.

How will the course be assessed?

The psychology course is assessed by 100% examination with no coursework

What other subjects could I study with Psychology?

Psychology will complement most other combinations of A level subjects. There are links particularly with Biology, English, Sociology, History, Business Studies, Critical Thinking, Philosophy and Ethics and also Sports Studies.

What are the entry requirements to study Psychology?

GCSE PE is not a prerequisite for this course. However if GCSE PE has been taken it will have provided you with a useful foundation for the course and we ask that you attain at least a B in this subject at GCSE..

After the Psychology course?

A healthy number of students go onto study Psychology or a social science related degree at University. Past students who have studied Psychology have gone on to study medicine, pharmacy, sociology, criminology, business studies/management, biological science and teaching. Other avenues that Psychology students have embarked upon include joining social services and the army, the police force, going into education/research and also forensics and MI5.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION; PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

Edexcel Advanced GCE in Religious Studies specification 9RS0

Religious studies allows students to apply a wide range of concepts enabling them to confidently interpret, contextualise and analyse the expressions of religions and world views. It encourages students to develop an appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies, in addition to making comparisons of the significant ideas presented in works of scholars.

What will I be studying on the course?

The course is made up of 3 components. Across the 2 years you will study:

1. Philosophy of Religion: the existence of God, religious experience, the problem of evil, a study of Freud and Marx, religious language and influences of developments in religious belief.
2. Religion and Ethics: ethical theory and language, the application of ethical theory, Kant and Aristotle, beginning and end of life issues, environmental issues, war and peace and sexual ethics.
3. Study of Religion: belief, values and teachings, sources of authority, social and historical developments, key scholars, religious identity, primary texts and religion and society.

What will I be doing in lessons?

You will create presentations, be expected to share your views giving positive and negative critiques. You will participate in group and paired work suited to a variety of different learning styles. There will be reading and note taking to develop your understanding.

How will the course be assessed?

The course is assessed through essay based written examinations. Each component has a 2hr exam and a 33.33% weighting. The first year is assessed using the same means but the written exams are only 1 hour long.

What other subjects could I do with Philosophy and Ethics?

Philosophy and Ethics combines well with other humanities subjects such as History and Geography. If taken with Mathematics and sciences, Religious Studies will give students a broad-based balanced curriculum which appeals to universities and demonstrates your ability to develop new and transferable skills.

What qualifications do I need to take the course?

There are no specific pre-requisites to take the course, however it would be advantageous if you attained at least a grade B at GCSE.

After the course?

There are many different career options open to you after you have successfully completed the course. Due to the nature of the independent learning skills, the analysis of complex sources and study of ethical decision-making theories you participate in, you will be equipped to pursue many different directions in the world of work or at university e.g. law, health care, teaching and public services.

LINEAR A LEVELS

SOCIOLOGY

OCR specification H180

Sociology is an interesting and contemporary subject and it aims to study the interaction between an individual/social group and society. Students tend to have a keen interest in the major institutions in society such as family, marriage, education and the media; as well as current developments in society. Sociology requires a lively and analytical mind so that students can make sense of the world around them.

What will I be studying on the course?

Here are the modules that students will be studying:

1) **Socialisation, culture and identity**: This module investigates norms, values and culture. The process of socialisation and how it helps shape our identity is also explored in relation to age, ethnicity, gender and class.
2) **Themes related to Socialisation, Culture and Identity**: This module examines the structure and influence of socialisation culture and identity and we focus on one of the following key areas: families, youth subcultures or media
3) **Research Methods and Researching Social Inequalities**: The relationship between theory and methods is explored and the main stages of the research process that sociologists use are also investigated. Students will analyse trends and patterns that exist within social inequality and explain these.

What will I be doing in lessons?

A variety of teaching methods are employed. You should expect to do a great deal of reading of various sociological theories, research and articles. You should be prepared to evaluate research/theories in terms of positive/negative criticisms. You will be expected to engage in discussions/debates and also to research and investigate different areas of the syllabus.

How will the course be assessed?

The course is assessed entirely through examinations, with no coursework. The examinations are based on lengthy answers which include essays. Therefore students should feel comfortable and confident in writing essays if they wish to study Sociology in the sixth form.

What other subjects could I study with Sociology?

Sociology is a very flexible and adaptable subject which goes very well with an array of A level subjects. It particularly complements Psychology, History, English, Philosophy and Ethics, Modern Foreign Languages, Biology, Business Studies and Classics.

What qualifications do I need to study Sociology?

Students should have grade B in GCSE English. The course is assessed mainly by writing essays, and a good standard of English is required in order to communicate effectively in the exam.

After the Sociology course?

Many students have gone to university to study Sociology as a subject, or a related Social Science degree. Sociology is particularly useful in future occupational fields such as social services, the police force, forensics, social policy, politics or working for the council. Other degrees that students have embarked upon after studying A level Sociology include, psychology, law, teaching, marketing, media related studies, criminology, human resources, education and social research.

ENRICHMENT COURSES

This section describes the enrichment courses available this year. Please read it carefully before entering a first and second choice on to your application form. The following enrichment courses are expected to be available for 2017–8

- Arts Award Silver
- Community Sports Leader's Award
- Duke of Edinburgh Award (Silver and Gold)
- Engineering Education Scheme
- Financial Capability
- Political Awareness and Current Affairs
- Language for work: Spanish
- Photography
- Public Speaking

We will do our best to allocate you to your preferred course, but cannot guarantee your first choice as some courses have limited staffing or facilities.

You will study your enrichment course for a single one hour period within the timetable. Some courses will require private study or activities done outside school time.

ARTS AWARD SILVER

Silver Arts Award, a Level 2 qualification on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). It has two units – Unit 1: arts practice and Unit 2: arts leadership. Arts Award Silver involves achieving an arts challenge, reviewing arts events, researching artists and arts organisations, and delivering an arts leadership project with other people. Students need to plan their work with an adviser and keep a record by creating their own Arts Award portfolio. Students can pick their own style of portfolio – this could be a diary, video, website blog – or something different altogether. There are no entry requirements or set time limit for completing Silver Arts Award. It will take students around 60 hours to complete their Silver award.

COMMUNITY SPORTS LEADER AWARD (CSLA)

This award aims to produce responsible, motivated and confident people who can lead safe and enjoyable sporting activity. The award is accredited by the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR).

It is a Level 2 award and all candidates must undertake a first aid course. This will be included in your training.

To gain the CLSA you need to complete eight units as follows:

1 Contributing to organising and delivering a sports activity session
2 Establishing and maintaining a safe sporting activity
3 Understanding the structure of sport and recreation in the UK
4 Understanding and leading fitness sessions
5 Principles & practice of running sporting events and competitions
6 Principles & practice of adapting sports activities
7 Select, plan & lead an appropriate sporting activity
8 Demonstrate leadership skills in the community.

In order to demonstrate leadership skills candidates must commit to 10 hours (minimum) of voluntary service.

ENRICHMENT COURSES

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD PROGRAMME: SILVER /GOLD AWARD

The Award Programme runs at three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold, with participants having until their 25th Birthday to complete it. It is not necessary for a student to have completed their Bronze Award to be allowed to participate in the Silver Award.

The requirements at Silver level are: (based on 1 hours' participation per week)

Service	6 Months
Skills	One Section for 6 months and the other Section for 3 months
Physical Recreation	
Expeditions	Plan prepare and undertake a 3 day, 2 night venture

Participants who do not hold their Bronze Award must undertake a further 6 months in either the Service or the longer of the Skills / Physical Recreation Section.

The award will require a large commitment by the students since it will not be possible to complete all of the sections in the curriculum time devoted to this. It will also be necessary to hold additional meetings at lunchtime or after school from time to time and students will be expected to do much in their own time using their own initiative over the two years.

The Award is **held in high regard by educational establishments and employers**, and is seen as a valuable addition to academic qualifications. This is because of the proof it gives that you are a person of wider skills and abilities.

The overall cost for the two years will be £120. This includes the cost of registering for the log book which is approximately £15. This includes the students' registration with the awarding body, an entrance pack and logbook as well as insurance for participants. The overall cost also includes the cost for the two expeditions which are currently to the New Forest and the Brecon Beacons in Wales. The two expeditions will involve missing a couple of days of school and a Saturday.

This is a popular enrichment course and we are limited to around 40 students because of logistics and equipment, so there may be a selection process for those wishing to participate.

ENGINEERING EDUCATION SCHEME

The Engineering Education Scheme is part of EDT (the Engineering Development Trust). It is a highly prestigious programme which introduces students to the world of engineering and gives them the experience of a residential workshop in a university. Students will acquire skills of team-working, time management, report writing and presentation on a commercial level. They will also interact with adults from industry and academia.

Completion of the scheme is a major positive factor in successful university applications. It also leads to a Gold CREST award through the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

The scheme involves a team of four Year 12

students being given a real engineering task by a local engineering company. The task has been selected because the company wants to know the solution and wants to see what young fresh minds can come up with. Recently the school has worked with John Crane, AMEC and National Grid. The number of teams will depend upon the number of companies who agree to be involved.

Entry to the scheme is by selection. A letter of application is needed in the first week at the start of the Autumn term and this will be followed by an interview. Students wishing to take part should be studying Mathematics or Physics at AS level.

The school has a long tradition of cooperation with local companies and this scheme epitomises this.

FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

The Certificate in Personal Finance has been designed for people who are, or who will shortly be, reaching a life stage when they no longer depend on others for their financial provision. Students will gain knowledge about the practical and legal constraints on the sources and uses of money, the methods of organising their money through personal budgeting, the considered use of appropriate bank and building society accounts and the concepts and consequences of overspending or payment default.

POLITICAL AWARENESS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

Why should you take this course? Government and Politics (Edexcel 8GPO1) is for those who want to know more about the way in which their country is run. The course aims to encourage students to develop a critical awareness of the nature of politics and the relationship between political ideas, institutions and processes. You will acquire knowledge and understanding of the structures of authority and power within your own country, develop an informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of the individual and an interest in contemporary politics.

The course consists of two units

Unit 1 People and Politics:

- Democracy and political participation: the nature of democracy, democracy in the UK, enhancing democracy
- Party policies and ideas: the nature of political parties, traditions and policies of parties, comparing party policies and ideas
- Elections: elections and democracy, elections in the UK, debating electoral systems
- Pressure groups: the nature of pressure groups, pressure group power, pressure groups and democracy

Unit 2 Governing the UK

- The constitution: nature of the constitution, sovereignty and the constitution, reforming the constitution
- Parliament: legislatures and executives, the role of Parliament, reforming Parliament
- The Prime Minister and Cabinet: the role of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, powers of the Prime Minister, prime ministerial leadership
- Judges and civil liberties: the role of the judiciary, power and influence of judges, civil liberties and individual rights

ENRICHMENT COURSES

LANGUAGE FOR WORK AND LEISURE: SPANISH

You will follow a programme of study leading to an accredited qualification in Spanish. The course will cover a variety of practical situations. Topics may include dealing with visitors to a company, booking hotel accommodation, ordering products and other business arrangements, as well as giving basic details about yourself, your family and interests. Each unit is assessed individually and a certificate is issued for each unit. You will be assessed in listening, reading and writing only.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The main aims of the course are to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in traditional and digital photography methods including the use of Photoshop.

You will be required to produce work to given themes such as human form, natural environment and architectural structures. You will explore the possibilities of darkroom photography, using film cameras and processing films. You will also investigate methods of presenting and compiling photographs, such as photo joiners and photo screen printing.

The photography course on offer is designed to be inclusive to all regardless of previous photographic or artistic experience. However you will need to have an interest in creative processes and have a curiosity for the visual world. It would be useful to have access to a camera and you must be willing to go out and take photographs.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Why do it? The ability to speak well in public gives you the edge in a multitude of situations, both professional and social and builds up your self confidence. When candidates for a post, who have been short–listed on the basis of their achievements, are interviewed, it is the ability to speak well that is often the decisive factor in the final selection.

What does this course involve? Ultimately you will sit the LAMDA Examination in Public Speaking which consists of giving three short speeches and having a short discussion. The exam is 35 minutes long. You will practice in class, and after school as needed, and compete, representing the school, in competitions. These include: The European Youth Parliament and The Citizenship Foundation's Bar Mock Nationals. Your participation in these should also be recorded on application forms.

This is not a soft option. You need to be able to put in the commitment – especially the time. But you should get out of it academic and extra-curricular recognition, feelings of achievement and self-confidence, and some of the techniques of rhetoric – the art of influence and eloquence, the essential skill of leadership.

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