BEECHEN CLIFF

Sixth Form Prospectus

Introduction

Our purpose at Beechen Cliff is to enable our students to achieve their aspirations and become well-rounded, confident and compassionate individuals who go on to live fulfilled lives and make a positive contribution to society. To help us achieve this our work is based around the School's Core Values: aspiration, compassion, independence and respect. The opportunities we offer to students to develop themselves academically, personally and socially are unrivalled, and Sixth Formers quickly feel part of the school, regardless of where they study in Year 11. We believe our balanced curriculum is unique; we look forward to sharing it with you. It is based around a broad, academic A Level programme, which provides a strong foundation for students to move on to their intended destinations after two years of Sixth Form study.

Coupled with the best possible pastoral care and continual focus on good mental health and wellbeing, we believe we have a formula to ensure all students will flourish.

Beechen Cliff students' attainment and progress is above national average and particularly strong in subjects. Russell Group, Oxbridge, Medicine and elite apprenticeship destinations are very well represented and our comprehensive Future Horizons programme caters for all aspirations and pathways.

As well as receiving excellent teaching, becoming an independent learner is at the heart of every student's success and our vision is that they leave fully prepared for the demands of higher education and the world of work. Study Skills programmes, high expectations of students and good communication with parents ensure all students are confident and able to make their own decisions and own way.

Life in the Sixth Form extends well beyond the classroom. Sport, of course, is legendary and there are excellent opportunities both for everyone to take part in either our elite or recreational teams. Our extra-curricular activities are exceptionally popular. The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, charitable fundraising events, and societies ranging from musical theatre to medicine, debating to Warhammer are prominent features of life in the Sixth Form.

In addition, there are numerous cultural opportunities – such as theatre visits, music and charity trips. Our super curricular programme stretches students beyond their A Levels including the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and Core Maths. Meanwhile, our bi-annual TEDx event, run by students, provides a platform for our community to share "ideas worth spreading".

The great advantage of the Sixth Form being attached to a school is that Sixth Form students can begin to acquire skills of leadership which are so important in later life; we expect our Sixth Form students to exercise responsibility in a variety of ways for the mutual benefit of the school and themselves. Some Sixth Form students give valuable in-class support to young pupils experiencing difficulties in their studies acting as reading buddies or peer mentors, while others support staff on trips, for example the Year 7 visits to the school cottage in Wales.

All Sixth Form students are role models for younger pupils and our high standards of dress, conduct and respect for others make the Sixth Form the flagship for the rest of the school.

The Sixth Form at Beechen Cliff is large and vibrant. It is a genuine community to which young people are proud to belong. It is open to students who are committed to their studies, the broader life of the Sixth Form and to Beechen Cliff as a whole.

The Bath Hub

Beechen Cliff School, Hayesfield Girls' School & Mixed Sixth Form and St Mark's School are all members of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership (MNSP), a multi-academy trust consisting of approximately 30 schools with over 12,000 pupils on roll. The schools have all chosen to work within this Trust as it celebrates each school's individual character while offering outstanding support and challenge.

Within the Trust, there is the Bath Hub which was formed in September 2021. The Hub enables leaders at Beechen Cliff School, Hayesfield Girls' School and St Mark's School to work closely together. All three schools share best practice so that students have high aspirations and experience personal growth through a high-quality curriculum offer and a wide range of exciting and engaging personal development opportunities. Our common goal is to ensure that every student in the city has an excellent secondary education. By collaborating, teachers are able to develop and share high quality teaching strategies and resources that meet the needs of all learners in all three schools.

In addition, the schools have also worked collaboratively to provide additional extra-curricular opportunities and experiences for students across the three schools. These have included trips, joint musical performances, arts showcases and endurance challenges.

Within the Sixth Form this includes Beechen Cliff and Hayesfield working together on joint super-curricular opportunities to enhance the provision available to students at both schools and we look forward to continuing to work in collaboration and expanding these opportunities further in the future.

The A Level Programme at Beechen Cliff

Choosing A Level subjects can be difficult, not least because there are so many subjects from which to choose. However, because the Sixth Form at Beechen Cliff is very large we can usually accommodate most combinations of A Levels. There are currently 25 A Level subjects to choose from along with a number of other additional qualifications.

Whatever their final choices, students need to have considered:

- which subjects they enjoy
- which subjects they are good at
- the higher education and career implications of the choice
- predicted grades
- subject entry requirements

For a subject which is new to a student, research is needed. Students should talk to people who are already studying it or have studied it, find out about what kind of topics are covered and investigate the career options it opens.

It is also important to talk to teachers, careers staff, parents and friends. Another very important source of information is the Sixth Form Open Morning. This is a chance to hear subject talks and speak to subject specialists.

Typical Lower Sixth Curriculum

The vast majority of our students study 3 or 4 A Levels alongside additional supercurricular opportunities such as an EPQ or Core Maths.

Students on the Elite Sport Pathway, may study A Levels or be invited to study the Level 3 Sport Course if more appropriate.

Alongside their subjects, students also have compulsory tutorials, independent study hours and one PSHE lesson per fortnight.

The A Level Programme at Beechen Cliff

A typical course of study in the Sixth Form is made up of:

Curriculum

- 3 or 4 A Level subjects
- Level 3 Sport (invite only)
- PHSE

Super Curriculum

- Opportunities taken to academically enrich, develop, challenge and inspire beyond the formal curriculum
- Extended Project Qualification
- Core Maths

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Participation in the wide range of opportunities available
- Compulsory Enrichment

Leadership and Community Activity

- Support given to the work of the lower school and other areas of school life
- Sixth Form Leadership responsibilities
- Volunteering opportunities

Tutorials

Each student is a member of a tutor group and in the Lower Sixth students meet their tutor throughout the week. The tutor gets to know students personally, monitors attendance, gives out notices and encourages involvement in the super and extra Curriculum. Tutors are the first point of contact for parents and will be instrumental in writing university or other references for students as they progress through the Sixth Form.

All Lower Sixth students participate in our Study Skills programme to develop their independent learning abilities and set weekly targets with an academic mentor. Note-taking, self organisation and revision techniques are covered among a range of other topics to facilitate A Level Study.

Tutorials continue into Upper Sixth but focus more on practical support for Post-18 applications and exams/revision guidance.

This is delivered through tutor time in Term 1.

The Super Curriculum

The Super Curriculum is our range of opportunities aimed at enriching students' academic experiences, developing and challenging their thinking, and inspiring them beyond the formal curriculum. Universities and employers expect students to have researched and read beyond the scope of their A Level specifications and the Super Curriculum provides stimuli to do this. Many students choose to pursue a super-curricular interest by studying an EPQ but there are a number of other opportunities available.

Throughout the academic year there are a range of events, information and input from the school and external bodies, principally through the following:

The Sixth Form Bulletin

Issued weekly and containing listings of local events, lectures and exhibitions, ideas for reading material and suggestions of online resources, all with the aim of enhancing students' learning in their subject areas. All students and parents receive an electronic copy of the bulletin.

Super Curricular Lectures

A series of academic lectures throughout the year, often delivered by an external speaker from a university or industry on a topical subject of their research, academic interest or application of knowledge beyond the A Level specification. These are free to attend and all students, staff and parents are welcome.

Examples of lectures have included:

"Studying languages and a career in Law" by Simon Banner, former pupil at Beechen Cliff and Cambridge Graduate

"How to engineer human tissue in an laboratory" by Dr Adam Perriman from The University of Bristol

"Politics in Crisis: Brexit and Beyond" by Dr Susan Milner, Professor in European Politics at the University of Bath

"Why is it so difficult to engineer the immune system to kill tumours?" by Professor Christoph Wuelfing, Professor of Immunology at the University of Bristol.

"What can young people teach us about Climate Change and Climate Anxiety' by Ms Caroline Hickman, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath.

"Feeding the Monster - the growth of Super-massive black holes in the centres of galaxies" by Dr Carolin Villforth, Lecturer in Astrophysics, University of Bath.

Trips

In addition, there are a range of trips, visits and opportunities designed to enhance students' learning offered through curriculum areas and the Sixth Form. Examples of curriculum-based visits include a Physics trip to CERN, Geography visit to Iceland and Languages trips across Europe.

Wider Reading

Students have the opportunity to undertake weekly super-curricular reading at school in their study periods.

Students can find their own sources of wider reading or use the Reading Lists on the school website.

The Extended Project Qualification

At the heart of our Curriculum is the opportunity for every student to develop and realise an advanced level project devised entirely by the student. The Extended Project offers the chance for students to gain real independence, resilience and maturity as an advanced level learner, while pursuing any topic.

Students are given the opportunity to undertake a research project and produce either a 5000 word essay or create an artefact (eg a art portfolio, a piece of creative writing or music composition).

Taught through fortnightly lessons in Lower Sixth, the qualification prepares students for higher education and employment through building independent study skills and research methods. Just as importantly, it allows students to carve out their own pathway and follow their own interest. Best of all, the Extended Project Qualification is equivalent to half an A Level and is well regarded by many universities as evidence that the transition from Beechen Cliff to university will be a smooth one for students who have successfully demonstrated their aptitude for independent learning.

Here are some examples of projects that have been developed by previous students:

Why are racehorses more susceptible to stomach ulcers than other horses?

The importance of British espionage in World War II

Are Nuclear Fusion Reactors a viable energy source of the future?

The Portrayal of Women in Western Art

A textile book made for children with a visual impairment

A World War II musical composition in the style of Glenn Miller

Why do we paradoxically enjoy listening to sad music?

The development of gender identity in young children: nature or nurture?

A screenplay adaptation of Michael Rosen's 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' set as a 13th Century gothic horror

Throughout history, how has science impacted on our views regarding the existence of God?

An investigation into the effectiveness of treatments for myeloid leukaemia

The Psychopathic Mind – born or made?

To what extent has socio-economic Marxist theory failed and why?

A body positive fashion photography campaign for Calvin Klein

The influence of Islamic medicine in the Golden Age

The Malthusian catastrophe and solutions to global food shortage

The development of meteorology – how history has changed this and how the weather has changed history.

To what extent should the age of criminal responsibility in England and Wales be changed?

To what extent do psychological factors affect batting performance in cricket?

How does western media affect the way people see the world?

Extra-Curricular Activities

A large part of success at Beechen Cliff School is becoming a balanced individual who can manage their own time to meet their academic demands whilst maintaining other interests. Extra-curricular activities can also help to develop teamwork and leadership skills that are transferable and widely sought by both universities and employers. To help students make the most of their time at Beechen Cliff there are a wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer and we encourage students to participate in as many activities as they can.

Thursday afternoon is a dedicated Sixth Form extra-curricular time with large numbers of students using the time to join one of the many sports teams. Outdoor activities such as Ten Tors, Centurion Challenge and the Three Peaks Challenge are also arranged throughout the year and involve large numbers of Sixth Form students. There are also ever more opportunities to take part in skilled activities such as chess, coding and choir. Examples of extra-curricular opportunities can be found to the right.

Leadership and Community Activity

Sixth Form students begin to acquire skills of leadership which are so important in later life; we see all students very much as leaders exercising responsibility as well as through the traditional formal leadership roles of Head Boy, Head Girl, Senior Prefects, House Captains and Subject Ambassadors. Some Sixth Form students also give valuable in-class support to young pupils experiencing difficulties in their studies, while others are pleased to be attached to tutor groups in the lower years helping both tutors and pupils. Some play a leading role in the musical life of the school while others become involved in coaching junior teams.

Art Club
Badminton
Bands Night
Bar Mock Trial
Centurion Challenge
Chess Club
Christian Union
Climbing
Coast-to-Coast Bike Ride
Combined Cadet Force
Computer Programming
Cricket
Debating
Drama
Duke Of Edinburgh
Dungeons and Dragons
F1 Challenge
Film Club - French
Football
Gryphon Magazine
Hockey
Library Support
Model United Nations
Mountaineering
Music - Concert band
Music - Folk Group
Music - Guitar Ensemble
Music - Choir
Music - String Ensemble
Music - Swing band
Netball
Peer Mentoring
Photography Club
Rowing
Rugby
School Production
Strength and Conditioning
Table Tennis
Teach Team
TEDx
Tennis
Ten Tors
Warhammer

Pastoral Care and Support

Support and guidance is offered in many different ways, not least in the contacts and conversations which take place each day between staff and students both in lessons and within the Sixth Form Centre. As well as these informal contacts, daily tutorials with students and mentoring sessions are designed to help the making of wise choices, discussion of career plans, assessment of personal progress and to seek help if problems arise.

The Sixth Form Pastoral Team

The Head of Sixth Form, the tutor team and the Sixth Form Pastoral Administrators will be the key people in the lives of the students during their time in the Sixth Form. As well as supporting achievement, participation and attendance, the Sixth Form Office is always open for students to drop in for a chat or a query and for parents to discuss any concerns.

The focus of all Sixth Form staff is to help students feel good and function well in the Sixth Form, by looking after their mental health and encouraging them to make the most of their time with us.

Resources to Help Learning

Success in employment and higher education depends on the ability to be resourceful, independent and adaptable. To help develop these qualities, students are given guidance on study skills and independent access to resources and facilities which include the Library, the Careers Education library in the Careers Office, the 80 seat Sixth Form Study Centre, Group Study Area and computers, and chromebooks are available to borrow.

Refectory

Sixth Form students have access to the Refectory during the morning and at lunchtime where they can work in groups more informally. There is also a Sixth Form Cafe in the Common Room which acts as the social hub for the Sixth Form.

Reporting on Academic Progress

Throughout the Sixth Form at Beechen Cliff there are frequent progress reports.

These reports include a target grade, an assessment of the student's application towards their studies, and a current working grade from most recent assessments. These reports are published on Beechen Cliff's online portal, which is available to all parents and students online.

Parents

The Sixth Form recognises that parents have a major part to play in supporting students throughout their time at Beechen Cliff. Parents' consultations and meetings during both Lower and Upper Sixth provide opportunities for parents and tutors to discuss how students are settling into the Sixth Form and learn key information to help prepare their children for the future, such as the New Parent Information Morning, UCAS Information Evening, Student Finance Talks and Revision Evening.

Mental Wellbeing

Our work on mental health and wellbeing at Beechen Cliff is at the heart of everything we do to realise our vision for Sixth Form students to be happy, healthy individuals, ready to make a positive contribution to society. Our bet hope for our students' wellbeing is for every individual to thrive as compassionate and confident young adults.

Working with our Senior Prefects for Mental Health, we have a Sixth Form Mental Health Team of student ambassadors, who deliver a testimony assembly to the whole Sixth Form each year. These assemblies and work of the Mental Health Team have had an electrifying impact on students' willingness to speak up about mental health.

The impact of the assemblies was reflected in some powerful statistics gathered during evaluation in the weeks and months that followed. The most notable figures were:

- In the year after our first testimony assembly, we saw a 352% increase in Sixth Form boys seeking help.
- The girls were always far more willing to ask for help but even girls seeking support increased by 29% in the same period.

Our goal is to create a culture of openness about mental health, encouraging everyone to talk about feelings, listen to one another and promote their ability to bring about change for the better.

We put student leadership at the centre of the strategy, build capacity in staff and use the personal testimony approach that clearly has such a powerful effect on students. More than 60 staff members have now been trained in the Solution Focused Approach to become mental health ambassador along with a growing number of Sixth Formers too. Our staff and students want to have the skills and confidence to have open and honest conversations about mental health and wellbeing to support themselves and others.

Future Horizons

Future Horizons is the Sixth Form careers and higher education programme. Its purpose is to inspire and educate students to be aspirational about their future and to help students understand their choices when they leave the Sixth Form. It is our aim that all students receive personalised advice and should encounter a wide variety of employers and careers.

Once students have settled into the Sixth Form, they are introduced to the Future Horizons programme at the beginning of the Lower Sixth as they already start to think in earnest about their Post-18 options.

Headline events include:

- UCAS Information Morning: which addresses the options students have after school and the benefits of each.
- Higher Education and Employment Exhibition at a local university, attended by all Lower Sixth students to gather information on universities, employers and apprenticeships.
- National Apprenticeship week events, attended by local and national providers
- Our annual Graduate Careers Showcase involves a keynote address from Martin Birchall, Managing Director of High Fliers Research, the UK Graduate Careers Survey, offering his insights on graduate recruitment, and a range of talks from graduates showcasing their careers.
- Careers and employability workshops throughout the year, particularly centred around our Ignite Days in collaboration with other Bath Hub Schools.

Over the course of the Lower Sixth, all Post 18 options are explored, including university, college, apprenticeships gap year and employment opportunities.

Around 80% of our Upper Sixth students go on to university each year. Other students advance down different routes, and we ensure they are well supported with their applications to destinations such as elite apprenticeships and school leaver schemes.

Alongside these headline events, we have a diverse range of talks, Q&A sessions and input from universities, local employers and individuals with professional perspectives to offer. 1:1 appointments can be booked with our independent Level 6 Careers Adviser and Head of Careers, Mrs Pascoe.

UCAS Programme

The Sixth Form team has a wealth of experience supporting students with UCAS applications to university courses. Students are provided with personalised support, including advice on courses and universities and guidance on personal statements. Starting in the Lower Sixth, the timeline for the UCAS programme is as follows:

- Feb – April (Lower Sixth): Researching universities, courses and graduate careers and booking university open days
- June – July (Lower Sixth): Drafting personal statement, attending university open days, completing initial sections of UCAS application online, information evening for parents
- September – November (Upper Sixth): finalising personal statement, completing application and submitting to school (with earlier October deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science & Dentistry applicants)
- November (Upper Sixth): references added by school and completed application sent to UCAS by school

Once students have submitted their application and begin to receive offers, there is a programme of advice and guidance, covering student finance, student accommodation and selecting their final two university choices. This support carries on into the summer, when students receive their results and take up their places.

Oxbridge and Medicine Programme

The School has a strong track record of students successfully gaining places at Oxford and Cambridge, and to study medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry, amongst other subjects. All those who show the academic potential and interest are provided opportunities and support to prepare them for an application and interview. Beechen Cliff students benefit from visiting the universities and attending talks by Oxbridge representatives, healthcare professionals and alumni.

Students are given access to a broad range of experiences to develop their understanding of the institutions collectively and individually and assistance in applying.

These include:

- A residential visit to Cambridge
- A day visit to Oxford
- Oxbridge and Medicine Alumni talks
- The BANES Oxbridge Conference in association with other local schools
- Oxbridge Admissions Staff links
- Specific Oxbridge personal statement guidance
- Interview skills and mock interview programme
- "MedSoc" our own medical society for those interested in all branches of medical careers
- Joint events with Hayesfield Sixth Form

Our Super Curricular programme gives students many opportunities to develop their knowledge and thinking beyond the A Level programme - crucial to successful applications. Oxbridge applicants past and present are encouraged to collaborate in the preparation for entrance exams and interviews, sharing feedback and experiences to support one another.

Apprenticeship Programme

All students will have the opportunity to learn about Higher and Degree Apprenticeships through a programme that will inform and inspire. Students will attend assemblies, workshops and hear from industry and apprenticeship graduate guests speakers. They will also receive support to understand the application process including situational judgement tests, Assessment Days and online psychometric testing.

Beechen Cliff/Bath Rugby – ACE Programme

Beechen Cliff School and Bath Rugby work in close partnership to develop promising young rugby players in the Bath Rugby catchment area. The RFU ACE (formerly AASE) programme aims to provide an outstanding rugby and academic development programme for talented players to achieve their potential both on and off the pitch.

Since the programme was started in 2015, over twenty players from Beechen Cliff have been offered professional contracts with Bath Rugby. Many others have progressed onto a high level of rugby at university whilst following their chosen career.

As part of the programme, Beechen Cliff enters a Sixth Form team into the RFU's National ACE League, playing fixtures against the ACE Schools & Colleges of the other 12 Premiership Clubs.

The ACE League therefore offers the highest available standard of school-boy rugby. With Bath Rugby's support in areas such as coaching, strength and conditioning, match analysis, positional development and physiotherapy, the players have the best opportunity to achieve their full potential. Meanwhile, academic outcomes of those on the programme are outstanding and players are equally well-supported to achieve their academic goals.

The programme is targeted primarily at 16-year old rugby players from within Bath Rugby's catchment of Somerset, Wiltshire and Dorset. Others come from further afield in the UK. Some of the players, whose home is too far to commute on a daily basis, board in the school's boarding house.

Players will benefit from the programme in a number of different ways:

- They are part of the same local school so they learn, train and play together which encourages motivation and team spirit.
- They have access to a high quality academic A Level or Level 3 programme in an exceptional school.
- Their rugby programme is managed and delivered by top quality coaching staff from both school and Bath Rugby.
- They will have access to top quality training and playing facilities, both at school and at Farleigh House.
- Players will follow individualised training programmes set by Bath Rugby Strength and Conditioning staff.
- Students will have a minimum of 10 rugby-related hours a week, two terms of rugby competition and a summer term of rugby development.
- They will have access to the best of off-field support from Bath Rugby Physiotherapy and Sports Therapy professionals.
- They will be exposed to a highly competitive environment in which to test themselves. The programme runs 1st XV, 2nd XV and 3rd XV squads
- The 1st XV play in the ACE League, the highest standard of school rugby available.
- The programme provides the best opportunity of progression towards the professional game and international age grade representative sides.

For further information please contact Andy Hall, Director of Rugby

ahall@beechencliff.org.uk

Examination Results 2023

Examination results are only one of a number of factors which students and parents may wish to consider before choosing a post-16 centre. At Beechen Cliff the quality of the learning experience, our Extra and Super Curriculum and the development of students' personal qualities within a happy and caring community are just as important. Nevertheless, good examination results are often essential if students are to fulfil their future ambitions. In fact Beechen Cliff is above the national average for the number of students achieving at least AAB grades in the facilitator subjects and above national average for A* - A and A* - E. The strong work ethic established by past generations at Beechen Cliff makes teaching and learning a rewarding experience for staff and students alike.

Headline Performance

2023 examination results represent another successful performance in terms of grades achieved at both GCSE and A Level. In difficult circumstances due to the Covid-19 pandemic where A Levels in 2023 were the first experience of formal public examinations, we are really pleased with the outcomes our students achieved.

KS5	
A Level grades at A*-A	28%
A Level grades at A*-B	52%
Students with A Level grades AAB in at least 2 facilitating subjects	19%
Average Grade at A Level	C+
Average Grade in Technical Level Qualifications	Distinction
Student destinations (2023 cohort)	University 63% Gap Year 26% 3 securing elite apprenticeships 3 successful Oxbridge applicants 2 successful Medicine applicants

Subject Entry Requirements

The following pages contain information on individual subjects. In recent years there have been significant changes in the way A Levels are assessed. All A Levels are now linear – with all the assessment at the end of the two year course. Below is the list of subjects available for study at Beechen Cliff and the minimum GCSE grades required for individual subjects. While we aim to run all subjects listed below, these are subject to sufficient student numbers each year.

Subject	Minimum GCSE Grades
Art	Grade 6 in Art
Biology	Grade 6s in Combined Sciences or Grade 6 in Biology and Grade 6 in Maths
Business	Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature and Grade 6 in Mathematics
Chemistry	Grade 6s in Combined Sciences or Grade 6 in Chemistry and Grade 6 in Maths
Classical Civilisation	Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature
Computer Science	Grade 6 in Computing or ICT and Grade 6 in Mathematics
Core Maths	Grade 5 in Mathematics
Economics	Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature and Grade 6 in Mathematics
English Literature	Grade 6 in English Language and Grade 6 in English Literature
French	Grade 6 in French
Geography	Grade 6 in Geography
German	Grade 6 in German
History	Grade 6 in History
Italian	Grade 6 in Italian
Law	Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature
Mathematics	Grade 7 in Mathematics
Mathematics: Further	Grade 7 in Mathematics
Medical Science	Grade 6s in Combined Science or a 6 in any individual Science
Music	Grade 6 in Music
Photography	Grade 6 in Photography or Art
Physical Education	Grade 6s in PE and a 6 in Combined Sciences or Biology
Physics	Grade 6s in Combined Sciences or Grade 6 in Physics and Grade 6 in Maths
Politics	Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature
Product Design	Grade 6 in Product Design or similar
Psychology	Grade 6 in Combined Sciences and Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature
RS: Philosophy & Ethics	Grade 6 in English Language, Grade 6 in English Literature or Grade 6 in Religious Studies
Spanish	Grade 6 in Spanish

Art

Art at A Level is suited to students looking for a creative career in the media, design, architecture, advertising, film and TV. Art forms the basis of many of these career paths. You will need to be a creative thinker, capable of developing ideas through independent research. All students develop a portfolio of work which shows their ability to communicate an idea visually resulting in a final outcome which is unique and personal. Students should expect to show their work to others with pride!

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: EDUQAS Art & Design (5290)

Year 1

Unit 1: Candidate Portfolio (20%)

Based on themes and subject matter developed from drawing, painting and 3D work as starting points. All work will be selected, evaluated and presented for assessment by the candidates. Work is presented in a range of sketchbooks and a large variety of media. Experimentation is key to a successful portfolio. There is no controlled assignment at the end of the first year. Please note that ALL students need to show evidence of skilled technical drawing in their sketch books to pass their A Level.

Year 2

Unit 2: Personal Investigation (40%)

Based on themes and subject matter developed from personal starting points that requires the candidate to communicate their understanding through integrated images and texts. Students need to be confident with analytical reference based on aspects of the course. Art History and documenting ideas through investigation and writing are key. All work will be selected, evaluated and presented for assessment by the candidates.

Unit 3: Controlled Assignment (40%)

Comprises an externally set assignment presented to the candidates at the start of the preparation period for the controlled test that will be a continuous period of focused study of twelve hours. All work will be selected, evaluated and presented for assessment by the candidates.

Why choose Art?

Most importantly, you should enjoy the subject and be passionate about it! If you find going to galleries to view artwork a chore, this is not the subject for you. We look for enthusiastic, creative thinkers who are happy to share ideas with the teacher and their peers. You should be able to draw influence from art, photography, literature, music, or any other topic of interest to you. We encourage individuality coupled with an ability to work on your own. Be prepared to commit time to homework.

What goes well with Art?

More frequently in recent years universities are looking for signs and evidence of creative skills across the curriculum. In particular Art complements subjects such as English, Music, Technology, History and Graphic Design.

Biology

A Level Biology is a challenging, rewarding course that helps students develop skills and knowledge necessary for a successful career. It offers teachers and students freedom, creativity and opportunity for independent progression from GCSE Science or Biology.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: OCR Biology (H420)

Module 1: Development of Practical Skills in Biology

- Practical skills assessed in written examination
- Practical skills assessed in practical endorsement

Module 2: Foundations in Biology

- Microscopy and cells
- Biological molecules
- Enzymes
- Plasma membranes
- Cell division

Module 3 : Exchange and Transport

- Exchange surfaces and breathing
- Transport in animals
- Transport in plants

Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease

- Classification and evolution
- Biodiversity
- Communicable diseases

Module 5: Communication, Homeostasis

- Neuronal communication
- Hormonal communication
- Homeostasis
- Plant responses
- Energy for biological processes
- Respiration

Module 6: Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems

- Genetics of living systems
- Patterns of Inheritance and variation
- Manipulating genomes
- Cloning and biotechnology
- Ecosystems
- Populations and sustainability

Why choose Biology?

If you are prepared to ask difficult questions and are inquisitive about the world around you, you will love Biology.

Biology, with its mixture of scientific method, problem solving, practical skills and socially relevant content, provides a useful complement to many subjects. It is a qualification highly sought after by universities.

An understanding of the principles of Biology allows students to appreciate not only how our bodies work and how diseases stop them working, but also the fragility of life on Earth. In addition a Biologist understands the potential benefits and dangers of Genetic Engineering. Once you grasp the full significance of Biology be prepared to look at the world in a new light because some day a Biologist may change it beyond recognition. Even the world of business is turning to Biology. Apparently, the behaviour of ant colonies gives a detailed insight into the activities of large global companies.

What goes well with Biology?

Many students choose to combine Biology with one of the other sciences such as chemistry or physics, while others combine with PE and humanities.

But over the years students have combined Biology with a huge variety of different subjects secure in the knowledge that universities and employers view Biology as a rigorous subject providing excellent skills and knowledge.

Business

Studying Business will not make you a millionaire by the time you are 21. It will however, provide an exciting insight into the dynamic world of business. You will use this knowledge in decision making to improve business performance and develop appropriate strategies. You will learn the importance of marketing; how to identify, target and satisfy customer requirements; and how to motivate people in order to maximise their output. You will learn that every decision has financial implications, and you will be taught how to calculate profit, forecast cash flow and analyse a firm's published accounts.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: AQA Business (7132)

- What is business?
- Managers, leadership and decision making
- Decision making to improve marketing performance
- Decision making to improve operational performance
- Decision making to improve financial performance
- Decision making to improve human resource performance
- Analysing the strategic position of a business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- Managing strategic change

There are three 2 hour exams at the end of the second year worth 33.3% each.

Why choose Business?

Business aims to teach you what it is to run an organisation. Imaginatively, it puts the student at the centre of the business decision making based on improving business performance and analysing the impact of the external environment on the business, for example. It combines both a practical attitude to solving problems with the theoretical techniques used to help a business arrive at the best solution. The course offers introductions to the main areas of human resource management, marketing, accounting and finance and operations as well as strategic decision making.

What goes well with Business?

Business is closely associated with subjects such as Economics, Geography, Politics, Psychology and Maths, as Business A Level will assess how the external environment can impact upon the business. It also studies effective leadership and motivational theories, along with numerical concepts to aid decision making and analysing financial accounts. Business A Level has become more mathematical and therefore complements Maths as a route into accountancy, auditing, actuary and market analysis amongst many others. However, this subject is an excellent choice to complement any subject which a student may be interested in developing as a future career or business, such as Physical Education, DT or Photography.


GY
HB
WMH
SG

Chemistry

Chemistry is everywhere in the world around you! It's in the food you eat, clothes you wear, water you drink, the air you breathe, the medicines you take and anything you touch or use. Chemistry is called the "central science" because it connects other sciences to each other. Modern life would not be 'modern' without chemists.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: OCR Chemistry A (H432)

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry

- Practical skills assessed in a written examination
- Practical skills assessed in the practical endorsement

Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry

- Atoms, compounds, molecules and equations
- Amount of substance
- Acid–base and redox reactions
- Electrons, bonding and structure

Module 3 – Periodic table and energy

- The periodic table and periodicity
- Group 2 and the halogens
- Qualitative analysis
- Enthalpy changes
- Reaction rates and equilibrium (qualitative)

Module 4 – Core organic chemistry

- Basic concepts
- Hydrocarbons
- Alcohols and haloalkanes
- Organic synthesis
- Analytical techniques (IR and MS)

Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements

- Reaction rates and equilibrium (quantitative)
- pH and buffers
- Enthalpy, entropy and free energy
- Redox and electrode potentials
- Transition elements

Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis

- Aromatic compounds
- Carbonyl compounds
- Carboxylic acids and esters
- Nitrogen compounds
- Polymers
- Organic synthesis
- Chromatography and spectroscopy (NMR)

Why choose Chemistry?

As a chemist, you will study the nature of atoms and molecules and the way they react together to produce useful products. You will also study both organic and inorganic materials, looking at their properties, synthesis, reactions, analysis and uses.

We aspire to place a strong emphasis on practical activities at Beechen Cliff. Laboratory experience not only teaches chemical techniques and scientific method, but also provides a framework for developing transferable skills. These fit well with other sciences at A Level and beyond.

Chemists are recruited into practically every branch of industry. They have an especially important role in areas like pharmaceuticals, agricultural chemicals, oil and chemicals, photographic materials, cosmetics, plastics, textiles, building materials, silicon chips - and a host more. An A Level in Chemistry at Beechen Cliff gives opportunities and access to most science courses at University level.

What goes well with Chemistry?

Traditionally A Levels such as Biology, Physics and Mathematics have a strong overlap, using many similar skills and sharing some content as well. This means that by taking at least one of these subjects there is reinforcement and often leads to higher results in both. But conversely, there are those who have successfully fused Chemistry with arts and languages.

Assessment Overview

Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry (01), 100 marks, 2 hours 15 minutes (37%)

Synthesis and analytical techniques (02) 100 marks, 2 hours 15 minutes (37%)

Unified chemistry (03), 70 marks, 1 hour 30 minutes (26%)

Practical endorsement in chemistry (04)

Classical Civilisation

The Classical World was bold, bloody and beautiful. Brutally ruthless, ambitious, humorous, idealistic and flawed, the Roman and Greek cultures you will study will pose questions about humanity and our motivations.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: OCR

Units:

The course consists of three units

- The World of the Hero (Differences between the heroes in The Iliad and The Aedeid)
- Imperial Image (Augustus and how he shaped his public image)
- Love and Relationships (Comparison between Greek and Roman thoughts and ideas)

The A Level will be three written examinations at the end of Year 13.

Why choose Classical Civilisation?

The Classical World was bold, bloody and beautiful. Brutally ruthless, ambitious, humorous, idealistic and flawed, the cultures you will study will pose questions about humanity and our motivations. It will also develop you as an intelligent, scholarly and rounded individual though the scrutiny of the building blocks of Western civilisation. You will also experience the interdisciplinary work and thinking that will be a requirement of the courses at university and in life.

There will be opportunities for the analysis of literature, the evaluation of historical sources, the logic of argument and philosophy and the scrutiny and critique of art and architecture. Classical Civilisation will provide a diverse range of knowledge and skills for you to develop.

Alongside developing you as writers, it will be a course requiring the interaction with locations and objects, with planned visits to Rome, The British Museum and the local Romano-Britain sites.

What goes well with Classical Civilisation?

Due to the multidisciplinary nature of the course, as well as the influence the Classical world had on shaping the world, the course is suited to accompany a wide variety of A Level subjects. English Literature, History, Law and Philosophy and Ethics would be the natural partners; however, students of Science and Maths who desire a humanities subject for a more rounded curriculum would also suit.

Computer Science

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: OCR (H446)

Computer Systems

Contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices, hardware and software development, exchanging data, data types, data structures, legal/moral/cultural/ethical issues in computing.

Algorithms and Programming

Elements of computational thinking, problem solving and programming, and using algorithms to solve problems.

Programming Project

Analysis of the problem, design of the solution, developing the solution and evaluation (internal assessment).

Why choose Computer Science?

"At the heart of this qualification lies the notion of computational thinking: a mode of thought that goes well beyond software and hardware, and that provides a framework within which to reason about systems and problems."

CAS-Computer Science a Curriculum for Schools

Computer Science will, above all else, be relevant to the modern and changing world. It enables teachers to tailor the qualification to meet the needs of their students and has an open source ethos allowing a variety of programming languages that meet the needs of the course to be used.

In their final A Level project, students will develop an ability to analyse, critically evaluate and make decisions. The project approach is a vital component of 'post-school' life and is of particular relevance to further education, higher education and the workplace. Each student is able to tailor their project to fit their individual interests, choices and aspirations.

The course gives students a clear progression into higher education.

What goes well with Computer Science?

It is a worthwhile companion to any other discipline chosen by the students but Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics make particularly good combinations.

Economics

Economics is the study of markets and how we use our scarce resources at the individual, national and global level. Economics gives you insight into how markets work at both the microeconomic and macroeconomic level, and you will learn how to apply the models and theories that underpin these different areas of economics. You will learn how to apply economic theories and concepts to current (or at least recent) events, whether domestic or international, and we often also reflect and learn from past events. Economics raises awareness of, and possible solutions to, some of the key issues facing societies today such as poverty and inequality, climate change, pollution, and the cost of living crisis. We endeavour to bring these "big issues" to the fore in our teaching, and as a result you should become a well informed citizen.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: AQA Economics (7135/7136)

Individuals, firms, markets and market failure

1. Economic methodology and the economic problem
2. Individual economic decision making
3. Price determination in a competitive market
4. Production, costs and revenue
5. Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly
6. The labour market
7. The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
8. The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets

The national and international economy

9. The measurement of macroeconomic performance
10. How the macro economy works : the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis, and related concepts
11. Economic performance
12. Financial markets and monetary policy
13. Fiscal policy and supply-side policies
14. The international economy

There are three, 2 hour papers at the end of the course

Paper 1: Markets and market failure 33%

Section A: data response questions requiring written answers, choice of one from two contexts, worth 40 marks

Section B: essay questions requiring written answers, choice of one from three, worth 40 marks

Paper 2: National & international economy 33%

Section A: data response questions requiring written answers, choice of one from two contexts, worth 40 marks

Section B: essay questions requiring written answers, choice of one from three worth 40 marks

Paper 3: Economic principles and issues 33%

Section A: multiple choice questions worth 30 marks

Section B: case study questions requiring written answers, worth 50 marks

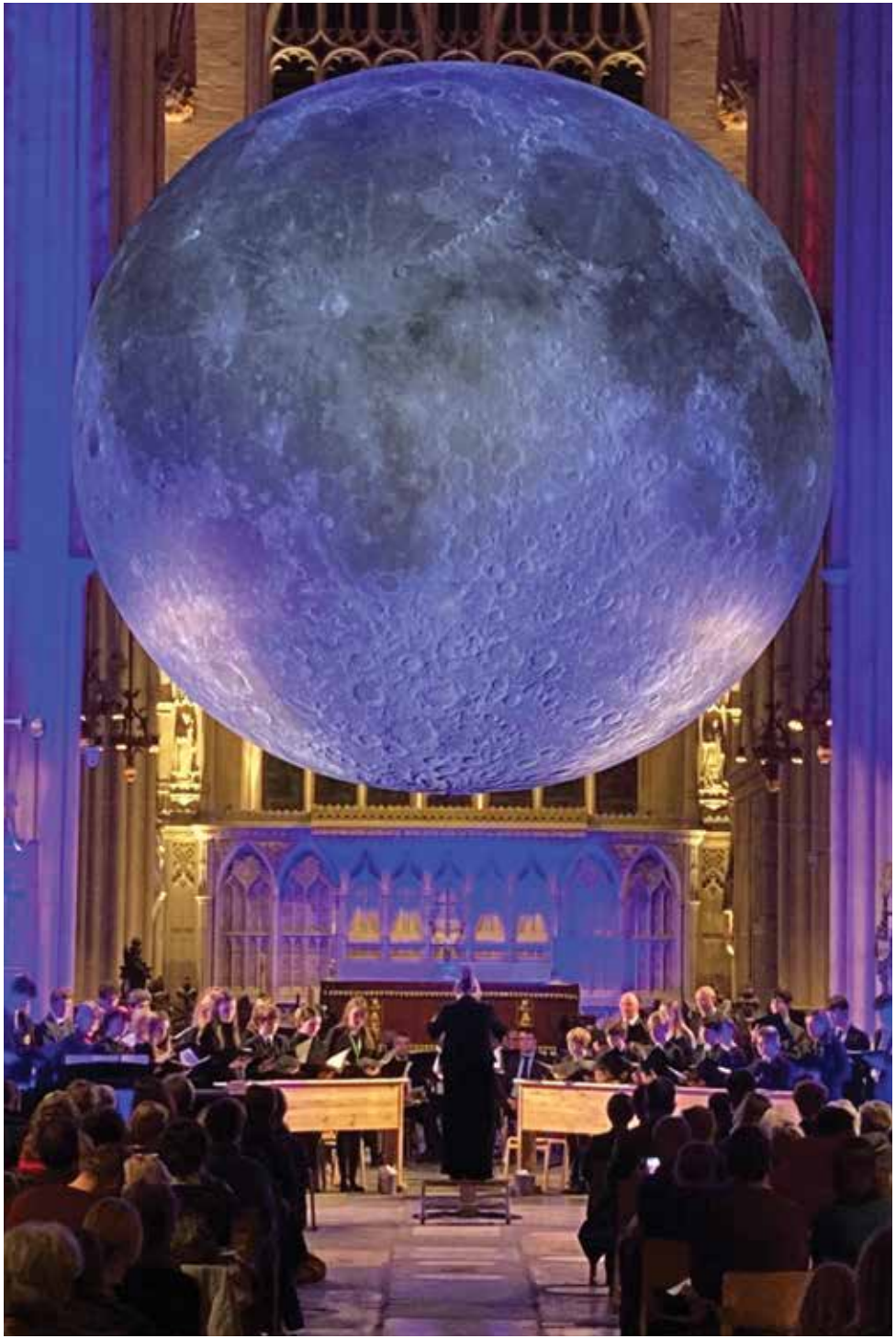
Why choose Economics?

Economics is the social science which attempts to understand human behaviour. Specifically, Economics focuses on choice; how we use our resources; how we achieve an efficient economy that supplies the goods and services to meet our needs; how the government can maximise the performance of the economy. Economics builds up layers of understanding from the individual household and firm, to the market and national economy, eventually looking at the impact of the global economy and its future.

If you are interested in understanding some of the main issues driving the world, then Economics will provide a useful source of insight. To be economically literate is important even if you are not planning to become an economist. To be aware of the financial and economic constraints and choices will be of value in any future career you may choose.

What goes well with Economics?

The subjects with which Economics is most closely associated are Politics, History and Geography and The Sciences as it is concerned increasingly with global and EU problems. A language can also open up future possibilities. Economics has increasingly become more mathematical, and if you are thinking of studying Economics at university, then you would be advised to study A Level Mathematics as well. However, currently the mathematics content of A Level Economics is limited and a Grade 6 at GCSE would be sufficient.



English Literature

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free" .The English Literature A Level has been re-developed and the new course blends the study of traditional literary texts, that provide an important grounding in the works of writers such as Shakespeare and Chaucer, with very contemporary literature that reveals the revolutionary responses of writers to their predecessors. To enrich your experience of the writers and the landscapes that inspired them, we will also visit some important landmarks during the course and see some of these texts in performance.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: OCR English Literature (H472)

Component 1: Shakespeare, Drama and Poetry (40%)

Critical analysis of a Shakespeare text, currently Hamlet. In addition, students will study the nineteenth century play, A Doll's House by Ibsen, and compare this with Chaucer's poetry.

Component 2: Comparative and contextual study (40%)

In this unit, students have the opportunity to study the wealth of literature that emerged from America between 1880 and 1940. As well as comparing two nineteenth century American novels you will consider the characteristics of all fiction during this period through the analysis of unseen extracts.

Component 3: Coursework folder (20%)

Two essays will be completed for this internally assessed task:

Task 1: A close reading task in which students identify and consider how attitudes and values are expressed in a collection of poems by Irish poet W B Yeats.

Task 2: A comparative essay in which students explore connections between the Jez Butterworth's modern play The Ferryman and the short story collection The Dubliners written by James Joyce.

Why choose English Literature?

A Level English Literature will suit students who enjoy reading great works of literature and would like to develop skills as independent readers. You will study new writers, genres and period, learning how to approach them critically and building on the analytical skills introduced in the GCSE.

The skills acquired in the study of English Literature are transferable so even if you are not planning to study this subject at degree level, it will provide you with an invaluable foundation for any further academic study.

What goes well with English Literature?

English and History are often viewed as a good combination, particularly if the eventual aim is to continue to higher education in an arts or humanities subject. English is also an ideal match for those wanting to study Law and Politics. Employers, colleges and universities want students who can show balance in their subject choices, particularly if it means they can combine essay writing skills with the manipulation of scientific data. Institutions and employers in the field of engineering, for example, increasingly cite English as a desirable combination with Mathematics and Physics A Levels.

French

Imagine being fluent in another language. Imagine the buzz of being able to communicate about anything with anyone in France or a French speaking country. A Level French will do this for you as well as making you much more attractive to employers who are demanding more and more that their employees can communicate with other countries in the global market and now that we have left the EU those who can speak other European languages will be even more sought after.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: AQA French (7652)

Topics studied

Social issues and trends in French speaking countries: the changing nature of the family, the cyber society and the role of voluntary work in year 1 and positive features of a diverse society, life for the marginalised and how criminals are treated in year 2.

Political and artistic culture in French speaking countries: a culture proud of its heritage, contemporary francophone music and cinema in year 1 and political commitment and teenagers, the power of trade unions and the politics of immigration in year 2.

Study of a film and a book.

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing (50%)

Listening, reading and responding to spoken passages and written texts from a range of contexts and sources. Questions will target main points, gist and detail and students have individual control of recordings for the listening section.

Translation into English (minimum 100 words)

Translation into French (minimum 100 words)

Paper 2: Writing (20%)

One essay question in French on a set text from a choice of two questions **and** one question in French on a set film from a choice of two questions. All questions will require a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues covered in the work and a critical and analytical response to features such as the form and the technique of presentation, as appropriate to the work studied (e.g. the effect of narrative voice in a prose text or camera work in a film).

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

Discussion of a theme from the topics studied with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks).

Why choose French?

It is going to broaden your knowledge of the world as well as France and the topics we study are really interesting. You will also be able to speak about whatever you like with anyone who can speak French wherever you are in the world (which you can practise during your week at a language school in Montpellier). Plus, it is a proven fact that learning a language makes you smarter, more decisive and better at English!

You can work internationally and compete in the global market. Did you know that across the rest of Europe at least one foreign language is a minimum requirement for any job? The fact that you have studied a language impresses employers and universities as it shows you have a well-rounded skill set (as demonstrated by the fact that it is one of the A Level subjects required to access any Russell Group University). You learn important study skills that are transferable to other subjects and people are always impressed by anyone who can speak a foreign language!

What goes well with French?

French A Level goes well with just about any other subject. The beauty of a foreign language A Level is that it covers such a broad range of topics and skills that it works well with any combination both at A Level and at University. If you really love languages, it is always a good idea to choose two as the skills you learn in one language are easily transferable to another. So if you have enjoyed learning French so far why not carry on and choose A Level French?

Geography

Geography is the study of the physical and human world.

It links these in space and time, helping us to understand how and why the world is changing and to respond to what is happening around us. In a globalised world, geography is a relevant, challenging and topical subject to study, both inside and beyond the classroom.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: Edexcel Geography (9GEO)

Paper 1: Dynamic Landscapes & Physical Systems and Sustainability (30%)

- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Coastal Landscapes and Change
- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Paper 2: Dynamic Places & Human Systems and Geopolitics (30%)

- Globalisation
- Regenerating Places
- Superpowers
- Global development and connections

Paper 3: Geographical Issue (20%)

- Place based synoptic investigation based on a geographical issue within the content above.

Coursework: Independent Investigation (20%)

- Internally assessed, 3,000-4,000 word fieldwork investigation with an individual title.

Why choose Geography?

In addition to more traditional geography, you will also study contemporary issues which infiltrate every level of society; locally, nationally and globally. You will do this in a synoptic manner, giving you the ability to draw on all your knowledge and understanding in order to confront the world, exam questions, work and university in a more intelligent and successful way. You will develop many key, transferable skills which are not only useful in the wider world, but are highly regarded by universities and employers.

Fieldwork is an essential part of the course. In Lower Sixth all students will attend a 3 day residential field course at Colehayes Park Field and Study Centre in Bovey Tracey, South Devon and also have the option to take part in a one day visit to Three Cliffs Bay in The Gower, Wales. Here you will carry out various physical and human geography studies in preparation for your independent investigation. In addition to this there will also be the opportunity to take part in an optional six day expedition to Iceland in the autumn term of Upper Sixth to complement the Tectonic Processes and Hazards unit.

What goes well with Geography?

An A Level in Geography is valued by universities and employers alike due to the skills it develops such as the ability to synthesise a wide range of information, evaluate issues from different perspectives and essay writing. It therefore makes a good complementary A Level for any subject.

While not necessary, the statistical element of the course means that A Level Mathematics complements Geography well and the essay writing required in exams means that subjects such as History or English are also beneficial. There are also links to Physics and the other sciences as well as Business and Economics.

German

German means business! It is the official language of five European countries and one of the ten most commonly spoken languages in the world. Germany is the largest economy in Europe. It is the UK's biggest trading partner and 50% of British employers needing linguists rate German as useful for their business. An A Level in German will give you an insight into the rich history and vibrant culture of the German-speaking world as well as the linguistic ability to be able to communicate fluently in the language.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: AQA German (7662)

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing (2 hours 30 minutes 50%)

Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources covering different registers and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail. Studio recordings will be used and students will have individual control of the recording.

Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from a range of authentic sources and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail.

Paper 2: Writing (2 hours 20%)

Essay writing on the prescribed works: there is a choice of two questions for the film and two for the book. Students choose one of each.

All questions will require a critical response to aspects such as plot, characterisation, imagery or other stylistic features as appropriate to the work studied.

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation).

• Speaking with a stimulus card (5-6 minutes)

Students are given a choice of two cards on different sub-themes. Visual stimulus plus three printed questions. Students must ask two questions based on the stimulus card discussed.

• Presentation and discussion of individual research project.

Students present a summary of their findings and then the teacher/examiner asks questions in order to elicit further information.

Why choose German?

An A Level in German will broaden your knowledge of the world as well as of German speaking countries. You will develop the fluency to be able to communicate and express your ideas about whatever topic you like (you will have the opportunity to practice this during your work experience visit to Berlin!)

As well as being key to European business, Germany is a world leader in engineering and German is the second most used scientific language in the world. With an A Level in German you can work internationally and compete in the global market. Did you know that across the rest of Europe at least one foreign language is a minimum requirement for any job?

The fact that you have studied a language impresses employers and universities as it shows you have a well-rounded skill set (as demonstrated by the fact that it is one of the A Level subjects required to access any Russell Group University). You learn important study skills that are transferable to other subjects and people are always impressed by anyone who can speak a foreign language.

What goes well with German?

A Level German goes well with just about any other subject. The beauty of a foreign language A Level is that it covers such a broad range of topics and skills that it works well with any combination both at A Level and at University. So if you have enjoyed learning German so far why not carry on and choose A Level German to gain a more in-depth knowledge of the language.

History

The study of History is an attempt to both make sense of the past but also provide a greater understanding of the present. It is this that makes History such an important and relevant subject.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: AQA History (7042)

Modules 1C and 2R

The Cold War: c1945-1991

- The Origins of the Cold War
- The Cold War 1945-63
- Détente
- The end of the Cold War

The Tudors: England, 1485-1603

- Henry VII
- Henry VIII
- The 'Mid-Tudor Crisis'
- Elizabeth I

Coursework: Historical Investigation

Students are free to research a question on any controversial historical topic which interests them. They will carry out their own research and produce a 4,500 word independent enquiry.

Why choose History?

History A Level is a highly esteemed qualification due to its academic rigour and the transferable skills developed by students. History graduates are sought after in the fields of law, business, politics and journalism. Aside from History being valuable to higher education and in the workplace, it is a discipline which provokes lively debate and in our chosen modules students grapple with issues ever relevant to both contemporary Britain and the modern world.

What goes well with History?

History offers valuable skills that can be beneficial to any combination of subjects. However, the study of History goes particularly well the disciplines of English Literature, Politics, Economics, Law and Sociology. Indeed, many of these subjects are offered as joint honours courses at degree level. Moreover, other humanities subjects also complement History such as Geography or Philosophy and Ethics.

Italian

The Italian language has a unique appeal and many consider it to be simply the most beautiful spoken language in the world. If you agree and you would like to explore Italy's rich culture and history whilst taking your language to a higher level, read on!

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: Edexcel Italian (9IN0)

Topics studied:

Changes in Italian society: the changing Italian family, the world of work and education

Political and artistic culture in Italy: music, the media and national heritage

The changing Italian society: the impact of immigration, the north/south divide

Italy from the Fascist era to today

Study of a film and a book

Assessment:

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation (40%)

A listening assessment which requires students to respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts and sources.

A reading assessment based on a variety of text types and genres where students must respond to comprehension questions.

An unseen passage to be translated from Italian to English

Paper 2: Writing (30%)

This paper requires students to translate a previously unseen passage from English into Italian.

Students must write an extended response on either two literary texts or one literary text and one film.

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

Students complete two tasks.

Students discuss one theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing two different statements.

Students present a summary of at least two of the written sources they have used for their research and give a personal response to what they have read.

Students answer questions on their presentation and then have a wider discussion on their research.

Why choose Italian?

An extensive knowledge of Italian can open many doors, and some choose to study it as a way into the world of the arts, for example Opera, Art History, Italian Gastronomy or Roman History. Indeed Italian is a language which these days pervades our lives on every level.

A second language will also be an asset when competing in the global job market. Previous students of Italian have pursued a career in the business world of furniture and design where Italian style and flair have a long history.

Studying Italian will broaden your mind as we explore a range of topics from different perspectives and encourage you to express your own point of view in the foreign language.

Lastly it is worth remembering that studying a foreign language, especially one so close to Latin deepens your understanding of language in general whilst allowing you to develop transferable study and communication skills.

What goes well with Italian?

Italian A Level goes well with just about any other subject. The beauty of a foreign language at A Level is that it covers such a broad range of topics and skills that it works well with any combination both at A Level and at university. Modern foreign languages are considered a 'facilitating subject' by Russell Group universities, i.e. subjects that are required more than others for entry to university and therefore offer students more options.

Law

Whether you want to pursue a career in Law or simply love legal dramas on TV, this is the subject for you. Law A Level will help you develop your analytical ability and your critical thinking and debating skills. We cover lots of criminal offences such as murder, robbery and assault, and look at some key areas of civil law such as nuisance, trespass and human rights. Law will help you understand how to solve problems through the application of legal rules, and try your hand at judging real-life cases. While Law is undoubtedly still an essay subject, the skills developed through applying the law to scenario-style questions is unlike any other A Level subject.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: OCR

Assessment: Three 2 hour written examinations

Component 1: The Legal System and Criminal Law (33%)

This component introduces learners to the legal system. It also introduces learners to the concept of liability through an introduction to criminal law. Amongst other topics this component includes:

- Criminal courts, civil courts and juries
- Legal funding
- Criminal liability theory
- Fatal offences e.g. murder and manslaughter
- Non fatal offences e.g. assault, ABH and GBH
- Offences against property e.g. theft, robbery and burglary
- Defences e.g. insanity and consent

Component 2: Law Making and the Law of Tort, and RPE and Psychology in terms of ethics and morality. (33%)

This component introduces learners to the law making. They are also introduced to the concept of liability through an introduction to the law of tort. Amongst other topics this component includes:

- Parliamentary law making
- Judicial precedent
- Trespass
- Nuisance
- Negligence
- Compensation and damages

Component 3: Further Law (33%)

This component will enable learners to extend their study of law. They will explore and consider in more detail the nature of law and introduces learners to human rights law. Amongst other topics this component includes:

- Human Rights Act
- European Convention on Human Rights
- Judicial Review

Why choose Law?

Below is an example of a Component 1 style criminal law scenario question:

Alan believed that Bella, a fellow student, had stolen his mobile phone. Alan saw Bella at college, went up to her and said "We sort out thieves like you". As Bella hurried away in a panic, Alan's friend, Carol, sprayed Bella with red paint. A small amount of paint went into Bella's eyes. She was taken to hospital where her eyes were treated to remove the paint. As she went home, and before her sight was fully recovered, she tripped up a kerb and fractured her skull. Are Alan and Carol guilty of a crime?

Are you interested in finding out whether these people are guilty? How would you decide their punishment?

Are you interested in finding out how someone becomes a judge or a barrister in order to be involved in this kind of case?

Are you interested in finding out how the laws have been made?

If so, then Law is the subject for you.

What goes well with Law?

Most subjects go well with Law. It is for those with an interest in problem solving, and an ability to analyse situations logically. As there are some longer essay-type questions there are links with other essay subjects such as History and English Literature. There is also a cross over with the Politics A Level, which looks at the UK judiciary and parliamentary law making, and RPE and Psychology in terms of ethics and morality.

Mathematics

Extend your mathematical knowledge, develop your logical reasoning and problem solving skills. Mathematics at A Level builds on the work you have done at GCSE as well as introducing Calculus (amongst other things!)

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: Edexcel (2017)

Pure Topics

Proof, algebra and functions, co-ordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, vectors and numerical methods

Mechanics Topics

Quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces, Newton's Laws and moments

Statistics Topics

Statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions and statistical hypothesis testing

Why choose Mathematics?

Mathematics is not only a beautiful subject in its own right, but one that underpins many other branches of learning. As well as laying a foundation for further study/a career in Engineering, Science or Finance, the problem solving and logical reasoning skills involved mean that an A Level qualification in Mathematics is very highly regarded by universities and Employers.

What goes well with Mathematics?

Pretty much anything! The wonderful thing with Mathematics A Level is that it allows you to keep your options open. It will support University applications in almost every subject. There are clear links with Physics, and less obvious ones with Chemistry, Biology, Economics, Geography and Psychology.

Mathematics: Further

Further Mathematics is excellent preparation for mathematics based degree subjects, such as Mathematics, Physics, Engineering and Economics etc. Further Mathematics students complete the whole A Level Mathematics course in a single year. During the Upper Sixth, students embark on Further Mathematics A Level. In order to have the teaching time to cover a whole A Level in a year, students who choose Further Mathematics fill TWO of their option blocks to account for the extra lessons. There is no need to opt for A Level Mathematics as an additional subject.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: Edexcel (2017)

See the previous page (Mathematics) for information about the work covered in Lower Sixth.

If students are ready to sit the A Level exam at the end of the Lower Sixth, they can choose to do so, but they may prefer to wait until the end of the Upper Sixth.

The topics listed below are covered in Upper Sixth.

Half of the content covered is compulsory

Further Pure Topics (compulsory)

Proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations

Then two options are studied from Further Pure, Further Statistics and Further Mechanics

It is expected that Further Mathematics students begin the Lower Sixth studying two other A Level subjects in addition to Mathematics and Further Mathematics, since some students decide to drop Further Mathematics in favour of AS Further Mathematics.

Why choose Further Mathematics?

If you really like Mathematics and want to spend almost half your time learning it, exploring it and practising it then Further Mathematics could be for you!

What goes well with Further Mathematics?

Many students studying Further Mathematics will be considering University course that are "Mathematics Heavy" (eg Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, Computer Science), so it goes especially well with Physics and Computer Science.

Mathematics: Core

Core Maths is an excellent option to help further develop mathematical skills and thinking. It is designed around practical applications of mathematics with a goal to develop your mathematical reasoning to prepare you for problems you will encounter in the future in both day to day life and in the work place.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: AQA

The course is examined by 2 x 1.5 hour exams at the end of year 13 and is equivalent to an AS in terms of UCAS points.

Compulsory content

- 3.1 Analysis of data
- 3.2 Maths for personal finance
- 3.3 Estimation
- 3.4 Critical analysis of given data and models

Optional content

- 3.5 The normal distribution
- 3.6 Probabilities and estimation
- 3.7 Correlation and regression
- 3.8 Critical path and risk analysis
- 3.9 Expectation
- 3.10 Cost benefit analysis
- 3.11 Graphical methods
- 3.12 Rates of change
- 3.13 Exponential functions

Why choose Core Maths?

Maths is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination. Core maths is designed to support the mathematical content of other subjects and is an excellent choice if you want to develop your mathematical understanding in a real world setting.

What goes well with Core Maths?

Core maths supports the delivery of Economics, Business studies, psychology, biology, chemistry, physics, geography and any other course with mathematical content.

Medical Science

The Level 3 Applied Diploma in Medical Science is for any students who enjoy Science, and especially for those who are interested in careers related to healthcare and medical research.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: WJEC

Unit 1: Human health and disease

Examination on the following topics:

- Biological molecules
- Structure of human cells
- Cell transport
- Cell information processing
- Human physiological systems
- Lifestyle effects on human systems
- Effects of pathogens
- Non-communicable disease

Unit 2: Physiological measurement techniques

Coursework:

- Physiological measurement tests
- Performing physiological measurements
- Dealing with patients
- Reporting on physiological measurement tests

Unit 3 : Medical Science Research methods

Coursework:

- Research methods
- Collecting data
- Data analysis
- Processing data
- Communicating information

Unit 4: Medicines and treatment of disease

Coursework:

- Management of medicine
- How medicines work
- Treating cancer
- Information about medicine

Unit 5: Clinical laboratory techniques

- Controlled assessment:
- Clinical testing
- Clinical laboratory techniques
- Processing data

Unit 6: Medical case study

Examination - applying knowledge from the entire course

Why choose Medical Science?

Medical Science is the area of science that deals with maintaining health and preventing and treating diseases. Medical scientists are at the forefront of healthcare services, as they are instrumental in the diagnosis of disease, evaluating the effectiveness of treatments and researching new cures.

This course develops students' knowledge, understanding and skills in key scientific principles, and can be a good foundation for studying healthcare-related fields at university.

It can also help prepare for employment in areas of Medical science, such as roles in physiological sciences or clinical laboratory services.

What goes well with Medical Science?

Medical Science goes well with many other subjects. Many students choose to combine Medical Science with Core Maths.

Music

Music is a unique subject in many respects. Through studying the subject you will develop analytical, practical, thinking and creative skills.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: Edexcel Music (9MUO)

Component 1: Performing (30%)

This unit provides opportunities for students to perform as a soloist and/or in ensembles. Any instruments and/or voices are acceptable as part of a recital that should last for a minimum of 8 minutes.

The recital will be recorded and externally assessed.

Component 2: Composing (30%)

This component will focus on developing composing skills through studying different musical styles.

Students will be required to complete two pieces of work, either one free composition and a given brief or two given briefs. The briefs will relate to the areas of study (see Component 3 below)

Component 3: Appraising (40%)

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of musical elements contexts and language by studying a variety of set works. All the set works will be taken from six areas of study:

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Music for Film
- Popular Music and Jazz
- Fusion
- New Directions

Students will study 3 set works from each area of study, leading to a 2 hour examination comprising listening skills and essay writing.

Why choose Music?

If you enjoy music and can play an instrument or sing to a good standard then studying A Level Music is worth considering.

It will give a breadth of experience and skill in many different areas. Students will extend their knowledge and understanding of musical language, skills and genres. This will give a good foundation for studying music in higher education or for pursuing other careers in the music industry. Equally though it is valuable as a second or third area of study which complements other subjects.

Furthermore it will develop a range of personal qualities including: self confidence, team work, the ability to communicate and analyse, along with enhancing technological and evaluation skills.

The unique nature of music helps to develop all the 'key skills' which future employers will be looking for.

What goes well with Music?

Music can complement any combination of A Level subjects. It is academic, practical and creative.

Music Technology

This course is for students looking for a wide range of career options whilst focusing on the technology behind recording and composing of music. This is a course suited to students who are creative beyond the musical performance and they will learn how to record a wide range of musical ensembles from rock bands to chamber groups. Students will learn how to mix and master their own recordings in our purpose built, and specially equipped recording studio. You will also compose and arrange your own music using dedicated computers and industry standard music software.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: Edexcel (9MT0)

Component 1: Recording - externally assessed coursework (20%)

- One recording, chosen from a list of ten songs which will be recorded and sequenced in to Logic.
- Total time must be between 3 minutes and 3½ minutes.
- Candidates will keep a logbook of their work.

Component 2: Technology-based composition – externally assessed coursework (20%)

- One composition chosen from three briefs
- Total time must be 3 minutes.
- Candidates will keep a logbook of their work

Component 3: Listening and analysing - written examination (25%)

- Knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles, in the context of a series of unfamiliar commercial recordings.
- Application of knowledge related to all three areas of study:
  - o recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
  - o principles of sound and audio technology
  - o the development of recording and production technology.

Component 4: Producing and analysing - written/practical examination (35%)

- Knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques.

Why choose Music Technology?

For those students with a talent and interest in Music but also want to gain wider skills in technology and ICT, this course is ideal. Whilst it is not essential to play an instrument to a high standard (you will record other performers), it is important to have an understanding of musical instruments and their characteristics. Students who choose music technology have often progressed in to higher education, taking courses in advanced music technology and music production as well as media, television and film.

What goes well with Music Technology?

Music technology can sit alongside any combination of A Levels. Related subjects would include Music, Physics, Computer Science, and possibly even Mathematics. However Music Technology can also be a creative option for those taking less related subjects.

Photography

Photography A Level is suited to students looking for a creative career in the media, design, architecture, advertising and film and TV. You will need to be a creative thinker, capable of developing ideas through independent research. In Photography, we do not insist that you have a GCSE in the subject, but you should at least have a GCSE in Art, as the creative process of research and development of ideas are very similar. All students develop a portfolio of work which shows their ability to communicate an idea visually resulting in a final outcome which is unique and personal.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: EDUQAS Photography (5290)

Unit 1: Candidate Portfolio (20%)

Based on themes and subject matter developed from personal starting points. Developing students skills and techniques through a range of studio, dark room and computer based methods. All work will be selected, evaluated and presented for assessment by the candidates.

Unit 3: Personal Investigation (40%)

Based on themes and subject matter developed from personal starting points that requires the candidate to communicate their understanding through integrated images and texts, with use of a sketchbook. Students need to be confident with analytical research based on aspects of the course. Art History and documenting through investigation and writing are key. All work will be selected, evaluated and presented for assessment by the candidates.

Unit 3: Controlled Assignment (40%)

Comprises an externally set assignment presented to the candidates at the start of the preparation period for the controlled test that will be a continuous period of focused study of fifteen hours. All work will be selected, evaluated and presented for assessment by the candidates.

Why choose Photography?

Most importantly, you should enjoy the subject and be passionate about it! If you find going to galleries to view artwork a chore, this is not the subject for you. We look for enthusiastic, creative thinkers who are happy to share ideas with the teacher and their peers. You should be able to draw influence from art, photography, literature, music, or any other topic of interest to you. We encourage individuality coupled with an ability to work on your own. Be prepared to commit time to homework.

What goes well with Photography?

More frequently in recent years universities are looking for signs and evidence of creative skills across the curriculum, but in particular, Photography complements subjects such as English, Music, History and Product Design.

Physical Education

Are you interested in finding out why since the 1968 Mexico Olympics, elite high jumpers choose to perform using Richard Fosby's jumping technique? How the body responds to exercise? Why people take drugs in sport or train at altitude? What scientific principles a rugby player can apply to become more stable, or which of Newton's Laws enable us to change direction when sidestepping? Finding out why some sports performers underperform when there is a large crowd present whilst others thrive in such situations? If so, these are just some of the questions explored in Physical Education.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: AQA Physical Education (7582)

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology

Section B: Skill acquisition

Section C: Sport and society

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport

Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics

Section B: Sport psychology Section

Section C: Sport and society

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

Students are assessed as a performer or coach in the full-sided version of one activity.

Students complete a written/verbal analysis of a performance.

Why choose Physical Education?

Sport and fitness forms a significant part of an every increasing leisure industry, and currently accounts for 30% of total consumer spending, and government investment of over £3 billion since 1997. The leisure sector is a varied group of industries, which not only includes sport, but also tourism, hospitality, entertainment, countryside recreation, the arts and heritage. Within each of these industries, there are a variety of skill requirements - for example, specialist sporting skills including sports science, physical education, coaching, sports development and sports management.

A Level Physical Education is a diverse course consisting of six specialist areas of theoretical study. Couple this with the requirement to also demonstrate practical ability (either as a performer or a coach); and then to have to learn and demonstrate how to critically analyse an active participant, makes this qualification one of the most challenging. However, if you are passionate about sport, it is also one of the most enjoyable subjects within the A Level choices.

What goes well with Physical Education?

Due to the multiplicity of opportunities currently available within sport, Physical Education works along side numerous subjects. The obvious choices consist of Biology, Psychology and History, but your decision will very much depend on what you wish to do for a future vocation, i.e. coaching or teaching, backroom support, for example physiotherapist or sports psychologist, sports marketing or journalism, sports business management or events co-ordinator.

Physics

Expand your knowledge, your thinking, your skills, your options and your horizons.

Unlike the other sciences, physics has no limits – everything in your life, on this planet, other planets, to the far reaches of universe and beyond is in the physics job description.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: OCR Physics Specification A (H556)

Module 1: Development of practical skills in physics

- Practical skills assessed in a written examination and the practical endorsement

Module 2: Foundations of physics

- Physical quantities and units
- Making measurements and analysing data

Module 3: Forces and motion

- Motion and forces in action
- Work, energy and power
- Materials

Module 4: Electrons, waves and photons

- Electrical circuits
- Waves
- Quantum physics

Module 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics

- Thermal physics
- Gravitational fields
- Astrophysics and cosmology

Module 6: Particles and medical physics

- Electromagnetism
- Nuclear and particle physics
- Medical imaging

Why choose Physics?

If you are interested in the limits of space, the beginning of time and everything in between – physics is for you.

If you are interested in understanding how technology around you works, or maybe want to save the planet, or help people get better when they are ill – physics is for you.

If you are not interested in any of the above, the knowledge and skills you gain by studying physics will be useful. Physics is more than a subject – it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries. In a crowded job market, physics will help you stand out from the crowd, it will give you the edge. People are always impressed by a qualification in physics.

What goes well with Physics?

There is no doubt that A Level Physics can be a bit mathematical at times, so taking A Level Mathematics is a definite advantage

Many students choose to combine physics with one of the other sciences such as chemistry or biology, while others who are thinking about engineering or architecture combine physics with Product Design and/or Art.

But there is no need to follow the crowd. Physics and Mathematics can be combined with just about anything.

Politics

Politics is constantly changing the world around us, and at some point, everyone comes into contact with it - whether through voting, campaigning or simply watching the news. Young people are undoubtedly becoming more and more aware of both UK and international politics, with recent controversies such as the Brexit referendum and the election of Donald Trump in the USA and foreign relations in the Middle East. The Politics A Level is a great way of beginning to engage with the political system and develop a deeper understanding of how our country works and the issues that shape the lives across the world.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: Edexcel

Assessment: Three 2 hour written examinations comprising a number of essay style and source based questions.

Component 1: UK Politics (33%)

1. Political Participation: democracy, political parties, electoral systems, pressure groups, voting behaviour and the media.

2. Core Political Ideas: conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

Component 2: UK Government (33%)

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

2. Non-core political idea: anarchism

Component 3: Comparative Politics - USA (33%)

The US Constitution and federalism, Congress, the President, Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories.

Trips

Every year students have the chance to travel to London to see the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court. We also have guest visits from Politicians ranging from Wera Hobhouse to Jacob Rees Mogg.

Why choose Politics?

Are you interested in finding out what is going on around you politically?

Are you interested in gaining knowledge and understanding of how we elect our MPs and prime minister?

Do you enjoy hearing about the latest global news?

Do you enjoy discussion and debate?

If your answer to any of these questions is "yes", then Politics might be a subject for you seriously to consider.

What goes well with Politics?

Experience shows that most subjects can go well with Politics. Students whose interests lie in subjects such as History, Geography or Economics find the Politics combines well with them. On the other hand, students whose interests lie mainly elsewhere often enjoy taking Politics as a contrasting subject if they simply have a pre-existing interest in current affairs and would like to develop their global awareness.

Product Design

Realise the importance of Product designers, the people who decide the way many everyday items look and work. Product design is the process of creating new and innovative products and items from scratch or working on improvements to existing ones. Items can include everything from electronics, domestic appliances and machinery to cars, shoes and furniture.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: AQA Product Design (7552)

Paper 1: Technical Principles Examination (30% of qualification)

2 hour 30 mins

120 marks

Mixture of short answer and extended response

Paper 2: Design & Make Principles Examination (20%)

1 hour 30 mins

80 Marks

Mixture of short answer and extended response

Section A:

Product Analysis: 30 marks

Up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of product(s).

Section B:

Commercial manufacture: 50 marks

Mixture of short and extended response questions

NEA (Non Examined Assessment) (50% of Qualification)

Part 3: Non-exam assessment (NEA) Substantial design and make task (50%)

Practical application (60 Hours) of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge

Why choose Product Design?

Product and industrial designers have an important role to play, not only are they responsible for the products we all use every day of our lives, they also have to consider the planet we live on and clever design, using natural and irreplaceable resources is an essential character trait of all the best designers.

What goes well with Product Design?

A better understanding of material properties and creative abilities make a more rounded Product Designer, therefore, Physics and Chemistry are useful. Creativity using drawing techniques, Computer Aided Design and Manufacture are also an essential area of knowledge incorporating Computer Science, Mathematics and Art.

Psychology

The mind is something intangible that exists within our brain; an unseen process of enzymes, chemicals and electric currents, but why is it that some people suffer from stress or mental illness? Have you ever wondered if prison really does change criminal behaviour? Or why some people obey without questioning the morality of what they are doing? A-Level Psychology looks at questions like these and more. It will give you an understanding of the way people think and why people behave in certain ways.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: AQA Psychology (7182)

Compulsory content

1. Social influence
2. Memory
3. Attachment
4. Psychopathology
5. Approaches in Psychology
6. Biopsychology
7. Research methods
8. Issues and debates in Psychology

Optional Content.

One from:

9. Relationships
10. Gender ⋆
11. Cognition and development

One from:

12. Schizophrenia ⋆
13. Eating behaviour
14. Stress

One from:

15. Aggression
16. Forensic Psychology ⋆
17. Addiction

Assessment

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology (1-4 above)
Paper 2: Psychology in Context (5-7 above)
Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology (8 above and one from 9-11 and one from 12-14 and one from 15-17) ⋆ = currently taught options

Why choose Psychology?

If you are fascinated by the idea of understanding the brain - if you want to grasp the complexities of human behaviour - Psychology A-Level is for you. You will be exploring various areas to do with cognitive behaviour, developmental and even biological psychology by focusing on specific topics. Psychology will offer you a unique academic experience. You will need to be able to learn scientific information such as the aims, procedures and findings of studies but you will also need to be able to evaluate these theories critically and provide relevant evidence. Some answers require you to be concise but there are also longer essay based answers, thus again providing diverse experiences and useful transferable skills - developed through the study of fascinating topics. Most importantly, Psychology gives you an opportunity to learn, understand and evaluate issues happening around you in your everyday life, which could then be applied to the wider world.

What goes well with Psychology?

Biology and/or Physical Education are particularly well suited for studying with Psychology.

It is however an A-Level that can be studied alongside any combination of subjects.

Where can it take you?

The top seven degree courses taken by students who have an A-Level in Psychology are;

Psychology, English Studies, Sociology, Business Studies, Teaching, Sport and Exercise science, Law

Possible career options include;

Marketing, Business development, Accountancy, Human resources, Forensic psychology, Occupational therapy, Clinical psychology, Nursing, and many, many more!

Religious Studies: Philosophy and Ethics

'I think therefore I am.' Let us assume that you exist and that you think (although these assumptions are problematic for any philosopher!). Philosophy and Ethics will help you learn how to think, not what to think, and that is what employers and universities want.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: AQA Religious Studies (7062)

Component 1: The Philosophy of Religion and Ethical Studies

• Arguments for the existence of God (teleological, ontological, cosmological), evil and suffering, religious experience
• Religious language, miracles, self and life after death
• Normative ethical theories (deontological, teleological, character based), applied ethics: theft, lying, medical ethics (embryo research, cloning, 'designer' babies, abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment), issues of animal life and death (rights of animals, animals as food including intensive farming, animal testing, cloning, blood sports, organ transplants)
• Meta-ethics, free will and moral responsibility, conscience, Bentham and Kant

Component 2: The Study of a Religion (Christianity)

Section A: Study of Religion (Christianity)

• God, self, death and the afterlife, sources of wisdom and authority, good conduct and key moral principles and expressions of religious identity
• Gender and sexuality, Christianity and science, Christianity and secularisation and migration and religious pluralism

Section B: The dialogue between Philosophy of Religion and Christianity

• How Christianity is influenced by, and has an influence on Philosophy of Religion.

Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and Christianity

• How Christianity is influenced by, and has an influence on ethical issues

Why choose Philosophy and Ethics?

In an ever changing world open to new thoughts and forward thinking, philosophical enquiry and religious thought plays a key role in encouraging people to have a critical understanding of the world around us.

Ethics allows you to question what is 'right and wrong?' What are the rules that help us make choices between good and evil? Is murder ever justified? Is it ever right to deny people their rights?

Philosophy enables you to go on the search for the solutions to questions that other subjects cannot answer: Why are we here? What is beauty? What is the purpose of life? Do we have a soul? Why is there suffering in the world?

Employers and universities love Philosophy and Ethics students because they are trained in critically analysing ideas and evaluating their strengths and weaknesses. Students are able to engage with ideas beyond their own viewpoint, think beyond the obvious, and articulate arguments coherently and persuasively.

The study of Philosophy and Ethics opens the doors to a wide range of careers, including Law, Medicine and Business.

What goes well with Philosophy and Ethics?

Philosophy and Ethics is multidisciplinary, involving textual study, philosophical thinking, ethics, social understanding and the skills of analysis and reasoning. It also deals with contemporary contentious issues, developing social, cultural, political, philosophical and historical awareness. Thus Philosophy and Ethics can work alongside a wide variety of other courses.

Other popular subjects studied alongside Philosophy and Ethics include:

• Sciences (particularly relevant for medical ethics)
• Law
• Business
• Psychology
• History

Spanish

Spanish will open up the world for you. It is the official language of 20 countries and is the second most widely-spoken language after Mandarin. You will be able to travel, communicate, live and work in Spanish-speaking countries across the globe. A Level Spanish will give you the necessary skills to be able to do all of this, as well as making you more attractive to employers and Russell Group Universities.

COURSE OUTLINE

Awarding body: AQA Spanish (7692)

Topics studied:

Social issues and trends in Spanish speaking countries: modern and traditional values, cyberspace and equal rights in Lower Sixth; and immigration, racism and integration in Upper Sixth.

Political and artistic culture in Spanish speaking countries: modern-day idols, Spanish regional identity, and cultural heritage in Lower Sixth; and citizenship, monarchies and dictatorships, and unions in Upper Sixth.

We will also study a film in Lower Sixth and a book in Upper Sixth.

Assessment:

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing (50%)

Listening, reading and responding to spoken passages and written texts from a range of contexts and sources. Questions will target main points, gist and detail and students have individual control of recordings for the listening section.

Translation into English (minimum 100 words)

Translation into Spanish (minimum 100 words)

Paper 2: Writing (20%)

One essay question in Spanish on the book from a choice of two questions and one question in Spanish on the film from a choice of two questions. All questions will require a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues covered in the work and a critical and analytical response to features such as the form and the technique of presentation, as appropriate to the work studied.

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

Discussion of a theme from the topics studied with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks).

Why choose Spanish?

If you are interested in other cultures and enjoy the challenge of communicating in a different language then Spanish is for you.

Through the wide-ranging topics we study you will learn how to express yourself and communicate effectively with any Spanish-speaker, from Mexico to Madrid or from Argentina to Alicante. You will also have weekly sessions with the assistant as well as the opportunity to spend a week in Malaga at a language school.

Employers are very impressed by a qualification in a language; it will help you stand out from the crowd. Studying Spanish will impress employers and universities alike, as it shows that you have a well-rounded skill set: you will develop important transferable study and communication skills.

Many students study a language at A Level in order to give themselves the opportunity to travel or study abroad, either as part of a degree course, as part of their job, or for pleasure.

What goes well with Spanish?

Spanish A Level goes well with any other subject. Students who love languages will study it with another language, whilst others will combine it with another subject such as Physics, Geography or English Literature.

Life after Beechen Cliff

A well planned career and/or university application should give students a number of options from which to choose. 80% of Beechen Cliff students go on to study at degree level at higher education establishments either immediately or after a gap year, 8% go straight into employment and 3% go into other training (including HE preparation such as Art Foundation or apprenticeships).

Here is a range of what some of our students have gone on to do after leaving Beechen Cliff School, reflecting the wide range of opportunities that exist.

Henry studied A Levels in Physics, Product Design and Art as well as completing an Extended Project Qualification on precision agriculture, before going on to study Off Road Vehicle Design at Harper Adams College.

Ciara studied A Levels in English Literature, Geography and Spanish before going on to study Law at Kings College, Cambridge University.

Samir studied A Levels in Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Spanish before going on to study Natural Sciences at University College, London.

Matthew studied A Levels in Economics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Spanish before going on to study Economics at the London School of Economics.

Maria studied A Levels in Further Mathematics, Mathematics and Physics before taking up an elite apprenticeship at Atkins Engineering.

Olivia studied A Levels in Law, Spanish and German before going on to a degree course in Multilingual Studies at Royal Holloway College.

Marc studied A Levels in Mathematics, Further Mathematics, French, German and History before going on to study Persian at Wadham College, Oxford University.

Will studied A Levels in Geography, Spanish, and Politics before going on to a Liberal Arts course, with a tennis scholarship, at the Washington & Lee University in Virginia, U.S.A.

Ethan studied A Levels in Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry before going on to study Discrete Mathematics at the University of Warwick.

Hattie studied A Levels in Biology, English Literature and Psychology, and an Extended Project Qualification in gender stereotyping among nursery age children before going on to study Psychology at Plymouth University.

Holly studied A Levels in Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics as well as completing an Extended Project Qualification in programming a Raspberry Pi to control a quadcopter before going on to study Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University of Bristol.

Sam studied Mathematics, Computing and Product Design before going on to an elite apprenticeship at Jaguar Landrover.

Ieuan studied A Levels in Mathematics, English Literature and History before going on to the University of Edinburgh to study Architecture.

Amy studied A Levels in PE, Religious Studies and Psychology before going on to a degree course at Cardiff Metropolitan University in Educational and Early Childhood Studies.

Hugh studied A Levels in French, History and Art, and an Extended Project Qualification about Manet before going on to the Courtauld Institute of Art to study History of Art.

Lydia studied A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics before going on to study Medicine at Exeter University.

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