

2013

Sixth Form Prospectus

Dr Challoner's High School

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UCAS, Careers and Work
Related Learning



Debbie Pounce



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Joint Sixth Form Administrators

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TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE

WELCOME to the Sixth Form of Dr Challoner's High School. Our aim is to make your time here challenging, stimulating, enjoyable and memorable. As you move towards becoming independent young women, we offer to support you in a variety of ways.

Excellence

The Sixth Form at Dr Challoner's is committed to the goal of excellence - not only in academic work but also in our desire for every student to achieve their best in whatever field their strength lies. We will encourage you to stretch yourself and go on to the best possible future, whether it be in higher education or the world of work. Our courses are delivered by subject specialists with rigour and integrity and we believe in teaching students how to think analytically and independently. We value research and exploration. Teaching is a skill and as a school we invest in ensuring all staff are equipped to support students with a range of abilities and needs. We take the business of teaching and learning seriously.

Pastoral care

We recognise that the demands and expectations of modern life can sometimes be harsh on young women, so we place a high value on offering you strong pastoral care throughout your time here. Whilst in our Sixth Form you will have a dedicated Head of Year, a professional counsellor to whom you can talk and our school Matron who is on hand throughout the school day. Most important though will be your form tutor whom you will see every morning and who will guide you throughout your time here. Your form tutor will lead your programme of PSHE studies, which cover a wide range of subjects from health to citizenship.

A Broad Curriculum

Alongside your A Levels, you will have the option to have classes in additional subjects either to attain an additional qualification or skill. The current Year 12 have had the choice of learning Italian or Russian, training as Sports Leaders, attending a weekly lecture series or taking Maths as an additional AS Level studied over two years.

Extra-Curricular

As well as your studies, you will have many opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities. We pride ourselves on the range and standard of the sport on offer but you will also have a chance to choose from opportunities including drama, music, debate, Duke of Edinburgh, Raleigh International, Young Enterprise and spiritual fellowship. Overseas trips are regularly offered to the Sixth Form and these have recently included expeditions to Borneo, Germany, Dublin, Greece and Iceland. We encourage you to be active members of the wider community and to celebrate diversity and tolerance.

We invite you to join us.



Ian Cooksey
Head



Mary Sharp
Director of Sixth Form

THE HEAD GIRL TEAM



Sixth Form is one of the most exciting times of your school career, and though filled with lots of hard work, it is there to be enjoyed. Luckily, Challoner's is really good at both work and play. They encourage you to do what you love, so that work is not a chore, and there are so many opportunities outside of the classroom that there is never a

lack of things to do. And all this fun is mixed with great teaching.

There are many perks to joining the Sixth Form; none however is as long-awaited as the opportunity to wear your own clothes. But though this starts off as a real talking point, and is highly exciting, it can become a chore to choose and iron your outfit every day. You even sometimes find yourself longing for a return to uniform!

The other big change in Sixth Form is all to do with the way you learn. You are finally doing the subjects you love - no more cramming in information that doesn't want to stick. Your classes are smaller, and again they are filled with other people who also love the subject, which means nobody is a geek, because we all are! However, less subjects means more study periods, and that is possibly the biggest difference compared to work lower down the school. You have to do the work on time, you have to push yourself, as teachers won't chase after you, and it is down to you now to work as hard as you can to get the A Levels that you deserve.

Thankfully to help you use all this flexible free time wisely, there is a Sixth Form study room and the library, as well as the opportunity to use free rooms throughout the school. On top of this whole new business of self-motivation and studying in your own time, the lessons themselves are also different. Because there are fewer of you in class, often the lessons are more intimate, more discussion-based, and they can be more relaxed. You start to realise that a teacher is a person too - I know, it's crazy! But this is just another upside to joining the Sixth Form.

You'll not only be busy with study but Year 12 is when it all kicks off. There is the opportunity to become part of a prefect team, working with the Year 13 prefect, as well as applying for a prefect role in December. It all comes around pretty fast, believe me. As a Sixth Former it's also really good to become a mentor in your chosen A Level subjects, as teaching someone else really is the best way to learn, and the younger girls really do look up to you.

There are so many clubs and societies to join in Sixth Form, as well as the opportunity for real enthusiasts to set up their own. Joining and sometimes running these clubs falls into the hands of the Sixth Formers, and it is another area where you are given more responsibility, which you have to treat with respect, but again it is all a good deal of fun.

Despite all the changes that Sixth Form brings, it really is an exciting time, and it is the stepping stone to the rest of your life. It is a chance to get stuck in to the school and local community, and you can also get stuck in with your studies. On top of this though, it is a great opportunity to have some fun. You meet new people in the Sixth Form, you make new friends, and you have so much to look forward to.

Evie Butcher
Head Girl

PRACTICAL POINTS

How do AS and A2 Exams Work?

AS is an abbreviation of Advanced Supplementary and the name of the qualification you will take at the end of Year 12 and A2 is the name for the qualification you take at the end of Year 13. Together they make a full A Level. You will take 50% of your A Levels at the end of Year 12. This can make Year 12 pressured and it is of particular importance therefore to pick up early if you need additional help in a particular area.

The modular system means that some subjects can opt to take units early or late. This year Maths, Drama, Geography and Business Studies will be taking modules in January 2013. It also means that you will be able to re-take individual modules of your A Levels to improve your overall grade.

How many A Levels do most students take?

The majority of students at Dr Challoner's study four AS subjects and then drop one at the end of Year 12. This means that they will complete three A Levels in all. The AS that was dropped is still of importance in a university application. Some students continue with four A2 subjects after discussion with parents and teachers.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

The entry criteria to our Sixth Form are the same for both internal and external applicants though the process is different – see below for more details. We hold open a place for each one of our Year 11 students and in addition seek to recruit up to 30 external students. In this way external and internal students are not in competition for a place with each other.

Minimum entry criteria – applies to all Sixth Form applicants

Prospective students are required to achieve a minimum of 2 GCSEs or iGCSEs at grade A and a further 4 GCSEs or iGCSEs at grade B, including English Language and Mathematics. In addition, candidates must meet the entry requirements for each of the AS Level courses for which they have applied. These are detailed on the pages relating to each subject.

Process for internal applicants

Named envelopes containing your option form will be available as you arrive for the Sixth Form Open Evening. If you subsequently lose this you can print off another copy **here**. These should be completed and returned to Mrs Barrett by 09.00 on 11 January 2013. We then use this information to determine how many classes to run in each subject.

Process for external applicants

To apply for a place please complete the **Sixth Form application form**.

In addition to the minimum criteria outlined above, offers to external applicants are dependent upon available space in the classes for chosen courses and that the combination of courses fits the timetable.

If we have more than thirty applicants who meet the minimum entry criteria then the following rules are applied in the order they appear below:

1. Looked after or previously looked after girls
2. Girls living in the catchment area of the school
3. Sisters of girls in Years 7 to 12 who are on the roll of the school at the time allocations are made and who will be on the roll of the school at the time of the proposed admission
4. Girls who have exceptional medical or social needs which can only be met at this school, supported by written evidence from a doctor, social worker, educational welfare officer or other appropriate person
5. Once the rules have been applied, then any further places will be offered in order of GCSE/iGCSE points – based on the best 8 GCSE or iGCSE subjects (Where A* = 8, A = 7, B = 6, C = 5 etc)
6. Once criteria 1-5 have been applied, any further places will be offered by distance order using the methodology set out in the County Scheme

Entry Criteria for Year 13

When we accept a student onto a course in the Sixth Form we expect that, if they choose, they can follow it for two years and complete a full A Level. The only exception is if a student achieves a grade E or U in their AS exams. In this exceptional and unlikely situation a student cannot automatically expect that they will be allowed to continue into A2. The reasons for this are that work at A2 is harder and more challenging than at AS and an E or U grade indicates that a student is unlikely to achieve a pass at A2.

SIXTH FORM AGREEMENT

Student's Commitment

Study

I accept responsibility for my own study and learning. In Year 12 I will commit to three hours a week of private study for each subject I study and in Year 13 four hours.

Attendance and Punctuality

I will punctually attend lessons, assemblies and registration except in the case of illness or authorised leave of absence.

Leaving the premises

I undertake to remain on school premises during the school day unless I have been granted study or lunch privilege.

Environment

I commit to show respect and care for the environment of the school.

Paid employment

I will limit my paid work to no more than eight hours a week.

Behaviour and Dress

I will behave and dress in a way that shows respect for other students, teachers and members of the local community. I will be a role model to younger students in my manners and behaviour at all times.

Community

I will work to support the community of the school in whatever way I am able. I will value diversity and difference.

Dr Challoner's Commitment

We will support you in reaching your full potential and help you achieve your aims.

We commit to treating you as an individual with your own opinions and aspirations.

We will offer you support and guidance with academic study, applications for Further and Higher Education and careers.

We will offer you personal support for any concerns or problems as they arise. We will put you in touch with professional help as and when this is appropriate.

We will offer you a range of extra-curricular activities to complement your A Level studies.

We will offer you opportunities and responsibilities that prepare you for adult life.

We will ensure you have opportunities to express your views and that you will be listened to seriously.

A LEVEL CHOICES AND UNIVERSITY OPTIONS

When considering a student's university application, admissions tutors look at the candidate's portfolio of AS and A2 subjects. It is therefore the composition of the portfolio, not a single subject, which is important.

Desired career paths often change over time, but if you are confident that **you already know what you want to study at university**, it is essential that you are aware of any course requirements before choosing your AS Levels.

For example:

- Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry degrees all require Chemistry to A2 level and at least one other science, often Biology.
- Economics courses require A2 Maths
- Many Physics courses require Maths and Further Maths
- Engineering courses generally require Maths ideally with Physics

Many courses (e.g. medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry) have set requirements including A level and GCSE grade demands as well as work experience and entry tests. Students are strongly advised to research course requirements on university websites or on www.ucas.com/apply in the 'Entry Requirement' section of each course they are interested in.

Many degree courses do not require specific A levels. **If you don't know yet what you'd like to study at university**, the Russell Group recommends taking at least one 'facilitating subject' as the best way to keep your options open. These subjects are named as: Maths and Further Maths; English Literature; Physics; Biology; Chemistry; Geography; History; Languages (Classical and Modern). All other subjects that are offered at DCHS contribute to a varied and academic portfolio that will stand you in good stead for a successful application for a competitive university place. At DCHS we give a lot of individual guidance and we often recommend choosing at least two facilitating subjects as part of your 4 AS choices.

The Russell Group "represents 20 leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector" and their document on 'Informed Choices' may offer you support in choosing the right subjects for you.

<http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/media/informed-choices/InformedChoices-latest.pdf>



Melanie Wright
Teacher in charge of UCAS

ART & DESIGN (AQA)

Head of Department: Mrs Sandy Belcher

The study of Art is an enjoyable and rewarding experience. It is both a form of communication and a means of expressing ideas and feelings. Through the opportunities it provides, Art encourages imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, and analysis. It also enables you to fully develop your practical skills through drawing, painting and making. The critical and contextual study of Art and Design, from contemporary as well as other times and cultures, will lead to a fuller understanding of its part in the history of human development and will enrich your personal responses.

Entry Requirement

If you have enjoyed the GCSE course and expect to achieve a grade A*, A or B, then you will fulfil the first requirement for entry onto both the AS and A2 course. It is also vitally important that you are a creative and imaginative individual, someone who has no difficulty in coming up with ideas to develop interesting outcomes, as well as the capacity to work independently and sustain effort over a long period of time.

AS

Unit 1 This unit consists of a collection of practical coursework elements which can be completed in any medium. Some of this work may include a variety of stand-alone exercises as well as a lengthier more sustained project. Independent as well as organised gallery visits will be expected to support the practical work.

Marked internally and externally moderated

50% of AS, 25% of A Level

Unit 2 This unit consists of practical work in any medium related to a theme chosen from five assigned by the examination board. The work must be completed between the beginning of February and mid-May. This includes 5 hours of supervised time, which may take place at any time during the development stage. The work should address all of the assessment objectives and should demonstrate the process of research, experimentation, development and realisation.

Marked internally and externally moderated

50% of AS, 25% of A Level

A2

Unit 3 This unit consists of practical work in any medium focusing on the development of a personal theme. Students can choose their own area of study or can respond to themes suggested by the Art Department. The work should show a personal journey of research, experimentation, development and realisation. Work produced should be supported by 1000 – 3000 words of written, critical analysis. This unit should be considered as a major project. Independent gallery visits will be necessary to support both the practical and the written work.

Marked internally and externally moderated

25% of A Level

Unit 4 This unit consists of practical work in any medium. The work is in response to a theme chosen from eight assigned by the examination board. The preparatory work must be completed between February 1st and mid-May. Final realisations must be completed within 15 hours of supervised time. The work should address all of the assessment objectives and aim to demonstrate the process of research, experimentation, development and realisation.

Marked internally and externally moderated

25% of A Level

Practical projects are considered to have a central role in the development of your ideas, your personal style and your methods of working. All projects encourage you to be an individual and an independent thinker. As your level of skill improves, you will begin to produce work which is entirely self-directed. A range of topics will be explored in a range of media and techniques, allowing emphasis to be placed on the process of developing and making art, as well as the final outcome.

BIOLOGY (AQA)

Head of Department : Mrs Ann Flaherty

The application of scientific knowledge in modern technology and medicine affects every aspect of our lives, and a widespread understanding of science is vital for any modern society. All three A Level sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) place an emphasis upon the understanding of scientific principles and their applications in everyday life, and all involve a large element of practical work. More detailed information about the course is given below.

Entry requirement

For both the AS and A2 GCE course you will be expected to have achieved a GCSE grade A minimum in Additional Science on the higher tier papers or grade A minimum in Biology if you have studied Triple Science.

The Course

For both the AS and A2 courses enthusiasm and commitment are needed. You should be prepared to spend several hours a week in consolidating classwork, private study and background reading.

AS		A2	
Unit 1	Biology and Disease	Unit 4	Populations and Environment
Unit 2	The Variety of Living Organisms	Unit 5	Control in Cells and in Organisms
Unit 3	Practical and Investigative Skills	Unit 6	Practical and Investigative Skills

Assessment

AS

There will be two written examinations. The Unit 1 examination will be comprised of short answer questions, a short comprehension and a short structure essay. Unit 2 will be comprised of short answer questions, data analysis and a section that requires the candidate to write in continuous prose.

Unit 3 will involve a practical skills assessment and an investigative skills assessment which is a progression from your GCSE work. This will contribute 20% to the final AS mark.

A2

There will be two written examinations each comprising structured questions and an essay.

Unit 6 will involve both a practical skills assessment and an investigative skills assessment. This will contribute 10% to the A2 final mark.

Careers

Biology A-level is relevant for anyone wishing to follow degree courses in Biology, Dentistry, Environmental Science, Medicine, Microbiology, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy and Psychology. It also supports other qualifications such as geography, food technology and health and social care.

Subject Combinations

It is useful to study Chemistry alongside Biology, and essential if you are considering a career in Medicine or Veterinary Medicine. Biology is also complemented by Geography and Mathematics.

BUSINESS STUDIES (AQA)

Head of Department : Mrs Fiona Glen

This A Level is designed to convey some of the basic factual information surrounding businesses and their operations. In addition it aims to develop your evaluation skills so that you can assess the role of business in today's society. The syllabus is not intended to be vocational, it aims to make you think about business in a critical manner considering both favourable and unfavourable aspects.

Entry Requirement

The same as for entry to the Sixth Form.

The Course

The course is intended to encourage candidates to:

- develop a critical understanding of a range of contemporary business organisations and the dynamic external environments in which they operate
- be aware that business behavior can be studied from the perspectives of a range of stakeholders including customers, managers, creditors, owners / shareholders and employees
- acquire a range of transferable skills including manipulation of data, decision making and problem solving

AS

Unit 1 Planning & Financing a Business

Unit 2 Managing a Business

A2

Unit 3 Strategies for Success

Unit 4 The Business Environment & Managing Change

Assessment

AS

Unit 1 *Written paper : 1hr 15mins* *40% of total AS marks*
Consists of short answer questions and extended responses based on a mini case study.

Unit 2 *Written paper: 1hr 30mins* *60% of total AS marks*
Consists of compulsory, multi-part data response questions

A2

Unit 3 *Written paper : 1hr 45mins* *25% of total A Level mark*
Unseen case study with a range of numerical data

Unit 4 *Written paper : 1hr 45mins* *25% of total A Level mark*
A two part paper.
Section A will contain questions based upon prior research.
Section B will be a choice of essay titles from which the candidate will select one.

Careers

A Level Business Studies will help with business studies degree courses or a course combining business with a foreign language, accountancy, engineering and management. It would also be ideal for any students wishing to go directly into post A Level management trainee courses run by major companies.

Business Studies A Level fits well with many A Levels. In the past the students taking Business Studies with a modern foreign language, technology, computer studies or art have found this a useful combination for a future degree course.

CHEMISTRY (AQA)

Head of Department: Mr Robert May

The application of scientific knowledge in modern technology and medicine affects every aspect of our lives, and a widespread understanding of science is vital for any modern society. All three A Level sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) place an emphasis upon the understanding of scientific principles and their applications in everyday life, and all involve a large element of practical work. More detailed information about the course is given below.

Entry requirement

For both the AS and A2 GCE course you will be expected to have achieved a GCSE grade A minimum in Additional Science on the higher tier papers or grade A minimum in Chemistry if you have studied Triple Science.

The Course

Studying Chemistry requires your enthusiasm and commitment. You should be prepared to spend several hours a week in consolidating classwork, private study and background reading. You will get a real in depth knowledge of Chemistry, preparing you for further education or giving you the credentials to enhance your job options. Both courses both emphasise the understanding and application of principles rather than learning excessive facts. A high emphasis is placed on learning the fundamental practical skills needed for Chemistry.

AS Chemistry 1421

- Unit 1** Foundation Chemistry
It is assessed by a written paper and accounts for 33.33% of the course (16.67%A2)
- Unit 2** Chemistry in Action
It is assessed by a written paper and accounts for 46.67% of the course (23.33% A2)
- Unit 3** Investigative and Practical Skills
It is assessed by a practical investigation and written paper accounts for 20% of the course (10% A2)

Students start the A2 course immediately after the AS exams in June. The course covers the following topic areas, many of which build on AS work. Progress into Year 13 will be discussed after analysis of the AS results.

A2 Chemistry 2421

- Unit 4** Kinetics, Equilibrium and Organic Chemistry
It is assessed by a written paper and accounts for 20% of the A2 course
- Unit 5** Energetics, Redox and Inorganic Chemistry
It is assessed by a written paper and accounts for 20% of the A2 course
- Unit 6** Investigative and Practical Skills
It is assessed by a practical investigation and a written paper accounts for 10% of the A2 course.

Careers

Chemistry A-level is essential for anyone entering Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy and Chemical Engineering. It is a degree subject in its own right and it is important for many other scientific and engineering courses. Many Chemistry students also go on to study Law and accountancy.

Subject Combinations

It is useful to study Chemistry alongside Biology, and essential if you are considering a career in Medicine or Veterinary Medicine.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION (OCR)

Head of Department: Miss Phillipa Madams

Classical Civilisation is a varied and fascinating subject. You will study a number of literary works, in English translation, and through these works develop a wide understanding of the Greek and Roman world. You will learn about the history, politics, philosophy and mythology of the ancient world through the medium of Ancient Tragedy, Comedy and Epic.

The AS/A Level Classics course combines well with a range of other subjects: many students choose to study Classical Civilisation alongside Latin, History or English, or as an additional AS Level with Sciences and Mathematics.

Entry Requirement

Grade B or better in GCSE English Language and Literature or Classical Studies.

The Course

You will study two main topics for AS: *Greek Tragedy in its Context* and *Homer's Odyssey and Society*. For the Greek Tragedy unit you will study the plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides as works of literature and as social documents. You will learn about the origins of drama and how it developed in the modern world. For the *Homer's Odyssey and Society* unit you will study the epic poem of Homer also as a work of literature and as a social document, studying the society and the values it represents.

For A2 you will study *Comic Drama in the Ancient World* and *The Epic and the Age of Augustus*. For the comedy unit you will study the works of Aristophanes, Menander and Plautus in their historical, literary and cultural contexts. For the Epic unit you will study Virgil's *Aeneid* and parts of Homer's *Iliad*, in the context of the Augustan regime which formed the birth of the Roman Empire.

You will be expected to make personal and critical analyses of the texts through discussion, essays and presentations. You will have the opportunity to attend seminars on the topics and see performances of the plays.

Assessment

AS and A2

One written examination on each topic. Each examination will consist of one passage for comment and one essay.

Careers

Students who choose to read Classics at university go on to a variety of careers. They may go into law, politics, museum work, archaeology or teaching. The wide range of skills necessary to study Classics is of benefit to many different types of career. Universities offer Classics with or without Latin and in combination with English or Ancient History.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

PRODUCT DESIGN Textiles (AQA)

PRODUCT DESIGN Food (AQA)

PRODUCT DESIGN Graphic Products (EDEXCEL)

Head of Department: Mrs Sarah Collins

Entry Requirement

Pupils will be expected to have achieved Grade B or better in any GCSE Design and Technology subject.

Three courses are offered:

Girls can choose from Product Design – Graphics, Textiles or Food. The emphasis of these courses will be on carrying out practical design tasks which will teach theory and understanding, so pupils must be interested in design and design development.

The theme of 'Product Design' is central to the courses, with common topics to all three courses such as design, sustainable design, materials and components, product development, marketing, quality control and product manufacture.

Food - The nutrients, dietary planning, needs, influence of culture on food, design of new products, food hygiene, food science, ICT in food manufacture, consumer trends.

Graphic Products - Coursework (unit 1) is divided into 3 sections: Product Investigation, Product Design and Product Manufacture. The theory (unit 2) develops knowledge and understanding of materials and processes such as Materials such as polymers, metals, papers and board. Smart and modern materials, CAD/CAM, the role of a designer, illustration and enhancement techniques, quality control and assurance, past and present designers.

Textiles - Fibres, fabrics, fabric manufacture, properties of materials, development of designs, role of designers, illustration and enhancement, work of past and present designers.

Assessment and Course Structure (AQA)

AS Unit 1	Coursework project or portfolio of work	50% (25% of A2)
AS Unit 2	2 hour examination	50% (25% of A2)
A2 Unit 3	2 hour examination	25%
A2 Unit 4	Coursework project	25%

Assessment and Course Structure (EDEXCEL)

AS Unit 1	Coursework – Portfolio of Creative Skills	60% of AS (30% of GCE)
AS Unit 2	1 ½ hour examination	40% of AS (20% of GCE)
A2 Unit 3	2 hour examination	40% of A2 (20% of GCE)
A2 Unit 4	Coursework – Commercial Design	60% of A2 (30% of GCE)

Careers

The three A level design courses are suitable for students wishing to complement other subjects such as Business Studies, Economics, Science, Maths, Humanities and Languages and who enjoyed Design and Technology at GCSE.

ECONOMICS (AQA)

Head of Department: Mrs Marialena Wellings

Economics is a social science which studies how people survive in a world of limited resources. It shows that through specialisation and exchange people attempt to overcome the problems caused by scarce resources in order to provide themselves with as many goods and services as possible.

Entry Requirement

A grade A* or A in GCSE Mathematics.

The Course

This course encourages candidates to:

- develop an understanding of current economic concepts and theories through consideration of current economic issues
- apply economic concepts and theories in a range of contexts and to appreciate their value and limitations in explaining real world phenomena
- analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy and the role of government within it

Assessment

AS

Unit 1 Markets and Market Failure – written paper, 1 hr 15 mins, 50% of total AS
(25 multiple choice questions and a choice of one data response question from a possible two)

Unit 2 The National Economy – written paper, 1 hr 15 mins, 50% of total AS
(25 multiple choice questions and a choice of one data response question from a possible two)

A2

Unit 3 Business Economics and the Distribution of Income – written paper, 2 hrs
(Two optional data response questions, candidates must answer one and one essay question from a choice of three) 25% of total A level mark

Unit 4 The National and International Economy – written paper, 2 hrs
(Two optional data response questions, candidates must answer one and one essay question from a choice of three) 25% of total A level mark

Careers

Economics A Level or an Economics degree is a well respected and recognised qualification because of the skills it teaches. If it is your intention to study pure Economics at university, A Level Mathematics is essential. Economics A Level would be an advantage to someone thinking of entering banking, insurance, finance, business and the civil service. It is equally a good general qualification for many other careers.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (OCR)

Head of Faculty: Mrs Sarah Sharman

The English faculty are delighted to offer AS/A2 English language. We feel that this will be of interest to a wide range of students, from those with a passion for literature, and who already intend to pursue English Literature AS to those with a more practical approach who are interested in more vocational studies at degree level, or careers in areas such as journalism, media studies or public relations.

Entry Requirement

B or above in English Language GCSE.

AS

The Dynamics of Speech: *Externally assessed examination.*

The focus of this unit is the analysis of speech, both scripted and unscripted. The first topic area studied is speech and children, concentrating on language acquisition, children's language in use, and in the media and the wider community. The second topic area is speech varieties and social groups, including group identities created through specific features of spoken language, use of slang and jargon and how language can reflect social class.

AS

Texts and Audiences: Internally assessed coursework unit.

The coursework folder will contain two pieces of work. The first of these is an analytical essay in which students will consider in detail audience, purpose and social and cultural context of two separate texts; one written and the other from a different mode. The second piece of work is an adaptive writing task. Students will select one of the texts from the first task, and adapt it for a different purpose or audience. This adaptation can be spoken, written or multimodal (film, music video, cartoon, web-based text, TV presentation, etc.)

A2

Culture, Language and Identity: *Externally assessed examination.*

This unit focuses on analysis of the stylistic variation in spoken and written language. We will be studying the history of spoken English over the past 300 years in preparation for a compulsory examination question on language and speech. The other section of the examination explores language as a vehicle of power and identity; and the syllabus covers areas such as political and professional writing, gender, class and status.

A2

Media Language: *Internally assessed coursework unit.*

This two-part unit comprises a study of texts in three modes; spoken, written and multimodal. Task one involves a sustained analysis of three media texts, one selected from each mode. Students will demonstrate detailed understanding of audience, purpose, and of the complexities of the social and cultural context(s) in which their chosen texts were produced. Task two is an original writing task where candidates are required to produce their own piece of media writing in any one of the three modes. This could be anything from a comedy sketch to a website.

ENGLISH LITERATURE (OCR)

Head of Faculty: Mrs Sarah Sharman

If you want to do well at A Level English Literature, you should first of all enjoy reading. If you don't, you will find the course a struggle. You need to be able to think for yourself, and to express your ideas logically and clearly, and you should be interested in the power of words.

The course is demanding, because, apart from studying at least 12 set texts, you need to read other works by the same authors or from the same period, and to consider what critics have written about the books. The value of an English A Level lies mostly in the fact that it is hard. Learning and application will only get you half-way; you must be prepared to think.

Entry Requirement

You will usually be expected to have achieved a grade B or better in both GCSE English Language and English Literature.

The Course

The AS and A2 courses are both entirely devoted to the study of literature. Competence in the use of English is judged by the standard of essays written on the books studied. You will be expected to complete at least four essays each term, excluding those set in class for timed practice.

The content of the course will include the study of drama, prose and poetry texts - both modern and pre-1900. Discussion of texts and issues related to them will form a significant part of your work in class and you will be encouraged to develop your reading and research skills to a high level. There is an opportunity to do some recreative writing as part of your AS Coursework.

Assessment

There are FOUR units of assessment, TWO at Advanced Subsidiary level and TWO at Advanced Level, for the qualification of GCE in English Literature.

Internal assessment (coursework) is a mandatory unit at each level.

Careers

As a qualification, it is valued for university entrance because of its intellectual demands; graduates in English, like other arts graduates, are likely to need further training for a specific career, but are welcomed by employers because of their trained, flexible minds.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS (OCR)

Head of Faculty: Miss Nisha de Alwis

Entry requirements

Grade A* in GCSE Mathematics is recommended.

The Course

For those students who would like to maximise the amount of Mathematics studied in the Sixth Form, there is the prospect of taking Further Mathematics A-level. This is a challenging option, well-suited to those who enjoy a fast-pace of study and who would like the opportunity to study a broader range of Mathematics at a more in-depth level.

These are the possible options:

As a second Mathematics Advanced level (Mathematics and Further Mathematics)

As for A-level but you will take the equivalent of twelve units involving Pure (Core) Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics. You will take the unit papers throughout the two year course.

As an AS level (Mathematics and AS Further Mathematics)

In addition to the 6 units that make up your A-level in Mathematics, it may be possible to take a further 3 units, which will comprise an AS-level in Further Mathematics. The unit papers will be taken throughout the two-year course. At the end of the two-year course, you will have attained an A-level in Mathematics and an AS-level in Further Mathematics.

Assessment

See above

Careers

The admissions requirements of most university Mathematics Departments highlight the importance of taking Further Mathematics A-Level. Students intending to apply for a Mathematics degree should consider **A2 Further Mathematics** as **essential**.

Students wishing to pursue degrees in subjects with a high Mathematics content such as Economics, Engineering, Natural Sciences, Physics and Architecture amongst others will be placed at a significant advantage by taking Further Mathematics at either AS or A2 level.

GEOGRAPHY (AQA)

Head of Department: Mr James Heath

"Geography is great! I really enjoy the field trips." Year 13 student

Entry Requirement:

B grade for GCSE Geography. In exceptional circumstances girls who have not studied GCSE Geography will be considered; acceptance on this course will depend upon grades attained in science and another humanity subject.

The Course:

A level Geography is an extremely relevant course for the 21st Century. If you have an interest in the World and its future, then Geography is the subject for you! Geography deals with contemporary issues affecting people and the World, including migration, globalisation, development, urban issues, hazards, environmental issues, climate change and sustainability. Throughout this course students will develop a critical understanding of the interactions between different groups of people and their relationship with their physical environment at a variety of scales from local to global.

Students will develop their synoptic and geographical skills across a range of topics; these descriptive, interpretative, analytical and decision-making skills will develop upon skills learnt at GCSE.

Course and assessment components:

AS - AS Geography builds on the concepts developed at GCSE and will include 4 topics:

Population Change, Health Issues, Rivers, Floods and their Management and either Coastal Environments or Hot environments.

Assessment at AS will be through data response and structured questions.

A2 - A2 Geography follows an issue based approach, and there will be many opportunities to engage in debate and discussions. The following four topics will be studied:

Plate Tectonics and Associated Hazards, Weather and Climate and Associated Hazards, World Cities and Development and Globalisation.

Assessment at A2 will be through resource based, structured questions and essays.

Additional information:

Fieldwork consists of a four day course in Year 12 at an approved Field Studies Council centre, in previous years we have been to Slapton in Devon. This course is highly recommended as it will provide you with first-hand experience of many of the topics studied in class and expertise in field investigation techniques and skills.

The department is planning to continue to offer an overseas trip to students studying Geography in the Sixth Form, as an additional geographical experience. Last year this trip was to Iceland.

Students must be prepared to read widely in preparation for set essays and to acquire a broadly based knowledge of the subject.

Careers

Geography links well with other subjects, therefore allowing maximum flexibility in the choice of degree courses. The understanding and skills developed at A Level combine particularly well with Science subjects, Business and Economics, as well as with English, Modern Languages and History.

Geography is traditionally regarded as a subject with a very wide range of transferable skills; these skills are in demand from employers and universities.

Geography provides opportunities in many fields including education, urban, land and environmental management, travel and tourism, engineering and surveying and public services. Geography is also very highly regarded as a useful subject for careers in business.

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS (Edexcel)

Head of Department: Mrs Marialena Wellings

Government and Politics is an exciting subject at A Level. It is a subject which challenges students to think for themselves and express opinions with clarity and sound reasoning. Students are encouraged to keep up-to-date with current affairs and to debate the most important issues of the day in class. Those who can bring contemporary debates into their written work will also benefit considerably. It's a subject which is never dull (contrary to the image many of us have of politicians!), always changing and of considerable value if one wants to understand the world around us. The department at Challoner's is large and successful, with the vast majority of girls choosing to continue it beyond AS Level to achieve the full A Level. We also have a proud tradition of girls continuing to study the subject, in various forms, at university.

Entry Requirement

It is preferred that students should have a grade B or better in a GCSE Humanities subject and/or English Language or Literature.

The Course

AS

Unit 1 People and Politics
1 exam of 1 hr 20 mins
Students answer 2 questions from a choice of 4

Unit 2 Governing the UK
1 exam of 1 hr 20 mins
Students answer 2 questions from a choice of 4

A2

Unit 3 Introducing Political Ideologies
1 exam of 1 hr 30 mins
Students answer 3 short questions from 5 and 1 essay from 3

A2

Unit 4 Other ideological traditions
1 exam of 1 hr 30 mins
Students answer 3 short questions from 5 and 1 essay from 3

Careers

Most students find A-level Government and Politics both interesting and rewarding, often being surprised by how much they learn. However, it is also a well-respected academic subject, which develops analytical skills - both in the context of oral and written work. It is therefore useful for any further study which requires structured, informed development of argument, as well as being directly relevant to subjects such as history, law, economics, philosophy and sociology. In addition, the current affairs content within the course tends to provide valuable assistance for any university interview for an arts or humanities subject.

Government and Politics is helpful for a wide range of careers, including those in business, journalism, education and law.

HISTORY (AQA)

Head of Department: Mr Peter Maynard

Entry Requirement

Grade B or better in GCSE History (*full or short course*). However we will consider all students on an individual basis, even if they have not studied History at GCSE level.

AS

The AS level involves the study of two exciting units of dramatic change and importance:

Unit 1 England 1603 - 42

Unit 2 The Impact of Chairman Mao: China 1946 - 76

A2

At A2 level there will be a further two units to complete both of which have a bearing on the nature of the modern world and its future:

Unit 3 Triumph and Collapse: Russia and the USSR 1941 - 1991

Unit 4 Historical Enquiry (Personal Study) focusing on Civil Rights in the USA 1865 - 1980

More details can be found at: <http://www.aqa.org.uk>

Assessment

AS

You will sit two written examinations in the summer of Year 12 consisting of document based and essay style questions.

A2

You will sit one examination comprising of two essay questions and also complete a Personal Investigation (coursework) essay.

Careers

History is a qualification that is highly regarded by universities and employers, being a traditional and well established A-level; described by the Russell Group of Universities as one of the 'facilitating subjects'. The course builds on the skills developed at GCSE level and complements the knowledge gained through Year 10 and 11.

Candidates who are successful at A-level History will have developed skills of research, selecting relevant information and communicating findings effectively. They will also acquire skills in evaluating and analysing evidence, distinguishing between conflicting views and interpretations and presenting structured, pointed and critical arguments. These skills and abilities, without doubt, represent an impressive portfolio that is much sought after by universities and employers and will be highly beneficial for all manner of degree courses and professions from medicine to law and engineering to journalism.

ICT – INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (OCR)

Head of Department: Mrs Mary Dunbar

Entry requirement

Grade A or above in ICT or Maths GCSE course is preferable. However Grade B candidates in either subject are also considered.

The Course

ICT has become an intrinsic part of our lives, whether in business, government, education, leisure or at home. *Can you imagine your life without social networking or email? How about writing those essays and making presentations?* In an increasingly technological age, the individual who can understand and make effective use of ICT has a great advantage in the evermore competitive workplace. Equally important are the learning skills that you will develop while studying ICT at A Level. It demands clear logical thought in analysing problems and a creative mind to develop solutions.

This course aims to encourage you to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of the component, functions and applications of information systems within a range of organisations;
- Develop an understanding of the main principles of solving problems using ICT and develop the skills necessary to apply this understanding

In the first year of study you will undertake a series of structured tasks building on the skills you have developed at KS4. You will be able to demonstrate your confidence in graphics, spreadsheets, website design and database construction. This will comprise 20% of the marks awarded. In addition you will study the theory behind the technology that you use every day. The written examination of 2 hours taken in June will be awarded 30% of the A level.

The second year of study looks into emerging technology and how it may affect future working practice, as well as the social and legal impact on our lives. You will have the opportunity to develop a solution to a real-live technology problem, working with an external user to produce a solution. 20% of the marks will be awarded to the outcome of your project and 30% of the marks are available in the final 2 hour examination in the summer.

Careers

A level ICT combines well with all the Science subjects, Mathematics, Finance and Business Studies, enhancing your ability in problem solving with practical application of ICT skills in a variety of tasks. If you are considering a future in Management or Business, ICT A Level gives you a head start in developing the skills necessary for a successful career. ICT is offered by universities either as a subject in its own right or in combination with a wide range of subjects such as Psychology or Business Studies.

LATIN (OCR)

Head of Department: Miss Phillipa Madams

Latin is a challenging and satisfying subject to study for A Level. It is widely respected throughout the academic community because it requires students to develop a logical and disciplined intellect.

The A Level Latin course combines well with a range of other subjects: it obviously complements the study of modern foreign languages as well as English, Classics and Humanities, and any scientific or mathematical study.

Entry Requirement

Grade B minimum in GCSE Latin.

The Course

During the course you will study poetry and prose by a range of Roman authors. You will study in depth one prose and one verse set text which may require study of the rest of the work in translation. These texts will give you an understanding of aspects of social or political life in Rome and will help you to understand a particular literary genre: love poetry, epic, oratory or history.

You will also have regular practice of unseen translations and learn how to translate English into Latin. This will help consolidate your knowledge of Latin language and develop your comprehension skills.

Assessment

AS One literature unit (verse and prose): commentary, translation & essay
One language unit: unseen translation (prose), optional prose composition.

A2 2 units
One verse language unit: unseen translation and comprehension.
One prose literature and language unit: unseen prose translation and a prescribed prose set text.

Careers

Students who choose to read Latin at university go on to a variety of careers. They may go into law, politics, museum work, archaeology or teaching. The disciplined intellect needed for the study of Latin is highly respected throughout the business world. Universities offer Latin in combination with a number of other subjects especially modern languages.

MATHEMATICS (OCR)

Head of Faculty: Miss Nisha de Alwis

"Maths is useful for almost every university course." (Year 13 Student)

(MEI Structured Mathematics)

Mathematics is required by a wide range of students, from those intending to read Maths-based courses at university to those needing particular techniques to support other subjects or their chosen career.

A-level students learn an approach to Mathematics that will equip them to use it in the adult world and be able to communicate what they are doing to those around them.

The Key Skills of Problem Solving, Communication, Numeracy and Information Technology form an integral part of the MEI A-level Mathematics Specification.

Entry requirements

Grade A* or A at higher tier GCSE Mathematics is essential. Grade B candidates are only considered in special circumstances. All internal A-Level candidates will have taken AQA linear GCSE Mathematics. External candidates applying with a GCSE in modular Mathematics may find the transition from GCSE to AS level challenging.

The Course

The pace of work is more demanding than GCSE. The topics covered extend GCSE work such as Algebra and Trigonometry as well as introducing many new concepts for example Calculus.

Assessment

Mathematics at AS and A2 Level

In Year 12 you will take three units: Core 1, Core 2 and either Statistics 1 or Core 3. One examination is taken in January of Year 12 and the remaining two in the Summer. These three units make up an AS in Mathematics.

If you continue to study **Mathematics to A2-level** in Year 13, you will complete three further units. By the end of the two-year course you will have taken six units, all of equal weighting. Four of these will be core units (Core 1 to 4) in Pure Mathematics and the remaining two units are Statistics modules. These six units make up a full A-Level in Mathematics.

There is a single two-week coursework task for one of the six modules taken for the single A-level award (C3).

Careers

Studying A-Level Mathematics is **essential** for students aspiring to read a variety of Maths-related subjects at university. For example: Mathematics, Statistics, Physics (and other Science courses including Natural Sciences), Engineering, Architecture, Economics, Psychology and Accounting. Studying Mathematics also complements courses such as Geography, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Head of Faculty: Mrs Julie Jones

Heads of Department: French: Mrs Julie Jones
 German: Mrs Wiebke Carr / Mrs Jo Coles
 Spanish: Miss Laurence Devaux

"Modern Foreign Languages allows you to explore the fundamentals of other societies whilst studying the language at the same time." (Year 13 student)

The Course

A Level modern foreign languages (MFL) puts you, the individual, on centre stage. You will also gain factual, up-to-date knowledge of the relevant country. You will learn how to express your considered and informed opinion on many aspects of daily life, both orally and in writing. The role of the media, relationships, our role as citizens, the challenges of a changing, multicultural society, the environment: these are some of the topics you will explore. You will listen to native speakers expressing their opinions on TV, radio, or in recorded interviews, sometimes by sound files home with you to listen to at your own pace. You will read current newspapers and magazines, and extracts from books. You will also use the Internet to research topics using target language web-sites. You will spend a lot of time in class discussing, debating and role-playing, in pairs or small groups.

In the second year of the course you will be able to show your awareness of the role your country plays in the global arena. Your ability to defend and justify your views will be tested. You will read one or two modern works of literature or films, investigate two or three topics in depth, and be helped to discuss them and write about them.

The course encourages you to take an interest in the country whose language you are studying as well as to find and use target language sources which will provide the facts and evidence you need for your class presentations.

You will spend one lesson a week in a small group working with a modern languages assistant. You will probably also want to take part in European Work Experience or an exchange trip during your time in Years 12 and 13, and this will be extremely valuable and directly relevant to your studies. You will find the courses demanding and challenging, but you will enjoy them and at the end you will be delighted with your fluency and confidence.

Possible A Level combinations:

Current A Level pupils are studying one or two modern languages together with subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, Classical Studies, Economics, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Physics and Politics. As you can see, modern languages combine well with every subject.

French, German and Spanish (AQA)

Entry Requirement

Ideally, a grade A minimum is required at GCSE, with an A or A* in the writing examination. Candidates who achieve a B overall, still with an A or A* on the writing examination, may possibly be accepted but would need to discuss their suitability for the course with the relevant Head of Department.

The Course

AS

This comprises two units which focus on the following topics:

- The family and relationships: family; friendships; marriage, partnerships
- Media: TV, advertising, communication technology
- Popular culture: cinema, music, fashion / trends
- Healthy living /lifestyle: sport / exercise, health and well-being, holidays

You will be expected to make progress in three areas:

- improving your knowledge of the topics and issues prescribed by the specification
- expressing your responses and reactions to the issues both orally and in writing
- developing your ability to use the target language accurately and fluently

Successful students will learn how to analyse, summarise, express opinions and present both arguments and counter arguments. You will also be required to use a variety of sources, evaluate factual information and organise and plan essays and oral presentations. All these skills are, of course, essential in any walk of life.

A2

At A2 topics and issues are studied in more depth and include:

- The environment: pollution, energy, protecting the planet
- The multicultural society: immigration, integration, racism
- Contemporary social issues: wealth and poverty, law and order, impact of scientific and technological progress.

Plus:

Cultural Topics: You will also read one or two modern books, or research two major topics in depth, and learn how to discuss and write about them in the target language.

Assessment

The four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking will all be tested and will be of approximately equal weighting. For the listening test you will have your own CD which you can listen to as often as you like on your own personal CD player, *within the overall time limit for the examination.*

AS

The examination has two units:

Unit 1 Listening, reading and writing (short answers), writing (one essay).

Unit 2 Speaking: when you will be asked to prepare and discuss the issues raised on a stimulus card, then take part in a conversation on the other topics studied during the course.

Candidates will normally sit the examination in the summer of Year 12.

A2

The examination has two units which closely mirror those at AS:

Unit 3 Listening and reading comprehension; translation from and into the target language; one essay on the book, film or topic you have studied.

Unit 4 The Speaking test; when you will be asked to prepare arguments for or against a topic suggested on a stimulus card and defend and justify your stance, followed by a discussion of the book and film, or topics you have studied during the course.

Careers

There is a tremendous variety of courses available which include the study of a language. Languages can be combined not only with almost any arts subject, including a totally new language, but also with Business Studies, Drama, European Studies, Law, Mathematics or a Science. There will probably be opportunities to study at a foreign university for part of the course, with funding from the European Union. If you wish to specialise in languages at university you would be well advised to study two MFLs at A Level.

An A Level MFL can provide a potential basis for entry into commerce, industry and other careers; it can also be useful for future doctors who choose to spend their elective year abroad. In the current economic climate the ability to understand a modern language is an asset in any job, is valued by employers, is very highly respected by universities and in an expanding European Union, is increasingly regarded as an essential skill.

Trips:

We offer a French Exchange with the Lycée Jean Vilar in Avignon to Year 12 and 13 French students every other year. The German Department offer a Year 12 trip to Berlin and a Year 13 trip to Northern Germany. Work Experience opportunities are available to students of Spanish and German.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Russian & Italian

2008 saw the very popular and successful introduction of Russian lessons and Italian as part of the Complementary Studies programme.

We anticipate continuing to offer these languages in 2012 - 2013 with the aim of achieving certification through the Asset Language scheme, which is administered by OCR.

Mandarin

As of September 2009, after-school classes in Mandarin have been offered to all students. We are delighted by the number of girls who have chosen to extend their linguistic ability and range in this way. These Languages will also be certificated through OCR's Asset Language scheme. Past candidates have thoroughly enjoyed learning Mandarin, an experience which will undoubtedly enable them to access the global marketplace further.

MUSIC (Edexcel)

Head of Department : Mrs Genny Harrison

Entry Requirement

It is useful to have taken the subject at GCSE level - grade B minimum would be expected, but this is not essential. Grade 5 is required on any instrument for AS and Grade 6 for A2.

The Course

AS

Unit 1 **Performing** Grade 5 standard is all that is required.

5-6 minutes performance on any instrument/voice, this may include solos and/or ensembles.

Unit 2 **Composing** (completed under controlled conditions)

One 3 minute composition based on one of four briefs, submitted with an analytical CD sleeve note.

Unit 3 **Developing Musical Understanding (2hr examination)**

Learning to listen to music and understand how it works.

There are 3 sections - Learning how to:

- analyse set works through aural work and studying scores
- identify chords aurally and on a score
- write 4 part harmony

A2

Unit 4 **Extended Performance**

The standard level of performing for A2 is Grade 6.

12-15 minute performance on any instrument / voice and this may include solos and / Or ensembles.

Unit 5 **Composition and Technical Study (completed under controlled conditions)**

This unit has 2 separate areas to develop compositional skills. 2 tasks from this unit – 2 compositions or 2 technical studies or one of each.

- (i) Composition topics can be chosen from instrumental music and/or Applied music such as film, TV, dance and theatre.
- (ii) Technical studies are Baroque counterpoint and chorale (Four part harmony).

Unit 6 **Further Musical Understanding (2hr exam)**

Listening to music, familiar and unfamiliar and gaining understanding of how it works.

There are 3 sections:

- (i) Aural analysis including chord recognition and simple dictation
- (ii) Music in context – study of set works
- (iii) Continuity and Change in Instrumental Music.

The 2 hr paper requires answers in note form and essay writing skills.

Careers

Many of those hoping to make a career in music opt for university where there is a stronger focus on academic study or a graduate course at Music College, where the bias is towards performance work. Many universities also offer good performing opportunities, composition and other practical courses such as music technology. Music can often be combined with other subjects such as Mathematics and Modern Languages. Opportunities for professional performers are limited, but there are a number of openings for music graduates in teaching, broadcasting, television, journalism, music therapy, publishing, sound and recording. Music administration, orchestral management and education assistants with orchestras are also popular careers. In addition, the transferable skills developed through studying and performing music are valuable in many 'non-musical' careers.

PHYSICS (AQA)

Head of Department: Mrs Lesley Johnston

The application of scientific knowledge in modern technology and medicine affects every aspect of our lives, and a widespread understanding of science is vital for any modern society. All three A Level sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) place an emphasis upon the understanding of scientific principles and their applications in everyday life, and all involve a large element of practical work. More detailed information about the course is given below.

Entry requirement

For both the AS and A2 GCE course you will be expected to have achieved a GCSE grade A minimum in Additional Science on the higher tier papers or grade A minimum in Physics if you have studied Triple Science.

Why choose Physics?

Physics is so relevant to everyday life and **a qualification in Physics really impresses Universities and Employers**; it shows that you have **analytical** and **numerical** skills, you are a **logical** thinker and that you can work with other people to **solve** problems and **communicate** explanations. All of these skills are **highly valued** and they are **transferable** into every university course and occupation.

If you are applying for a competitive or popular course, then having an Advanced level qualification in Physics raises your profile compared to your peers, because it is perceived as a difficult subject.

The Course

AS

- Unit 1** Particles, Quantum Phenomena and Electricity.
- Unit 2** Mechanics, Materials and Waves.
- Unit 3** Centre Assessment of practical and investigative skills.

A2

- Unit 4** Fields and Further Mechanics.
- Unit 5** Nuclear and Thermal Physics
One option topic chosen from: Turning Points in Physics; Medical Physics;
Astrophysics or Applied Physics
- Unit 6** Centre Assessment of practical and investigative skills.

Assessment

Both years there will be two written papers, each comprising 20% of the total A Level mark, and a centre assessed practical unit, which counts for 10% of the total A Level mark.

Careers

A good physics grade is **highly respected** by all universities and employers. Obviously it is relevant for anyone wishing to follow degree courses in Architecture, Astronomy, Biochemistry, Bio-Physics, Chemistry, Dentistry, Engineering, Geophysics, Mathematics, Medicine, Music, Nanotechnology, Optics, Veterinary Science and other related disciplines. However, it is also valued in Business, Economics, Law, Languages and Politics amongst others, as an indication of good analytical skills and logical thought processing, sound organisation, tenacity and determination.

You can do anything with a physics qualification!

PSYCHOLOGY (AQA)

Head of Department: Mrs C Kemp

Entry Requirement

B grade in either Additional Science or a separate science subject.

The Course

AS

The AS level involves the study of two units:

Unit 1 Cognitive psychology, Developmental psychology and Research methods

Unit 2 Biological psychology, Social psychology and Individual differences

A2

At A2 level there will be a further two units to complete:

Unit 3 Three areas chosen from eight topics: biological rhythms and sleep/Relationships/ Eating behaviour/Intelligence and learning/Perception/Aggression/Gender and development

Unit 4 Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods

More details can be found at: <http://www.aqa.org.uk>

Assessment

AS

You will sit two written examinations in the summer of Year 12. Questions include short answer, stimulus material and one or more 12-mark questions requiring extended writing.

A2

You will sit two examinations comprising of three essay questions for unit 3 and a 2 hour paper for unit4.

Careers

Psychology is a qualification that is highly regarded by universities and further education establishments. Students who take psychology need a combination of curiosity and scepticism and need to enjoy research. Psychology students often also study Biology, English and Sports Science. But students, who want a career in any of the caring services, or in marketing or business, will find an understanding of psychology useful. Psychology can help your career either directly or indirectly. Of course, if you wish to become a psychologist, therapist or mental health worker, this A Level is of direct value.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS (Edexcel)

Head of Department : Mrs Sharon Gladman

'The unexamined life is not worth living' (Socrates)

Entry requirement

Grade B or better in GCSE Religious Studies is preferred. If you have not studied this subject at GCSE a grade A in English Language GCSE would be desirable and we would then welcome you on the course.

The course

Philosophy and Ethics debates questions such as:

- Does the universe show evidence of Design? Does this imply a designer or is Natural Selection the answer?
- If God exists, why is evil allowed?
- Is there a soul? Can we survive death?
- Is Religious Experience verifiable?
- Can you ever justify taking a life?
- Should you be allowed to choose who you donate your organs to?
- Who would you save in a burning building, your dad or the doctor with the cure for cancer?

AS

Philosophy of Religion includes a study of philosophical arguments for the existence of God—the Teleological Argument and Cosmological Argument and a study of the problem of evil and suffering.

Ethics includes a study of ethical concepts: the relationship between religion and morality. Utilitarianism and Situation Ethics / a study of ethical dilemmas on issues of war and peace and sexual ethics including a research question on medical ethics.

A2

You will study two units on the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics together with a unit combining the study of these two areas. The course content outline is based on the two years study.

Philosophy of Religion - a study of philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God including Religious Experience, Ontological argument, sociology, psychology e.g. Marx, Freud and Dawkins and a study of beliefs about life after death.

Ethics A study of ethical concepts such as natural law, virtue ethics and deontology / a study of problems in ethics including debates on 'good', emotivism, and 'is/ought' / Investigation into justice, law and punishment / the consideration of objectivity, relativism and subjectivism.

An Anthology in Ethics Method and moral theory/Personal relationships/Modern moral philosophy.

Assessment

AS (all units are equally weighted ie 50% each)

Unit 1 Philosophy and Ethics: you will be expected to answer three questions (chosen from six)

Unit 2 Research question

A2 (all units are equally weighted ie 50% each)

Unit 3 Philosophy and Ethics: three questions from six to answer.

Unit 4 Anthology - Ethics texts: answer one question.

Careers

Philosophy and Ethics can be used in so many careers and goes really well with English, the sciences and mathematics. This is because it can be instrumental in the whole area of data analysis in the Sciences, logical reasoning and critical thinking which are transferable skills. If you are thinking of medicine we have half the AS paper on Medical Ethics which will be an excellent basis for your studies. The course offered develops the skills required in any philosophical and sociological research and therefore provides a valuable background to a wide range of careers especially medicine, law, business, teaching, youth work, journalism, civil service, or government.

SPORT & PHYSICAL EDUCATION (AQA)

Head of Department: Mrs Rachel Smet

Entry requirement

It is preferred that students have achieved a GCSE B minimum in double science on the higher tier papers and GCSE Physical Education. Students **must** have an active interest in sport.

The Course

Among the many benefits, this new specification is designed to allow candidates to: focus on a single physical activity throughout the course experience and develop an interest in a variety of roles such as performer, official and leader/coach build on their previous experience to enhance their knowledge and increase their understanding of the modern day sporting arena evaluate and discuss current developments in sport such as the impact of new technology, sport-specific rehabilitation and use of ergogenic aids.

AS

Unit 1 Exercise Physiology, Sports Psychology, Sociology.

Assessment

Written Paper: 2hrs 60% of AS mark

Unit 2 Analysis and evaluation of physical activity as performer and/or in an adopted role/s.

Assessment

Internal practical assessment with external moderation 40% of AS mark

A2

Unit 3 Exercise Physiology, Nutrition Injuries, Sport Psychology, Sociology

Assessment

Written Paper: 2 hrs 30% of A Level

Unit 4 Optimising performance in competitive or performance conditions in 1role.

Assessment

Internal practical assessment with external moderation. 20% of A Level mark

Careers

The variety of career areas successfully entered by Sports/PE graduates reflects the broad range of personal skills and qualities developed on a sports-related course. For example: Sports Therapy and Physiotherapy, Sports Psychology, Sport and Exercise Science, Exercise Physiology, Sports Coach, Sports Development Officer, Sports Administrator, PE Teacher.

Employment opportunities include sport science support within sports governing bodies, health promotion, teaching, the computer industry, medical sales, professional sport, paramedical training and research.

A number of graduates go on to study for a one-year PGCE to gain qualified teacher status.

THEATRE STUDIES (AQA)

Head of Department: Mrs Gill Dunn

Theatre Studies is about self-exploration; experiment; risk-taking; and cooperative endeavour. If you have an interest in plays and the theatre, or indeed television and film, and you enjoy a different approach to learning and exploring controversial social and political issues, then this could be the course for you.

Entry requirement

Grade B minimum in GCSE English Literature. Students who have not studied Drama at GCSE are welcome to apply for the course.

The Course

The course, which is both academically rigorous and intellectually challenging, includes: the study and performance of set plays; the devising and performance of original scripts; the study of significant theatre practitioners such as Stanislavski, Brecht and Artaud; and the critical reviewing of live theatre.

Assessment

The department follows the AQA syllabus which is outlined below. The weighting places an emphasis on written, theoretical work with the written examinations accounting for 60% of the total mark.

AS

Unit 1 Live theatre production seen and prescribed play. (*written examination*)

Unit 2 Presentation of an extract from a play. (*practical and written coursework*)

A2

Unit 3 Further prescribed plays. (*written examination*)

Unit 4 Presentation of devised drama. (*practical and written coursework*)

Careers

Theatre Studies is recognised as an academic A Level by top universities including Oxbridge and Drama can be studied to degree level either at university or Drama College. In addition to employment opportunities in theatre, the entertainment and media industries and teaching, graduates may, like graduates in English, enter a range of careers with additional training; they are welcomed by employers because of their trained, flexible minds and their communication and presentation skills.

NB. As part of the course, students will have to attend at least one theatre visit per term; however, the department will endeavour to limit the costs to parents where possible by attending local theatres and booking discounted tickets.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (AQA)

Why are we offering this qualification?

Offering the EPQ is part of our commitment to developing independent, self-motivated learning amongst our students. Universities and employers value a student's ability to research and analyse material independently and completing this qualification allows them to demonstrate their achievement in these areas. The skills acquired in the process of gaining the qualification will also help them in their studies once at university.

What does it involve?

Students must complete an independent extended research project in any area that interests them. The chosen project need not be linked to their A level study and so allows them to explore in depth any topic about which they are passionate. In practice, there is often a link with future university study which will generally be related in some way to the subjects chosen for A level but this is only because these too reflect the students' interests.

Students will:

- choose an area of interest
- draft a title and aims of the project
- plan, research and carry out the project
- deliver a presentation to a specified audience
- provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment

What are the benefits?

The EPQ:

- gives students the opportunity to choose their own topic
- makes students responsible for their own learning and development
- inspires and motivates students – completing the project gives them greater confidence and a sense of achievement
- teaches new skills, such as, independent research, project management, reflection and self-directed learning
- awards 70 UCAS points for an A*

How is it assessed?

Students are assessed on their ability to manage, develop, record and realise their projects. The EPQ is graded on an A* to E scale.

Who should consider taking the EPQ

This is open to any student regardless of ability or areas of interest. Students who enter for the EPQ will need to become effective at managing their time.

More information

Further details of this qualification are available at:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications/projects/extended-project-epq> and from Tim Shepherd our AQA EPQ Co-ordinator: tim.shepherd@challonershigh.com



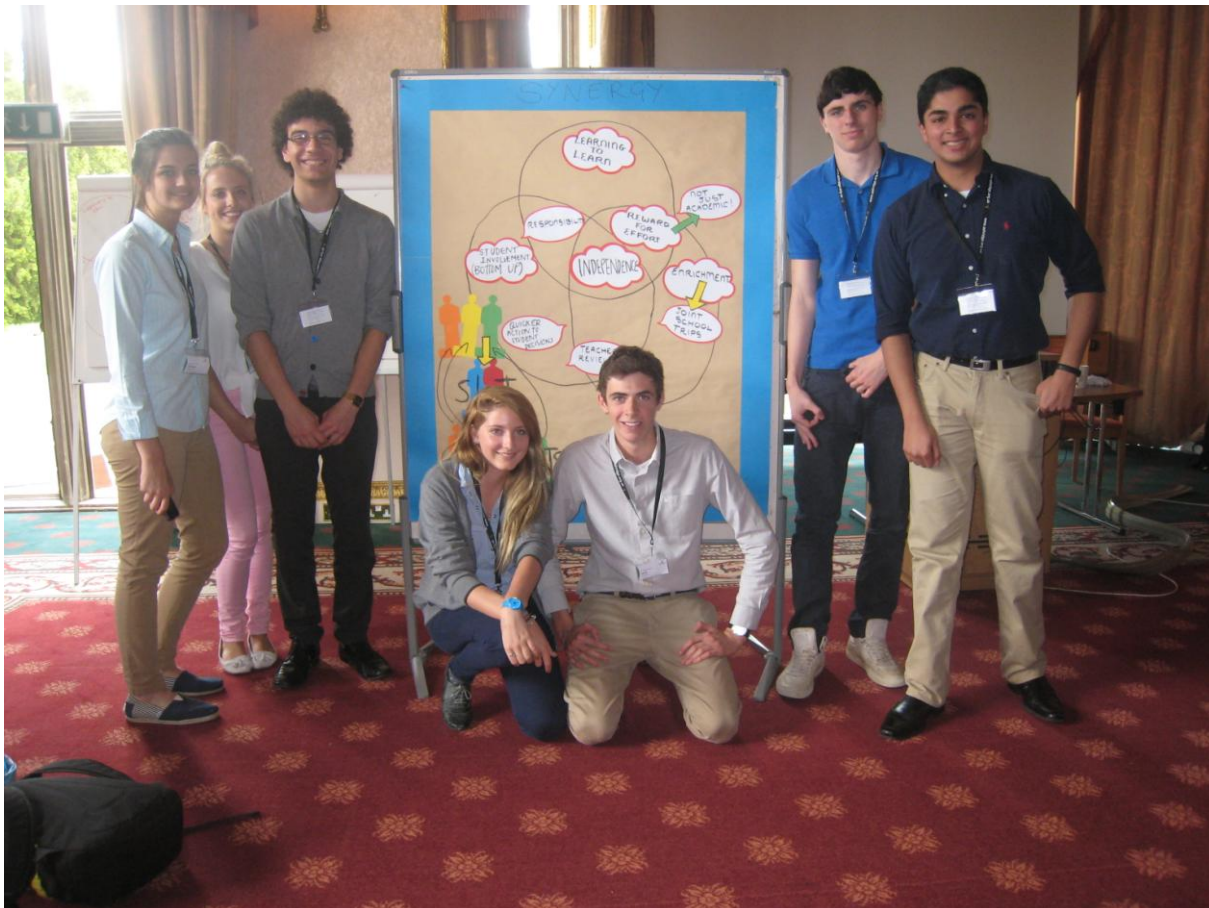
Tim Shepherd
Teacher in charge of Extended Project Qualification



Borneo Trip 2012



Year 12 trip to Paris



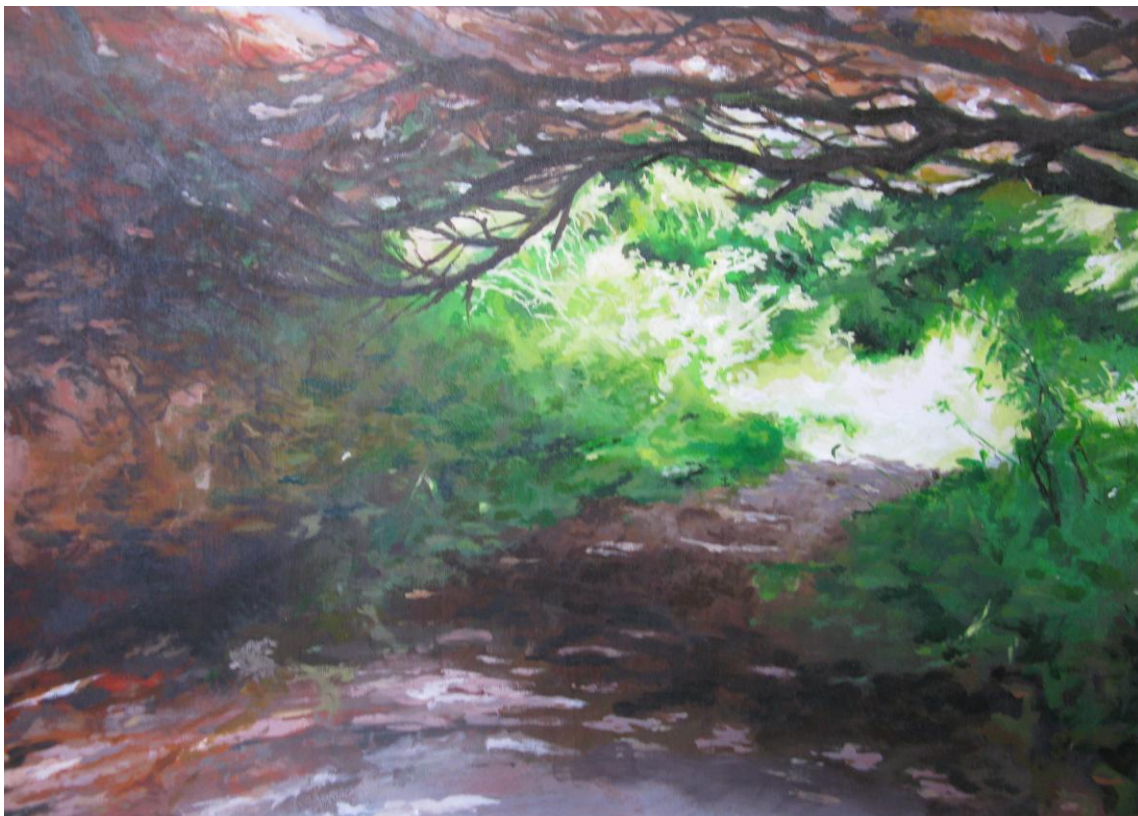
Prefect training at Ashridge Business School



Dracula trip to Whitby



Grace Hallam, AS Artwork



Amanda Williamson, A2 Artwork

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