

Sixth Form Courses Guide

Years 12 & 13

2017–2019



Helping you make the right choice...

“We aim to produce resilient, creative independent learners who are flexible and proactive, who can solve problems, make decisions, think critically, communicate ideas effectively, and who work well within teams and can lead themselves and others to perform up to and beyond their potential.”

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A LEVEL SUBJECTS

Dear Parent(s)

At this important time of your son's/daughter's school career, I write to you regarding the Year 11 arrangements for the remainder of this academic year and the procedures for entering the Sixth Form at HCS.

Year 11 Programme for Sixth Form beginning September 2017

Monday 10th October: A Level Information Evening

Between 7.00pm and 8.30pm all Year 11 students and their parents have been invited to attend an A Level information evening where you can find out about the wide range of A Levels that we offer; our bespoke 6th Form personal tutor system and UCAS mentoring programme; our enrichment programme and our extensive co-curricular offerings. Heads of Department will be on hand to outline their course and field any questions you may have. Mr Yates, our Academic Deputy, will make a short presentation about the 6th Form curriculum.

Autumn term 1:1 discussion with Senior Leadership

During the Autumn term each student in Year 11 will have a 1:1 meeting with either Mr Hillier, Mrs Henry, Mr Yates or Mr Cuff to discuss their current thinking on subjects in the 6th Form and their university/career aspirations. This is also a forum in which they can ask any questions they may have about life after GCSE. Scholarship applicants are also interviewed and assessed during this period.

Early January: GCSE Mock examinations

The mock GCSE examinations will take place between the 4th and 13th January (inclusive). Results will be published in the week beginning 23rd January.

Tuesday 31st January: Year 11 Parents Evening

All parents are warmly invited to this meeting. Appointments can be made nearer the time using our online booking system. This will provide an opportunity to discuss suitability of Sixth Form course choices and to clarify next steps in terms of GCSE progress.

Monday 13th February : Final date for submission of A Level choices

The final date for return of the A Level choices form is Monday 13th February. Any queries should be directed to Mr Yates (graham.yates@hampshirecs.org.uk) This will be taken as a firm indication from the point of view of constructing the Sixth Form timetable. We expect to be able to accommodate most choices, but if there is a problem we will contact you. It may be possible to alter choices in light of GCSE results or a change of mind, but we cannot guarantee this, as the blocking pattern may not allow it, or for the more popular subjects there may not be any space.

Mid May – Late June: GCSE Examinations

All details and arrangements for the GCSE examinations will be sent to you well in advance.

Thursday 24th August: GCSE Results Day

Results can be collected in person from the Old Library from 9.00am onwards. Final details will be posted in the Spring term.

Yours sincerely



Graham Yates
Deputy Head Academic

Introduction from the Deputy Head Academic

Life in the Sixth Form is a liberating experience. For the first time in your school career, you will be able to study the subjects you love, and discard those which interest you less. You will have the opportunity to study your chosen subjects in depth, but you must be prepared for the fact that the move into the Sixth Form is a significant step.

You will be expected to work hard and to use your time wisely. There is plenty of support at hand, should you need it. Choose your subjects with care: play to your strengths and make sure that you select a combination that will help support the sort of university course or career you think you may like to follow.

Our aim is to help you maximise your potential and to enjoy success at A Level. However, at HCS we are about more than this. We want to ensure that we prepare you for a rapidly changing world by developing the sorts of characteristics that employers are placing increasing emphasis on. Our academic aim is outlined below:

We aim to produce resilient, creative independent learners who are flexible and proactive, who can solve problems, make decisions, think critically, communicate ideas effectively, and who work well within teams and can lead themselves and others to perform up to and beyond their potential.

Entry Requirements

Students studying A level at HCS will normally have a minimum of 5 grade A*-C's at GCSE, which include English Language and Mathematics. We expect students to achieve a grade B or above at GCSE in the subjects that they wish to study at A Level, or an equivalent subject. So, for Government and Politics we might look for a B in GCSE History. In order to study Maths at A Level we expect students to have achieved an A at GCSE and for Further Maths we expect an A*. For those students that have studied Dual Award Science at GCSE and want to go on to study a Science subject at A Level we would expect them to have achieved at least double A Grade in Dual Award. However, all cases will be looked at on an individual basis.

Reformed A Levels

The content and structure of all A Level courses has been reviewed and reformed by the Government. This saw some changes taking place for some subjects from September 2015, with a second phase of reformed subjects beginning September 2016. By the time you embark on your A Levels in September 2017 all subjects will have been reformed.

One of the main changes of the reformed subjects is that they are linear in nature. This means that all of the assessment takes place at the end of the two years of study. There are a number of advantages to being fully linear:

1. Removing all external exams from the L6th will reclaim the summer term for teaching. Crucially, gaining proper teaching in the summer term means that we will have more time to explore subject

knowledge in greater depth and to give pupils the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding.

2. Regaining the summer term will also mean students will have made greater progress in their A Level courses by the end of the L6th and so will have a better academic backdrop against which to make their university applications (and to prepare for any associated interviews).

3. Studying subjects in a linear fashion is better preparation for the rigours and demands of university study. Universities have been concerned about student's ability to manage their time and work independently, citing modular A Levels as overly bite-sized and exam focused.

Academic Enrichment and the Extended Project

As well as studying for your A level subjects all Sixth Form students will follow an enrichment programme. In the L6th this course will develop the crucial skills of top performing students including critical thinking, research, presentation and extended writing skills. This programme will also include talks from visiting speakers. All L6th students will work on an 'in house' Extended Project which will be completed prior to the end of the L6th. For some, there will be the opportunity to submit this for a Level 3 award, which is equivalent to half an A level.

The Extended Project is an opportunity for you to focus on something that genuinely interests you: whether this is the philosophy of religion, computer animation or the development of Hip-Hop Music. The outcome might be a small dissertation, but it might also be a musical composition, a dance, a piece of art, or indeed any sort of artefact. We encourage you to be as creative as you want to be with your chosen topic.

Extended Projects can be a powerful addition to your university application as they give you the opportunity to show that you know how to research, write in an extended academic style and present your outcome. Carefully chosen topics can be a powerful way to convince a university admissions tutor that you want to follow their course for a degree. Writing about your Extended Project can be a key element of the personal statement in your UCAS application. There is more information on the Extended Project in the subject section of this booklet.

In the U6th the enrichment programme offers you the opportunity to follow a variety of short courses in a diverse range of topics including Cookery, Fitness, Car maintenance and Mindfulness.

Sixth Form Curriculum Choices 2017 – 2019

In light of the increased rigour of the linear A Levels, together with the responses of universities, which are overwhelmingly now making three grade offers, with very few, if any requiring a 4th subject at AS, we would anticipate that most students follow three A Level subjects. The options that are available are:

1. Three A Level subjects and an 'in house' Extended Project. We would anticipate that this path would be chosen by the majority of students.
2. Three A Level subjects and a Level 3 Extended Project (equivalent to half an A Level). Students following this route would have three extra lessons on their timetable for the Extended Project. This is a demanding path and so should be considered carefully.
3. Four A Levels. There may be one or two pupils who would like to consider taking four A Levels through to A2. If this is a route you would like to explore then please contact me to arrange a meeting to discuss.

Advice on Choice

The best general principle is to choose a manageable combination of subjects that you enjoy, or are confident through research that you will enjoy, as this is most likely to lead to achieving the best grades. However, it is important to ensure that, where specific degrees and/or careers are being aimed at, the essential A Levels are chosen. For example, those wishing to read Engineering must have Maths and Physics at A Level. For many undergraduate courses specific combinations of A Level are not required. If you would like further guidance on this then please speak to a member of either the Sixth Form team, Mr Hillier or Miss Mills, of the University/Careers team, Mrs O'Leary or Mrs Cuff.



Mr Graham Yates

Deputy Head Academic

graham.yates@hampshirecs.org.uk

A Message from the Head of Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at Hampshire Collegiate School is a dynamic, vibrant and inspiring environment. Sixth Form offers the opportunity for students to begin to specialise in subjects and fields that they have always wanted to study in greater detail. This is an exciting step towards Higher Education, and careers beyond, and at HCS we do all we can to make this process fulfilling, informative and beneficial for each and every student.

I hope you find the information you require within this guide, but if you have further questions please contact me.

A unique and personal approach to supporting your development.

At HCS we offer a uniquely personalised academic and pastoral support system throughout the two year A Level programme. A wide number of experienced members of teaching staff, who form a dedicated Sixth Form personal tutor team, offer individualised advice and practical support to facilitate progress. We want every student to reach their full potential; students' progress is monitored throughout the course to ensure this is achieved.

In addition to their personal tutor, students also have a dedicated UCAS and careers mentor who will discuss choices beyond leaving school. In addition, we have a drop-in careers clinic that runs twice a week. The careers library is furnished with the latest vocational/careers material, giving information on all aspects of higher education entry as well as employment advice. Particular care is taken to ensure each student's aspirations are considered in full.

Effective communication is essential in the Sixth Form and we aim to keep parents and students well informed about academic progress. Staff are readily accessible for individual assistance, questions or discussion. The Sixth Form Centre has been recently developed to allow students the space and opportunity to work and socialise in a modern environment which includes a lounge, kitchen, IT facilities and WiFi. Furthermore, students have a dedicated work space in a separate 6th Form Study area for quiet and focused studying.

Sixth Formers at HCS are expected to have academic ambition, but in addition to this, we want them to participate in the myriad of opportunities provided for personal development through the co-curricular and enrichment programmes. Taking part in team sports, music, drama or individual pursuits is encouraged, and participation in the Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme or Young Enterprise, a stimulating business initiative, can be highly rewarding.

We believe that HCS offers students a unique and varied opportunity. We provide a thorough academic and pastoral support network which, allied to excellent practice in the classroom and small classes, means students have no reason to not fully realise their potential. This package enables our students to develop into well rounded, confident and mature young adults. The staff at HCS are committed to creating a vibrant Sixth Form community that values effort, initiative, enthusiasm and achievement, and we know that HCS Sixth Formers appreciate these aspects of life too.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Sixth Form at HCS.



Head of Sixth Form

joe.hillier@hampshirecs.org.uk

Careers at HCS

The Careers facility is available to students from Year 7 to the Sixth Form. Meetings can be arranged to discuss any stage of a student's development through school and on to university, college or into the workplace.

The Careers Library houses a wide variety of information, including university prospectuses, leaflets on CV writing skills, gap year flyers, apprenticeship information, interview techniques, work experience magazines, psychometric testing and more.

In Year 12 there is a full Higher Education programme and all pupils are assigned a personal UCAS Mentor who they will meet with regularly on a one to one basis. The Careers Department work closely with the students to advise them of all the options available. All pupils are invited to have an individual interview with a careers specialist to discuss their specific interests, strengths and options that helps the students to assess what universities and courses they could consider prior to attending the UCAS Convention. Interest and ability levels are provided for a range of courses and industries beyond university.

During the spring term all students attend talks given by outside speakers and the annual University Convention organised by UCAS in Portsmouth. This provides the opportunity for students to enquire about courses and universities with admissions tutors and undergraduates. This marks the start of the formal process of research into Higher Education. The Careers Department hold an annual Careers Convention in January, where students are able to talk openly and inquisitively to a host of professionals who come in to discuss their career path.

The UCAS registration process starts at the end of Year 12. Students are given guidance as to how they can apply to university through UCAS (The University and Colleges Admission System) and ensure that their application is as thorough as possible. Pupils also attend a workshop on 'How to write a successful personal statement'.

In Year 13 pupils are guided through the preparation of their university application by their UCAS mentor, with whom they will continue to have one to one meetings. There are Higher Education talks and guidance on student finance. There is also information available about courses and conferences throughout the year for pupils looking to follow a certain career path, such as Law, Medicine or Veterinary Science.

Throughout the Sixth Form extensive information on summer placements, charity work and overseas expeditions are also provided. There is information on studying abroad or being an overseas student in the UK. We recognise that not all students will apply to university and some may choose to go straight into the workplace; UCAS and careers staff will provide the necessary guidance and provide information about the best companies to work for and the best writing style for Curriculum Vitae.

UCAS staff aim to help students through to the end of Year 13 and beyond; if we don't have the specific information at hand about a career a student want to pursue, we will make every effort to contact a specialist to help and give guidance. For further information or to book an initial meeting, contact:

Head of Sixth Form: joe.hillier@hampshirecs.org.uk

UCAS co-ordinator: sarah.O'leary@hampshirecs.org.uk

Head of Careers: kate.cuff@hampshirecs.org.uk

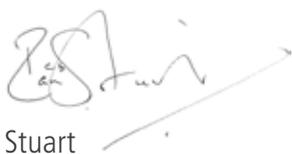
Co–Curricular Activities

Hampshire Collegiate School recognises the wishes of universities and future employers for students to offer more than simply an impressive academic record. To help our students develop there is a programme of both enrichment and co–curricular activities.

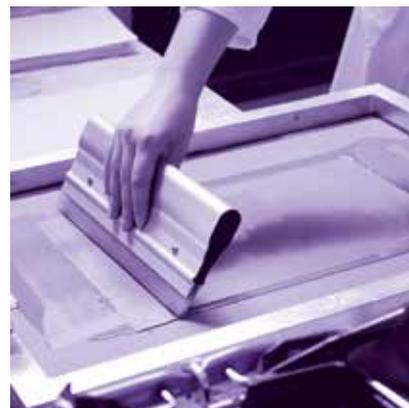
Our Sixth Form enrichment programme offers unique opportunities to develop existing or new areas of interest (outlined further on page 5). The students are also encouraged to take part in other co–curricular opportunities available through the school’s activities programme. Currently, over 70 are on offer for students to choose from during the year – a example list is below for the Autumn Term.

Sport plays a big part in life at Hampshire Collegiate School and the Sixth Form are important contributors to the successes of the various sports teams. In the Autumn and Spring Terms, football, rugby, hockey and netball are the major representative sports at the school. In the Summer Term pupils play cricket, tennis and rounders. These are supplemented by a variety of other sports, such as athletics and golf. Coaching is provided at all levels, by qualified coaches on the school staff.

For many years Hampshire Collegiate School has had a strong reputation in netball, hockey, rugby and cricket, with pupils representing Hampshire at divisional and national level and at all ages. The school also regularly hosts sports tournaments, attracting schools from across the South and South East of England.



Ian Stuart
Director of Co-Curricular
ian.stuart@hampshirecs.org.uk



Art	Duke of Edinburgh Award	Boys	Scrabble and Word Games
Badminton	English Clinic	Jazz Band	Song Writing/Sonar
Boys Hockey	GCSE Revision Clinics	Knitting	Spanish Conversation
Boys Singing Group	Falconry	French conversation	Speakers Corner
Business & Economics workshop	Fencing	Lacrosse	Statistics
Careers advice	Fishing	Make up and Styling	Table Tennis
Chemistry Club	Football	Netball	Technology electronics club
Chess Club	Gardening	Orchestra/String Group	Textiles
Choir	German Club	Rock Challenge (competitive dancing)	Trampolineing
Creative Writing Magazine	Girls Singing Group	Road cycling/turbo training	Warhammer
Cricket Academy	Golf	Rounders	Yoga
Dance & Gymnastics	Hockey	Rugby	
Dance, Gym, Vaulting	Horse Riding	Sailing	
Drama Club	ICT	School Musical	
	Indoor Hockey Girls and		

Art & Design: Fine Art, Textiles and Photography

- Small classes: teaching is tailored to the individual to identify, foster, develop and maximise personal strengths and interests.
- Dedicated Sixth Form study areas: students can use this during study periods, lunchtimes and after school. This facility is also available to boarders at the weekends.
- Extra tuition is available during the lunch hour every day and after school until 5.00 pm.
- Every year A Level students go on to Higher Education Foundation Courses in Art and Design. The Art Department has a 100% record of placing students on Foundation Courses.
- The Art department offers individual help with Foundation Course applications, writing of Personal Statements, preparation for interview and interview portfolios.



There are three available A Levels. Students may choose one or more of the following three areas of study throughout the A Level course; Fine Art, Textiles or Photography. An Art & Design course will encourage you to develop intellectual curiosity, imaginative, creative and intuitive capabilities, as well as initiative, self-discipline and an enquiring mind. It is a subject that demands active participation and helps you to fulfil your individual potential.

Art & Design – Fine Art

In Fine Art students will work in a range of media such as drawing and painting, collage and sculpture. You will demonstrate a range of skills in different approaches to recording images, such as observation, analysis, expression and imagination. You will also explore conventions of figurative/representational and abstract/non-representational imagery or genres. Throughout the course you will show:

- How ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts in the chosen area(s) of study within Fine art.
- An understanding of historical and contemporary developments and different styles and genres.
- How images and artefacts relate to social, environmental, cultural and/or ethical contexts, and to the time and place in which they were created.
- Continuity and change in different styles, genres and traditions relevant to Fine art.
- A working vocabulary and specialist terminology that is relevant to their chosen area(s) of Fine art.

Art & Design – Textiles

In Textiles students will explore a range of textile media such as embroidery, dyeing, sewing and screen printing. Students explore both traditional and new media to produce art textiles and use sketchbooks/workbooks/journals to underpin their work. You will experiment with a range of practical skills to explore your own creative outcomes. Throughout the course you will demonstrate:

- The use of relevant materials, processes, technologies and resources.
- How ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts created in the chosen area(s) of textile design.
- An understanding of historical and contemporary developments and different styles and genres.
- How images and artefacts relate to social, environmental, cultural and/or ethical contexts, and to the time and place in which they were created.
- Continuity and change in different styles, genres and traditions relevant to textile design.
- A working vocabulary and specialist terminology that is relevant to their chosen area(s) of textile design.



Art & Design – Photography

In Photography students will explore a range of photographic media, techniques and processes underpinned by both traditional and new techniques. You will research past artists / photographers to gain an insight into how you can explore your own creative ideas. You will use sketchbooks to explore and experiment with ideas which will include storyboards, processes, thumbnail sketches and thoughts. You will be able to practice in any of the following areas:

- Portraiture
- Landscape photography (working from the urban, rural and/or coastal environment)
- Still life photography (working from objects or from the natural world)
- Documentary photography, photojournalism
- Experimental imagery
- Multimedia
- Photographic installation
- Moving image (video, film, animation)

Throughout the course you will demonstrate:

- An ability to explore elements of visual language, line, form, colour, pattern and texture in the context of photography.



- Awareness of intended audience or purpose for their chosen area(s) of photography.
- The ability to respond to an issue, theme, concept or idea, or work to a brief or answer a need in photography.
- Appreciation of viewpoint, composition, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement.
- Appropriate use of the camera, film, lenses, filters and lighting for work in their chosen area(s) of photography.
- Understanding of techniques related to the production of photographic images and, where appropriate, presentation and layout.

How will I study?

In each course you will be encouraged to identify and develop your strengths and to generate and sustain your own lines of enquiry using appropriate media and techniques. Through studying Fine Art, Textiles or Photography you will acquire investigative, analytical, practical, technical and expressive skills, as well as aesthetic and contextual understanding and critical judgement.

You will be encouraged to work independently, and to develop, review and refine your ideas as well as evaluating and reflecting upon your own work and progress. You will develop and use knowledge and understanding of the work of others to develop and extend your thinking and to inform your own work.

Drawing skills are an important aspect of art and design A Level work. Drawing can be used in a variety of ways: for observation analysis, planning, developing ideas and to realise intentions. Drawing can also be used to explore the formal elements; line, tone, shape, form, colour, pattern, texture and spatial relationships.

Sketchbooks are used in a variety of ways to document the development of your work and ideas. They can be used for recording, for observation and analysis, to explore and resolve problems, for personal evaluation as well as being a visual and written diary. The sketch book documents all the stages of the “process of making” and contains most of the evidence for the accurate assessment of your work.

A Level assessment

- Component 1: Personal investigation 60% of A Level (No time limit)
- Component 2: Externally set assignment 40% of A Level. Preparatory period + 15 hours supervised time.

What do I need to start the course?

- Fine Art: Ideally, you should have studied Art to GCSE level and have achieved a Grade B or above.
- Textiles: Ideally, GCSE textiles at Grade B or above or evidence of a keen interest in textile techniques, experience of using a sewing machine, with examples of work.
- Photography: Ideally, GCSE photography at Grade B or above, or evidence of a keen interest in photography contained in a portfolio.

For full course specification: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design>

Biology

- We are a team of enthusiastic, dynamic, innovative and experienced staff.
- We provide a supportive environment to help you to reach your full potential.
- We have unrivalled modern laboratories.
- We offer a variety of extension projects, including the Biology Olympiad & field trips.

Biology is a subject that encompasses a multitude of skills and scientific concepts. It is ideal in combination with other scientifically based subjects such as Chemistry, Physics and Maths and it adds breadth to a range of other subjects like Geography and Psychology. Biology A level is essential if you wish to study any biologically based subject at university.

In order to study A level Biology, pupils need to achieve GCSE Core and Additional Science, both at Grade B or GCSE Biology at Grade B. In addition, Chemistry and Maths at grade B and a good grade in GCSE English usually indicates students who are likely to do well.

This specification was introduced in September 2015 and is linear in nature.

Subject content:

First Year of Study – Year 12

1. Biological Molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms and their environment
4. Genetic information & Variation

Second Year of Study – Year 13

5. Energy Transfer
6. Organisms responding to change
7. Genetics, populations & Ecosystems
8. The control of Gene Expression

For full course specification: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/biology-guide>

Pupil Name:

Gabriella Hebert

Studying A Level:

Geography, Chemistry, Biology, Maths (AS)

What course are you hoping to follow at University? *Biology or Marine Biology*

What do you like most about Sixth Form at HCS? *"The classes are small."*

What are your tips for success in the Sixth Form? *"Always use the resources that the teachers provide."*

Assessment

- Three papers, each of 2 hours.
- All have practical application questions.
- Paper 1: Long and short answer questions & extended response. Testing topics 1 to 4.
- Paper 2: Long and short answer questions & comprehension question. Testing topics 5 to 8.
- Paper 3: Structured questions, critical analysis and an essay. Testing topics 1 to 8.

Many of our students go on to study Biology related courses at university. A number of students each year are successful in obtaining places on highly competitive courses at top universities.

Applied Business: Level 3 Extended Certificate

This vocational qualification provides a broader and deeper understanding of business knowledge and skills to support progress to higher education and is suitable for learning alongside A-levels. It is strongly entrepreneurial in character and, unlike the linear A Levels, is assessed through a combination of exams, external assignments and centre set assignments.

This qualification is assessed as a pass, merit or distinction however it is expected that each level comes with the following UCAS points:

Pass	16 UCAS points	E grade equivalent at A Level
Merit	32 UCAS points	C grade equivalent at A Level
Distinction	48 UCAS points	A grade equivalent at A Level
Dinstinction*	56 UCAS points	A* grade equivalent at A Level

Applied Business focuses on 4 key themes:

- People
- Markets
- Finance and
- Operational Delivery

Core units that will be investigated are:

Financial planning and analysis

Learners explore different ways in which enterprises can be owned and financed. Learners will need to understand the issues that enterprises face and will use this information to make business decisions. External examination.

Business dynamics

Learners investigate factors contributing to the success of businesses, focussing on the role of managers, supervisors and employees. They consider how businesses organise themselves and will analyse and evaluate the effectiveness of these organisational structures. Internally centre assessed.

Entrepreneurial opportunities

Learners develop an understanding of entrepreneurial opportunities and investigate how individuals can exploit these through personal enterprise. They consider opportunities for personal enterprise for a given context and propose marketing and operations activities to take advantage of entrepreneurial opportunities. External assignment.

Pupil Name: *Leo Tongue*

Studying A Level: *Law, Product Design & Business Studies*

What course are you hoping to follow at University? *Business Entrepreneurship*

What do you like most about Sixth Form at HCS? *"The small classes and friendly teachers. I really like the individual study booths and also the freedom and extra responsibilities."*

What are your tips for success in the Sixth Form? *"Have fun, take every opportunity you are given and study hard."*

Managing and leading people

Learners explore how organisations operate in a changing environment. Themes include leadership, how employees and managers interact in the workplace and the impact of organisational structures on how managers and employees work. External examination.

Developing a business proposal

Learners develop, present and evaluate a business proposal. The business proposal will require human resources beyond those provided by the learner. Learners will develop and present their proposal to funding providers. Internally centre assessed.

Students will also study one option from the following:

E-Business implementation

Learners develop an e-business proposal for a new business start-up. Including how existing small business organisations use e-business to communicate and carry out internal business activities. They use information from the Business proposal to create an e-business strategy capable of supporting the business proposal. Internally centre assessed.

Managing an event

Learners investigate how to plan for, manage and review a one-off event related to the business proposal. Internally centre assessed.

Marketing communications

Learners investigate the use of marketing communications by small businesses, develop a marketing communications mix for the business proposal and recommend a schedule of marketing communications. Internally centre assessed.

For more information contact Mr Graham Yates, Deputy Head Academic: graham.yates@hampshirecs.org.uk

Chemistry

Chemistry is everywhere – medicines, the environment and new smart materials are just three examples. Increasingly, an understanding of chemical principles is becoming vital to explain and improve the world we live in. Our aim is to make you a confident citizen of a technological world, to enable you to recognise the usefulness of the scientific method and for you to be prepared for further study. In addition, and most importantly, we want you to enjoy Chemistry!

The Chemistry department offers you all the tools you will need to understand Chemistry. A Level Chemistry is taught in small groups, providing each student with individual attention; students will regularly receive individual feedback from teachers and will be provided with all the help and support they may need. Students will study chemistry in a range of different contexts, conveying the excitement of contemporary chemistry. Ideas are introduced in a spiral way with topics introduced in an early part of the course reinforced later. There is a particular emphasis on an investigational and problem-solving approach to practical work.

Students will study the OCR Chemistry B (Salters) syllabus:

Year 12

- Elements of life – A study of elements and compounds in the universe, the human body and in salt deposits.
- Developing fuels – A study of fuels, what they consist of, how energy involved in their combustion is measured and the contributions that chemists make to the development of better fuels.
- Elements from the sea – A study of the extraction of halogens from minerals in the sea, together with a study of the properties and uses of these elements and their compounds.
- The ozone story – A study of important processes occurring in the ozone layer of the atmosphere.
- What's in a medicine? – A study of medicines such as aspirin, leading to much functional group chemistry and methods of analysis.

Year 13

- The chemical industry – A study of how chemists use industrial processes to benefit mankind.
- Polymers and life – A study of condensation polymers, proteins and enzymes, DNA and its use in synthesising proteins.
- Oceans – A study of the role of the oceans in dissolving substances and maintaining pH.
- Developing metals – A study of the reactions and properties of the transition metals.
- Colour by design – A study of dyes and dyeing and the use of chemistry to provide colour to order.

Pupil Name: *Maya Sheryn*

Studying A Level:

*Chemistry, Biology,
Geography*

What course are you hoping to follow at University? *Chemistry with Sports Science*

What do you like most about Sixth Form at HCS? *"Small class sizes. Lots of areas to work quietly, helpful teachers."*

What are your tips for success in the Sixth Form? *"Get all your work done when it is set and use your 'frees' effectively."*

A Level assessed by two 2 hour 15 minute exams and a further 1 hour 30 minute exam. During the two years of the course you will carry out a large amount of practical work. During these experiments you will be assessed on your ability to carry out various tasks with the required level of skill. This will be reported separately to your A Level grade as a practical endorsement (which is graded as pass or fail).

What skills do I need?

Students should have a good understanding of Science at GCSE and be willing to apply their knowledge to real world situations.

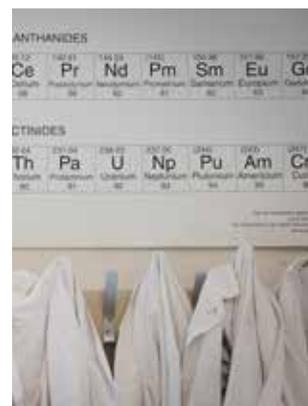
A grade B in Chemistry and a grade B in either Physics or Biology (or grade B in Core Science and additional science) at GCSE are vital. A grade B in Maths at GCSE is highly recommended.

Why Study Chemistry A Level?

Chemistry at A Level is extremely interesting, and is a vital foundation for many courses such as from Medicine and Pharmacy. Chemistry is also highly thought of by subjects such as Law, where the use of precise definitions and accurate techniques taught in chemistry are vital. One of the most challenging (and rapidly growing) areas of science is that of our Environment, and a firm understanding of the principles of Chemistry will be necessary if we are to work on the problems posed by human impact on this environment.

For full course specification visit:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-chemistry-b-salters-h033-h433-from-2015/>



Design & Technology (Product Design)

At HCS we have excellent Design Technology facilities providing a spacious and inspiring environment to work and learn. The facilities include a well-equipped workshop, a design studio and an ICT suite linked to CAD/CAM.

A Level Design and Technology: Product Design (3–D Design) helps students take a broad view of design and technology, develop their capacity to design and make products and appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing. You will develop and demonstrate skills in market research, product analysis, designing, modelling and testing. The aim of the course is to develop prototypes which can be tested to evaluate their fitness for purpose.

The course encourages you to think about the objects that you love. Your mobile gadgets with their elegant curves were designed by product designers on a computer screen. The car you yearn for started life as a reduced size clay model. A building that you admire sprang from the drawing board of an architect. And it's not a new phenomenon. Our fascination with 3D design goes back to flint arrow heads and earthenware pots.

As a 3D designer you are at the crossroads of a number of skills. You need creativity in order to imagine the shape and function of the object. But you'll also need to know about manufacturing processes, materials and marketing.

Product Design is an enormously satisfying career. You have an idea and – with the use of modelling tools like clay or computers – it comes to life. Imagine how satisfying it must be for the person who designed the iPhone or Razr to hold the finished product in their hand.

The A Level Product Design course covers four main topics, and you'll study two of these each year.

A Level Outline

- The A Level course will require you to complete a project (45 hours) which will involve research and investigation into a given context, designing and making prototypes to communicate your ideas (50% of A Level).
- There are also two exams which will be based on knowledge of design principles, materials and their applications, commercial manufacturing systems and wider ethical issues.
- Paper 1 is based on Core technical principles and core designing and making principles. The paper has a mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended responses questions (25% of A-Level).
- Paper 2 is based on Specialist knowledge, technical and designing and making principles. Section A: Product Analysis & Section B: Commercial manufacture (25% of the A-Level).

For full course specification visit: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/alevel/design-and-technology-product-design-3d-2550>

Pupil Name: *John Austin*

Studying A Level: *Design Technology, Business Studies and Music Technology*

What course are you hoping to follow at University? *I'm hoping to Music and Business or Business Marketing*

What do you like most about Sixth Form at HCS? *"There is co-operation and unity between the Sixth Form"*

What are your tips for success in the Sixth Form? *"To be organised and plan out the day so you can always be ahead."*

Drama

In A Level Drama & Theatre Studies you will gain a thorough understanding of how theatre and plays are created and used. This course demands you to use practical, creative and communication skills in equal measure.

- Regular theatre trips to top venues.
- Professional actors providing workshops.
- Regular opportunities to perform at HCS to an audience.
- Opportunities to create whole performances from scratch.
- An opportunity to work on the technical side as well as performance.

What will the course involve?

You will extend your ability to create drama and theatre using various stimuli, either in a performing or production role. Opportunities for the use of technical skills such as lighting and sound will be offered as well as directorial skills. You will also be required to write about drama and develop your powers of analysis to become an informed critic. The course will involve taking part in drama productions, as well as studying plays and playwrights.

Component 1- Theatre Workshop- 20% of qualification

Students participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text, using the techniques of an influential practitioner or theatre company. Students produce a realisation of the performance or design and a creative log.

Component 2- Text in Action- 40% of qualification

Students participate in the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus.

1. A devised piece using the techniques and methods of a practitioner or theatre company.
2. An extract from a text in a different style chosen by the student.

This is an externally examined performance. Designers also give a 5-10 minute presentation of their design to the examiner.

Students produce a process and evaluation report within one week of completion of the practical work.

Component 3- Text in Performance- 40% of qualification

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

Sections A and B

Two questions based on two different texts, one written pre-1956 and one written post 1956

Section C

Closed book

A question based on a specified extract from: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

Pupil Name:

Freya Crompton

Studying A Level: *Drama, English Literature, PE*

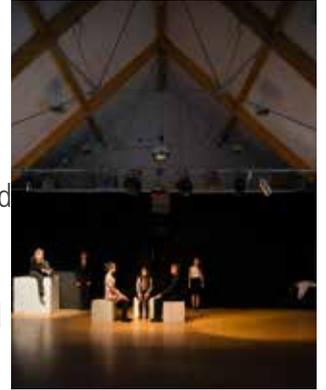
What course are you hoping to follow at University? *I'm hoping to go to Drama School*

What do you like most about Sixth Form at HCS? *"There are designated areas specifically for the Sixth Form to study and to relax."*

What are your tips for success in the Sixth Form? *"Work hard."*

What skills do I need?

You need to be curious about issues and ideas and have a creative instinct for communicating your views through drama. You may be keen on acting, writing or on the visual and technical side of theatre and wish to develop your skills in some or all of these areas. Equally, you will be interested in going to the theatre to see plays performed by different theatre companies to broaden your understanding and appreciation of theatre. Drama is a creative subject but is also very demanding. The subject should appeal to students who are both artistic and academic. You do not have to have studied drama at GCSE level, but it helps.



How will I study?

The lessons will be a mixture of teacher led activity, practical workshops and rehearsals. Most of the time you will work in a group but there are many opportunities for individual study.

Why study Drama and Theatre Studies A Level?

This Advanced Level GCE can lead to further study in Drama, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts in Higher Education or at degree level. It can be used as part of your course to broaden your studies and may lead on to a career in the performing arts industries. Drama A Level complements a range of subjects and is useful in building confidence and improving presentation skills in a range of careers.

For full course specifications visit:

<http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/drama/drama-gce-aas/#related-documents-section>

Economics

Why study Economics?

What does Brexit mean for the economy? Should the government raise taxes or reduce spending to tackle debt? Is China a threat or an opportunity?

These are some of the many questions dealt with in an Economics course. Students are encouraged to take a lively interest in current affairs as discussed in the newspapers or on radio or television. By the end of the course, students will be in a position to understand and discuss current economic issues, such as what the implications of leaving the EU will be, the importance of controlling inflation, the effect of commodity price rises on businesses, consumers and the economy.

This is an excellent subject for the numerate, literate and able student. Economics complements a wide range of other subjects such as Maths, English, History, Geography, Politics, Philosophy, Science or Art. Economics will teach you to be analytical and critical, skills that are highly sought after by prospective employers.

What will I study?

The approach taken is to apply economic theory to support analysis of current economic problems and issues. This encourages the appreciation of the interrelationships between microeconomics and macroeconomics.

The course covers the following areas:

Individuals, firms, markets and market failure

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

The national and international economy

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

Pupil Name: Zoe Lynch

Studying A Level:

Economics, Business Studies, Geography

What course are you hoping to follow at University? *Business Economics*

What do you like most about Sixth Form at HCS? *"We have a personal tutor to help us if we need it, especially with UCAS. It's easy to get help from teachers too."*

What are your tips for success in the Sixth Form? *"Get help if you need it."*

How is it assessed?

Paper 1 Markets and Market Failure

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks
- 33.3% of A-level

Questions

- 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 and International Economy

Assessed

- written exam 2 hours
- 80 marks
- 33.3% of A-level

Questions

- 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

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks
- 33.3% of A-level

Questions

- Section A: multiple choice questions worth 30 marks
- Section B: case study questions requiring written answers, worth 50 marks

For full course specifications visit:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/business-subjects/as-and-a-level/economics-7135-7136>

English Language

English Language is an exciting, dynamic and contemporary subject to study at A Level, alongside other arts subjects, or as a contrast to a different mix of disciplines. Alongside some detailed work on the mechanics of language, involving development of a detailed linguistic skill set, students will study current and historical texts, evaluating how meaning is created and why people make specific choices when communicating. Delivered in an enthusiastic and practical manner, you will be challenged and motivated to succeed in this subject.

Year 12

English Language focuses on personal and immediate language contexts; the subject involves the study of grammar, semantics, pragmatics, phonology, lexis and graphology. The course aims to develop a student's technical understanding of English language texts, textual variations, language diversity and writing skills.

Year 13

Language is placed in its wider social, historical and global contexts; students will be required to study the history of the English language and how age, gender, class, geography and ethnicity can influence language. Students will investigate how children go through the initial phases of child language acquisition and how children develop writing skills. There will also be a language investigation based on language in action.

What skills do I need?

Ideally, students need grade 'B' or above in GCSE English Language, an enquiring mind and an interest in this relevant and exciting subject.

Why study English Language at A Level?

The rigour and skills imparted by the subject are well recognised by employers and it is excellent preparation for the demands of a wide variety of university courses.

For full course specification visit:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702>

English Literature

Studying English Literature is a challenging and rewarding experience. Taught in an enthusiastic and academic manner by highly experienced teachers, you will enjoy reading a wide range of prose, poetry and drama. Through close critical analysis and group discussion, you will develop your speaking, writing and thinking skills. You will widen your own creative boundaries in the company of the greatest writers.

Year 12

You will study a Shakespeare play, an anthology of poetry and two prose texts whilst considering the presentation of 'Love through the Ages'. Literature is studied through the lens of historicism and within a shared context; through independent study you will deepen your knowledge and love of the subject.

Year 13

You will continue to hone your critical skills and will be encouraged to follow your own reading path as you carry out an independent critical study of texts across time, perhaps studying the Gothic genre, satire and dystopia or representations of race and ethnicity, for example. A wide variety of assessment styles, such as passage based questions, unseen material and multiple text questions will allow you to develop a wide range of skills that will be invaluable in later life.

What skills do I need?

Ideally, students would benefit from having grade 'B' or above in GCSE English Language or English Literature. More importantly, you should love reading and have a desire to immerse yourself in the study of literature.

Why study English Literature at A level?

You will be encouraged to pursue your own areas of interest and develop personal and independent learning skills; you will learn to read critically, analyse, evaluate and undertake independent research, all valuable skills for both further study and future employment. There is no limit to the possibilities that English Literature can give rise to. The subject is still one of the most prestigious to study in the country and career opportunities include: journalism, advertising, creative writing, teaching, law, broadcasting, public relations, the civil service and politics. More broadly, an enthusiasm for literature, added to an understanding of communication and human behaviour will be invaluable, whatever path you choose to follow.

For full course specification visit:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-a-7711-7712>

Pupil Name: *Romané Basset*

Studying A Level: *English Literature, French and Geography*

What course are you hoping to follow at University? *I'm hoping to read English and French at Oxford University*

What do you like most about Sixth Form at HCS? *"I was fortunate to be chosen as Head Boy which is proving to be a great experience."*

What are your tips for success in the Sixth Form? *"Stay calm, focussed and work hard."*

Extended Project Qualification Level 3 (EPQ)

The Extended Project is a wonderful way for students to explore personal interests and ideas in a way that is academically beneficial to them but it is also an opportunity to learn about how to follow through a challenging project from inception to completion. It is a year long course that takes place during Year 12 which will develop crucial academic skills including critical thinking, research, presentation and extended writing skills required for university and beyond. It is also an opportunity for students to focus on a topic that genuinely interests them and turn it into an academic project equivalent of 50% of an A-level in terms of UCAS points. Projects may consider the philosophy of religion, computer animation or the development of Hip-Hop Music but may also aim to produce something such as a work of art.

There are 4 different types of Extended Project that you can select from:

Dissertation: A theoretical written project on any topic presenting an argument, e.g. research into a biological, historical or environmental issue.

Investigation: A practical investigatory project involving the collection of data, e.g. Study a scientific investigation, a geographical study of erosion, a biological study of pollution, a statistical survey.

Performance: Development of practical skills resulting in a performance, e.g. performing music, drama, sport.

Artefact: For example, making a painting or sculpture, designing a piece of furniture or a garment, creating a website, solving an engineering /construction problem, producing a piece of graphic design.

Why study the EPQ?

The Extended Project is a powerful addition to a university application as they give you the opportunity to show that you know how to research, write in an extended academic style and can present your outcome. Some universities will lower the A-level entry requirements if a high grade is achieved in an EPQ. The EPQ can be an opportunity for students to engage with a topic in more detail or a subject that isn't within the curriculum but one that might inform their career or university course choice.

Carefully chosen topics can be an excellent way to convince a university admissions tutor that you want to follow their course for a degree.

What skills do I need?

To be successful at the project students need to be motivated and have the willingness to want to succeed as an independent learner. An effective EPQ student will have or want to improve their organisational skills. We encourage students to be as creative as possible when choosing their topic and then This will include documenting progress and hurdles encountered along the way in writing and possibly along with video or photo formats. In all projects there is an element of written work depending on the type of project chosen, so essay writing skills are required, taught and developed as part of the course.

How will I study?

Students will meet with their EPQ tutor for lessons on the essential skills required, as well as one to one meetings to initiate and support their individual projects. The latter will provide directed tasks as well as encourage self-initiated research that must be managed and completed by mutually agreed deadlines. The EPQ tutor will teach students how to present, refine and research it in a formal way, with close attention to the process as much as the final outcome. EPQ tutors provide a great deal of input and support but much of the individual research and the creation of the project are governed by the student.

The outcome might be a small dissertation, but it might also be a musical composition, a dance, a piece of art, or indeed any sort of artefact. The process from deciding on a title will be logged or diarised throughout the project and this forms part of the internal assessment at the end of the project. At the end of the project the student gives a presentation on their project to small audience- this is also assessed.

University of Bristol:

"The University recognises that some A Level students may also choose to offer the Extended Project. In such cases some admissions tutors may make two alternative offers, one of which involves success in the Extended Project (e.g. either AAA at A Level or AAB at A Level plus Extended Project)."

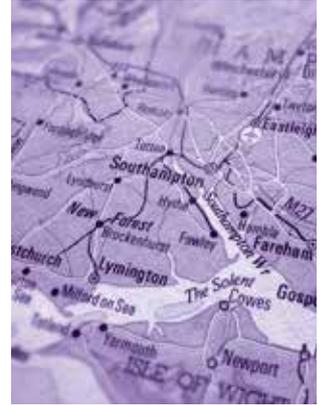
University of

Southampton: *"All applicants for our Humanities and Human and Social Sciences courses undertaking an EPQ will be made an ... alternative offer... one grade reduced from our traditional offer in exchange for an A in the EPQ."*

"We value the EPQ... We have an increasingly compelling evidence base that students who did well at the EPQ settle in well to their undergraduate study at a research-intensive university."

Geography

Geography is one of the most fascinating subjects that you could choose to study. It enables you to fully understand the physical and human landscape that you see around you and it is a subject which can be enjoyed for many years to come. Whenever you are visiting a new place, just think how much more interesting it is if you have an appreciation of how things have formed, how they got there, how they may change in the future. Geography A Level provides an excellent opportunity to be able to find answers to questions like these and to continue learning about the world around us.



Exam board

Students will study the Cambridge International A Level course.

Summary of A Level

In the first year, students will study the following topics:

- Core Physical Geography – Hydrology, Atmosphere and weather, Rocks and weathering
- Core Human Geography – Population, Migration, Settlement dynamics

In the second year, students will study the following topics:

- Advanced Physical Geography – Coastal environments, Hazardous environments
- Advanced Human Geography – Global interdependence (trade, aid, tourism), Economic transition (development)

Assessment

Paper 1

Core Physical Geography 1 hour 30 minutes 60 marks

Section A: Three data response questions (30 marks)

Section B: One structured question from a choice of three (30 marks)

Paper 2

Core Human Geography 1 hour 30 minutes 60 marks

Section A: Three data response questions (30 marks)

Section B: One structured question from a choice of three (30 marks)

Paper 3

Advanced Physical Geography Options 1 hour 30 minutes 60 marks

Candidates answer questions on two chosen topics.

Each topic consists of one structured question (10 marks) and one essay from a choice of two (20 marks)

Paper 4

Advanced Human Geography Options 1 hour 30 minutes 60 marks

Candidates answer questions on two chosen topics.

Each topic consists of one structured question (10 marks) and one essay from a choice of two (20 marks)

What skills do I need?

You need an enquiring mind and an enthusiasm for the subject. It is an extremely rewarding course but you do need to work hard as it can be quite challenging. We therefore recommend that a minimum of grade B in GCSE Geography is attained, to be able to study Geography at a higher level.

Geography incorporates a mixture of independent study, with group work. Presentations, debates and classroom discussion are important elements of the course. In addition, you will be expected to read widely around the subject to improve your background knowledge and increase your understanding of geographical language and concepts. You will be encouraged to subscribe to 'Geography Review', a journal for Sixth Form Geographers, and to attend conferences held by the Geographical Association.

Of course, Geography wouldn't be Geography without fieldwork. Throughout the two years a varied programme of fieldwork will be offered.

Why study Geography A Level?

Geography stands astride the arts and the sciences. With a mix of human and physical Geography, it enables you to think in both a scientific and creative way and it provides a great platform to a wide range of job opportunities. The skills which Geography fosters, makes it a subject which is highly sought after by employers, seen as a 'facilitator' subject by Russell Group universities. Integrated into the subject content are a number of transferable skills including literacy, numeracy, communication, teamwork, problem-solving and spatial awareness. The multitude of skills and the diverse knowledge acquired, makes Geography students highly employable across a range of professions.

For full course specification visit:

<http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-international-as-and-a-level-geography-9696/>

Government and Politics

From a practical and educational point of view, it is worth noting that you will almost certainly be voting in the next general election. How should you decide? What are the choices on offer? How does the system work? What are my rights – and how can I guarantee them, and if necessary, protest?

Do not be put off by the word ‘politics’. This owes much to the current perception that the topic is dull and that its practitioners are less than honest. These are important issues that are worth exploring seriously. If you do so, we guarantee that you will modify your perception.

Politics is inescapable. For better or worse, humans are social animals and so it has been essential for us to work out how best to associate with our fellow human beings. In short, it is the art of government.

Politics is an excellent subject for honing your reading and writing skills – as well as for providing many opportunities for debate. As such, it fits well with any other literary subject notably History, English, Geography and particularly with Law. It also gives you the chance to try something different from the various subjects you followed at GCSE.

Many of our students have gone on to politics or politics-related degrees at university. The rigour and skills imparted by the subject are well recognised by employers. Our former students now include barristers and journalists – but as yet no prime ministers. Will you be the first?

How will I study?

The lessons will be a combination of teacher-led presentations and student-led case studies on the main topic areas. Traditional text books are supplemented by topic books and larger works on the major areas of the syllabus. Perhaps most useful, because they are more up to date, are specialist articles. It is also a course requirement to keep abreast of current affairs through reading quality newspapers and watching current affairs programmes. The internet is especially useful for accessing American current affairs.

What do I need to start the course?

You will not have studied this at GCSE, however, you will have an interest in current affairs and/or modern history. You will also need good literary skills. A grade ‘B’ or above in English at GCSE is strongly recommended.

About the Department

- The Department is a member of the Politics Association and the British Association for American Studies.
- We have links with the Eccles Centre for American Studies at the British Library.
- Annual subscriptions are made for the journal ‘Politics Review’.
- We anticipate an annual trip/conference to Westminster.
- Our students have met Boris Johnson, William Hague, Tony Benn and Margaret Thatcher.
- When appropriate, students assist in running a school election.

For full course specification please visit:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/by-subject/government-and-politics/>

History

History has long been recognised as perhaps the greatest of all subjects amongst the liberal arts. Unlike some others, where innate ability is essential, it is a subject where you can achieve a great deal if you are prepared to work hard. You will emerge with your critical skills honed to a much higher level than when you started the course.

As such, History continues to be a qualification which is much valued by universities and employers alike. It is a myth that you can only become a teacher! Obvious avenues (though few are necessarily closed to you), are law, journalism and media, banking and accountancy. History goes very well with English, Geography or Politics, though virtually any subject can be set alongside it.

History is far more than a narrative of events, in view of this, they will never be delivered in this format but in contrast as a continuous debate. It satisfies our natural curiosity by asking why things happened, as well as asking what alternative courses of action were available. You will be introduced to new or unfamiliar countries or periods and be asked to make judgements and comparisons. In asking 'why' and 'how' about the past we can better understand the present and offer tentative suggestions for the future. It is arguably also the historian's position to leave the recipient feeling at times, disconcerted as to their preconceived ideas and to challenge them to understand the counter argument to everything that is delivered inside the classroom.

Through studying History A Level you will:

- Acquire an understanding of different identities within society and an appreciation of aspects such as social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity,
- Improve as an effective and independent learner and as a critical and reflective thinker
- Develop the ability to ask relevant and significant questions about the past and to research them
- Acquire an understanding of the nature of historical study, for example that history is concerned with judgements based on available evidence and that historical judgements are provisional
- Develop your use and understanding of historical terms, concepts and skills
- Make links and draw comparisons within and/or across different periods and aspects of the past
- Organise and communicate your historical knowledge and understanding in different ways, arguing a case and reaching substantiated judgements.

How will I study?

The drive is for each student to leave the course as an able and effective independent learner and for the student to come to the top of the classroom and deliver their findings to evoke debate. Core textbooks are used, however, it is the undertaking of the importance of historiography that will take the student to the next level. And this will be encouraged at every opportunity.

What do I need to start the course?

Ideally you will have studied this subject at GCSE and will have achieved a minimum of a B grade. We may also consider your English GCSE grade, which would also ideally be at B grade or better.

Outline of Topics studied

Year 12

- The USA in the 19th Century: Westward expansion and Civil War 1803–c.1890
- The Early Stuarts and the Origins of the Civil War 1603 – 1646
- The Execution of Charles I and the Interregnum 1646–1660

Year 13

- The Changing Nature of Warfare 1792–1945
- Course Work: 4000 word essay

For full course specifications visit

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-history-a-h105-h505-from-2015/>

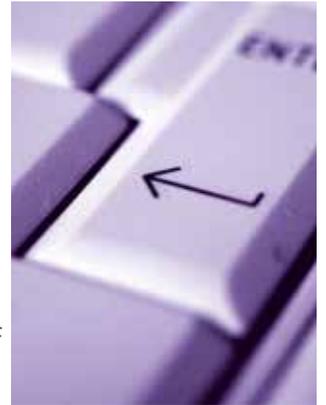
ICT

In today's world, where IT is constantly changing, individuals will increasingly need technological and information literacy skills.

Studying A Level IT will develop your ability to become a more effective and discerning user of IT. It will help you to develop a broad range of IT skills, knowledge and understanding. You will study the structure and use of IT systems within a wide range of organisations, including the use of a variety of computer networks. As a result, you will gain an understanding of IT system life cycles, and how these affect the workplace. You will also learn about the wider impact of IT on society in general, as well as simple programming for the web relevant to your own use of IT.

This A Level is an ideal foundation for you if you want to pursue IT at degree level, or as a career and is a relevant foundation for many careers in the world of business. It will enable you to develop the essential skills needed to apply IT to the real world, for example presentation and project management skills.

The specification that we will be following is the Cambridge International A Level. This is no different from domestic A Levels and is an ideal fit for both the school and our A Level pupils.



What you will study:

Year 1

- Data, information, knowledge and processing
- Hardware and software
- Monitoring and control
- E-safety and health and safety
- The digital divide
- Using networks
- Expert systems
- Spreadsheets
- Database and file concepts
- Sound and video editing

Year 2

- Emerging technologies
- Role and impact of IT in society
- Networks
- Project management
- System life cycle
- Graphics creation
- Animation
- Mail merge
- Programming for the web

For full course specifications visit: <http://www.cie.org.uk/images/204186-2017-2019-syllabus.pdf>

Law

For students who wish to engage in debates such as 'How are laws made?' and 'What is a Democracy?' and for those who have the right aptitude, and are prepared to work hard at developing their analytical skills, the academic study of law offers the possibility of engaging in challenging concepts and developing transferable skills which many employers value.

Law students require a variety of aptitudes and skills. There is a need for hard work, an analytical mind or one who simply enjoys solving problems or expressing difficult ideas clearly. Success in law is not wholly dependent on natural ability, it is the determination to acquire the necessary knowledge, understanding, analytical skills and legal reasoning that will bring about success.

Those who have acquired good GCSE grades including a B in English should be able to access the Law course. Studying is a cumulative process. You must absorb, understand and retain at least the main principles of the areas of law studies. Those who feel that they would be prepared to work hard would be as equally suited to the study of law as those of intellectual ability.

Subject Content

Core Content

1. The nature of law and the English legal system
2. Criminal Law
3. Tort

Options

1. Law of Contract
2. Human Rights

Assessments

Paper 1:

What's assessed The nature of law and the English legal system
Criminal Law

How it's assessed Written Exam: 2 hours 100 marks 33% of A Level

Questions: A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions

Paper 2:

What's assessed The nature of law and the English legal system
Tort

How it's assessed Written Exam: 2 hours 100 marks 33% of A Level

Questions: A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions

Paper 3:

What's assessed Law of Contract
The nature of law and the English legal system
OR
Human Rights
The nature of law and the English legal system

How it's assessed Written Exam: 2 hours 100 marks 33% of A Level

Questions: A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions

If you think you would enjoy the challenge that is Law, taught and debated in small classes by a professionally trained academic lawyer, then this course is for you.

Why study Law at A Level?

The opportunity to learn good linguistic and analytical skills. Develop a perspective response to challenging questions. Learn transferable skills for a modern employment market. To perhaps obtain a desire to study law at university. This could be a possible start to a law career and your future. A high percentage of our Law students go on to study law at University.

For the most up-to-date specification, resources, support and administration visit: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/7162>

Mathematics

Mathematics is recognised as a rigorous A Level – this means that it is held in very high regard by universities but it is also a bit more challenging than some other A Level subjects. An A Level in Mathematics will help you immensely with your other A Level subjects. Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computing, Geography, Psychology, Sociology and Business Studies all use some kind of Maths.

Following on from the new GCSE taken for the first time in the summer of 2017, there is a new A level course starting for the first time this September. The new course requires students to study Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics. The course will be examined at the end of Year 13 with three papers, two on Pure mathematics and one on the applied topics.

You should expect to have two or three different teachers who share the topics between them. You will be taught in a group and substantial practice tasks will be set regularly to ensure you learn each new technique fully. All teachers are specialist mathematics teachers, who have further specialised in three mathematical areas.

What skills do I need?

You will have achieved at least a Grade 6 and ideally a 7 at GCSE Mathematics. You will be organised over set work, keen to put in substantial effort and able to meet deadlines efficiently.

Further Mathematics

To study Further Mathematics you will attend all the usual Mathematics lessons outlined above and in addition will study four additional modules. At the end of the year you will have an A Level in Maths and an A Level in Further Maths.

Students taking Further Mathematics overwhelmingly find it to be an enjoyable, rewarding, stimulating and empowering experience. It is a challenging qualification, which both extends and deepens your knowledge and understanding beyond the standard A level Mathematics.

Further Mathematics contains two Pure Mathematics modules and two applied modules. The applied modules will be either Further Mechanics, Further Statistics or Decision Mathematics.

What skills do I need?

You will have achieved at least a Grade 7 and ideally an 8 at GCSE Mathematics.

For full course specifications visit: <http://www.edexcel.org.uk/subjects/mathematics>

Modern Foreign Languages: French & Spanish

In the Sixth Form at HCS you have the opportunity to study French and/or Spanish at A Level. Studying a Modern Foreign Language at Advanced level can open doors to a world of new opportunities and experiences. Here are just a few reasons why you should consider continuing your study of a foreign language:

- Language learning develops your study skills (i.e. essay writing, research, planning);
- Learning a language helps to develop your communication skills which are vital when applying for jobs;
- It gives you the flexibility to go and work abroad;
- Britain lags behind Europe in language learning and we need to catch up;
- With the globalisation of the world economy and advances in ICT, businesses are keen to employ anyone who can speak a second language to a high level;
- Language learning promotes tolerance and understanding of different cultures.

French or Spanish will combine with, or complement, all subjects at A Level. Furthermore, today's technology provides excellent opportunities for learning a language. Media such as the Internet and e-mail help make the process easier and even more enjoyable.

What does the course entail?

We follow the Edexcel syllabus. You will be assessed on your ability to understand and communicate in French/Spanish. You will build on what you have done at GCSE, learning to communicate at a higher and more sophisticated level.

You will study a range of topics relating to the life and culture of the countries where your chosen language is spoken:

- Social issues/trends: changing family structures, education, tourism, the world of work;
- Political, intellectual and artistic culture: Music, media, festivals and traditions;
- Immigration and the multi-cultural society;
- A period of history from either France or Spain;
- In addition, you will study a film and a literary text.

What could I do at the end of my course?

A Levels in French and Spanish are acknowledged as important qualifications in their own right, showing employers that you are an outgoing, confident and articulate person, who is not afraid of challenges or hard work.

Resources/Teaching Materials

You will follow a textbook which will be supplemented with newspaper articles, audio-visual materials, magazines and books. In addition, a range of target language websites and films are used.

Learning/Teaching experience

In the Sixth Form you will usually have two language teachers. You will be taught as a group but there will be plenty of opportunities for pair work, group discussion and debate. Lessons will be largely in the target language and you will be expected to participate and contribute as much as possible. Smaller class sizes mean you will quickly build up your oral fluency with the teachers able to give individual guidance in every lesson. Homework will be set after each lesson and you are encouraged to expose yourself to as much target language as possible through reading and listening exercises and by visiting a country where the language is spoken.

How will you be assessed?

The final examination is made up of 3 papers.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation

Written examination: 2 hours

40% of the qualification 80 marks

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation

Written examination: 2 hours and 40 minutes

30% of the qualification 120 marks

Paper 3: Speaking

Internally conducted and externally assessed

Total assessment time: between 21 and 23 minutes, including 5 minutes' preparation time

30% of the qualification 72 marks

For full course specification visit:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/french-2016.html#tab-1>

Music

- The department is equipped with computers and specialist music software, including Cubase, Logic Pro and Sibelius. It contains a high quality recording studio that is accessible to all pupils.
- The smaller class sizes guarantee individual guidance and tuition.
- Facilities include practice rooms, two classrooms, a recording studio, a chapel with grand piano and organ.

Do you...

- Love playing an instrument and performing?
- Like exploring and creating new music?
- Enjoy listening to music from a range of styles?
- Wonder about how and why music has developed the way it has?

If yes, then the A level Music course is for you! Where else can you play music and get coursework credit for it, create and record your own music, listen to music in class, and learn about different styles of music?

Music is suitable both for those who wish to continue their musical studies at college or university and those who simply wish to gain a wider understanding of the subject because of the interest and enjoyment they get from it through performance. It is not the domain of the 'classical musician'; jazz and popular styles are equally acceptable. A high standard of performance is expected.

The new A level retains the three key elements of performing, composing and appraising:

1. Performing

Performing is worth 30% at AS and A level. Students have to perform for a minimum of 6 minutes at AS and 6–10 minutes at A level. Performance can be playing or singing solo, in an ensemble, improvising, or realising music using music technology.

2. Composing

Composing is worth 30% at AS and A level. Students compose at least 2 pieces for AS and two or three for A level. At least one will be in response to a brief set by the board.

3. Appraising

Appraising is worth 40% at AS and A level. Areas of study will include vocal music, instrumental music, music for film, popular music and jazz, fusions and new directions.

The A level Music course provides an excellent basis for lifelong learning and for Higher Education courses in Music, and many students who take A level Music continue their studies at university. The three units of the course can lead to studies in performance, composition, musicology, ethnomusicology, sound engineering, conducting, popular music and jazz, and music education.

How will I study?

Classes are taught using a variety of methods, striking a lively balance between performing, composing and listening. Every lesson will be practical and informative and suitable independent work will be given to supplement the course. Candidates are expected to contribute towards the musical life of the school by performing and/or composing.



What do I need to start the course?

Candidates are expected to be able to perform to at least Grade 5 standard on either voice or an instrument, though graded exams do not have to have been taken. Although helpful, it is not a requirement to have taken GCSE Music and earned a Grade B or above in order for an able musician to take the subject at AS or A level. A knowledge of music theory and score reading is helpful.

For full course specifications visit:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/music-2016.html>

Music Technology

- The department has a recording studio with different spaces (control room, live room and two booths) and a sufficient range of microphones to experiment with most recording techniques. The studio runs on Logic Pro.
- The department is equipped with computers and specialist music software, including Logic Pro, Cubase and Sibelius
- Our smaller class sizes guarantee individual guidance and tuition.
- Students are encouraged to practice their skills and can record themselves and friends.
- HCS stages musical productions and concerts and Music Technology students are encouraged to help organise the live sound and recording of these events.
- On occasions we have taken the studio out of school for location recordings.

In A Level Music Technology you will study how popular music is 'produced'. How is music recorded? What type of microphone do I need? Where do I put it? What do I do to the recording? How do I add extra layers? How do I make sure all the layers blend?

You will also study the musical characteristics of a range of various popular styles. What should the typical 80's rock drum kit sound like? How do I program a Reggae style bass? What do the backing singers do in a Motown song?

Music technology, like other forms of technology, advances rapidly. This course involves much practical work and encourages the cultivation of a wide range of skills.

Who is it for?

- I'm a composer and want to learn more about how to write a song.
- I'm a performer and want to learn more about how to sound good in my recordings and live.
- I want to learn what a recording engineer and a producer do.

How will I study?

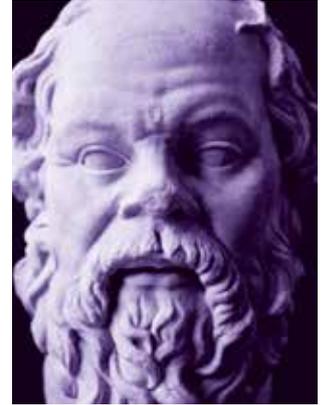
Classes are taught using teacher led activities and practical tasks. Recording tasks will typically require group work and an ability to communicate effectively with others. Generally tasks will involve individual work at a computer, occasionally sharing progress with other students. It is expected that students will book extra time in the studio to practice their skills, initially during their study periods and later, nearing coursework deadlines out of school hours.

What do I need to start the course?

Candidates are expected to be musicians who have an interest in technology. Whilst it is helpful to the running of the course to be a good performer it is not an assessed part of the qualification. It is however very useful to have some basic keyboard skills and a knowledge of music theory. It is not a requirement to have taken GCSE Music so long as you are able to demonstrate a musical ability.

For full course specifications visit: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/music/tech/>

Philosophy & Religion



- A relevant choice – The Russell Group of top universities has made it clear that Religious Studies A Level provides 'suitable preparation for University generally'.
- Subject staff are always available to offer guidance and support. Students are encouraged to utilise this support in their quest for success.
- Course materials are current and varied and constantly updated. Students attend a variety of relevant courses throughout the two years of the course.

Ideally, students should have gained at least a B grade in Religious Studies or one of the other Humanities subjects. However, the most important asset is an open and enquiring mind and an ability to see beyond the unfamiliar nature of a new subject to the future possibilities which it offers. Students are encouraged to accept the freedom to challenge the theories of Plato, Descartes, Nietzsche and their colleagues and formulate their own responses.

Three components are involved:

1. Philosophy literally means – the love (phil) of wisdom (sophia). It involves critical investigation into what is real and true. The philosophy of religion is an analysis of certain elements and concepts in religions.

It raises such questions as:

- Does God exist?
- How can God be all powerful and all loving and evil and suffering exist?
- Is there life after death?
- Is there such a thing as infinite regress and how does this affect the idea of God?
- Is the universe merely a 'brute fact'? (Bertrand Russell)

2. The Study of Ethics which ranges from the theories of Utilitarianism and Situation Ethics to Kantian Ethics and Aquinas' suggestion that there is a Natural Moral Law common and accessible to all humankind. Students also undertake a personal 'Investigation' of a topic within the field of medical ethics which will form the basis of one of their 4 examined papers – Foundations, Investigations, Developments and Implications.

3. Developments in Christian Thought. In this component, learners have the opportunity to undertake a systematic study of key concepts within the development of Christian thought. Learners will explore religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections, how they have developed historically and how they are presently discussed. This new component to the A Level syllabus add an exciting contextual dimension to the study of philosophy and ethics. You will learn to develop an enquiring mind, the ability to analyse a point of view, to develop reason through arguments and reach a logical, justified conclusion which is presented in an organised academic format. You will be supported by the teaching staff throughout the course and encouraged to explore your individual avenues of philosophical interest.

For full course specification visit:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/242913-specification-draft-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h573.pdf>

Physical Education

Why study PE?

Physical Education is not just one of the most dynamic, wide ranging subjects you can choose, it also helps to educate and develop a range of skills crucial in the enjoyment of a long, healthy, successful future. Physical Education is now considered a highly academic subject that is looked upon favourably by many universities. The subject's diversity also means you are not restricted or 'channelled' in your choices for higher education but are able to apply your knowledge and understanding to many different courses.



Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied anatomy and physiology Exercise physiology Biomechanics 	Physiological factors affecting performance 90 marks 2 hour written paper	30% of total A Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skill acquisition Sports psychology 	Physiological factors affecting performance 60 marks 1 hour written paper	20% of total A Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport and society Contemporary issues in physical activity and sport 	Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport 60 marks 1 hour written paper	20% of total A Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance or Coaching Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement (EAPI) 	Performance in physical education 60 marks Non-exam assessment (NEA)	30% of total A Level

PE at HCS

- Excellent on-site sporting facilities including 2 all-weather Astro turf (1 full size, 1 mini), 6 tennis/netball courts, Outdoor pitches marked seasonally for Rugby, Football, Cricket, Rounders and Athletics. A 15m heated swimming pool is also in use for some of the year, as well as our sports hall, gym and newly renovated dance studio.
- Level 2 and 3 experienced coaches in our major sports.
- Delivery by 3/4 different PE teachers to ensure expertise in different areas of the syllabus is used effectively.
- Dedicated PE classrooms with interactive whiteboards.
- A hugely comprehensive activities programme to develop practical skills and support academic progress.

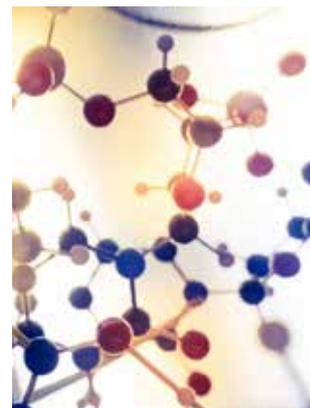
What do I need to study PE?

A Grade B or above in GCSE PE, Biology and English is strongly recommended. You must also be fully committed to improving your performance in two sports as performer, official and/or coach.

For full course specification visit:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-physical-education-h155-h555-from-2016/>

Physics



Academic Requirements

A Level Physics is suitable for students who:

- have an interest in the subject and want to find out how things in the physical world work;
- enjoy applying their mind to solving problems;
- enjoy carrying out investigations by the application of imaginative, logical thinking;
- want to use physics to support other qualifications or progress to further studies.

Physics is suitable for those who want a grounding in a relevant worthwhile qualification to either complement their Maths/Sciences or as a separate Science to support and balance a more artistic selection of subjects. Candidates would generally be expected to possess a minimum of Grade B in GCSE Physics, or B-B in Science (Double Award). It would be very helpful to also have at least a Grade B in GCSE Mathematics, as numeracy and mathematical skills are important in Physics. We work closely with the Mathematics Department to provide extra support for those students who do not study A Level Mathematics.

Communication is also important in Physics, as students need to be able to convey their ideas effectively. The ability to undertake research and think critically to explore different approaches to problems are also valuable skills for students. You will learn theoretical content and develop relevant practical and analytical skills throughout the course. An internal assessment of practical skills is continually undertaken throughout the two years and successful students will receive a practical endorsement at the end of the A Level.

Course Summary

The qualification (AQA Physics) builds on the prior knowledge, understanding and processing skills that have been developed in GCSE Science. Students study five units in Year 12:

1. Measurement and their errors
2. Particles and radiation
3. Waves
4. Mechanics and material
5. Electricity

In Year 13 students study three further modules:

6. Further mechanics and thermal physics
7. Fields and their consequences
8. Nuclear Physics

The fourth module is an optional module and consists of a choice from Astrophysics, Medical physics, Engineering physics, Turning Points in Physics or Electronics.

Students will sit all their exams in the final summer. The A Level course is assessed through 3 written examinations consisting of long and short answer questions and multiple choice questions. There is no coursework in A Level Physics as your practical and data analysis skills will be assessed in the exams.

Why Physics?

If you are curious about how the material world works, then Physics is the subject to pursue. It is a fascinating subject and is an important qualification in a wide range of careers in Technology and Science, particularly in engineering. It is also useful for medical and veterinary careers. Perhaps surprisingly, Physics is also a very welcome qualification in law, banking, accountancy, media and marketing etc. since a good A Level pass proves you possess good analytical and problem solving skills and are mathematically competent.

A Student's Perspective

'Physics at A Level is a challenging, yet rewarding course. It provides invaluable explanations for many processes, from how a kitchen light comes on to the marvels of $E=mc^2$. At A Level you will experience topics familiar from GCSE, but at a far deeper level allowing you to understand and enjoy the topic. I have enjoyed this stimulating course immensely.'

For full course specification visit:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/physics-7408>

Psychology

What is Psychology

Psychology is a very popular course followed at university. It involves studying and exploring human behaviour and what drives it. Students will study normal processes in the brain such as memory and how we form attachments, as well as some abnormal behaviours such as how people may react to social influence or under stress. Psychology has developed a scientific approach in developing debatable theories that attempt to explain what may motivate human behaviour.

What is Psychology useful for?

Any career that involves working with people such as police, medical professions (many universities class it as a science subject) but also in any profession where knowledge of the workings of the brain would be useful such as business, teaching or sport.

What is Psychology like at HCS?

The Psychology department is small, which enables chances to discuss issues in a relatively small group. In lessons you can expect to be involved in active learning as well as improving your skills in note taking, analysis and evaluation of psychological research. Psychology is one of the newest science subjects and its research is being developed within a very recent time frame. Students are encouraged to become familiar with new scientific developments in Psychology in the media and stay up to date with a review magazine review aimed at A Level students.

There is no coursework, but simply three examination papers at the end of two years for A Level.

What topics will I study?

Compulsory contact

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment of infants
- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Psychopathology
- Research Methods
- Issues and debates in Psychology
- Further research methods and analysis

Options include

- Relationships
- Gender
- Cognition and Development
- Schizophrenia
- Eating behaviour
- Stress
- Agression
- Forensic Psychology
- Addiction

Why study Psychology at A Level?

Psychology is a science and is recognised as such in many academic institutions. Psychology is interesting and fascinating and helps understanding in all communications with others, it also gives insights into motivation and training in a variety of career paths.

Psychology has links with many academic areas, such as the Psychology of Business, the Psychology of Education and Criminal (Forensic) Psychology.

What skills do I need?

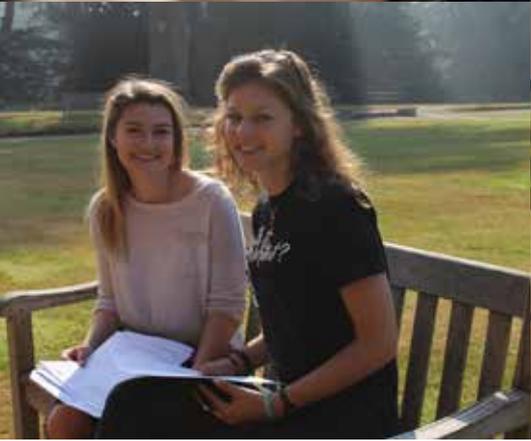
Students who study Psychology will need skills in:

- Self-motivated study, communication and working with others
- Application of scientific experiments
- Construction of essays in an evaluative style
- Application of number in the form of statistical information

Assessment

Paper 1	Introductory Topics in Psychology Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing
Paper 2	Psychology in Context Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing
Paper 3	Issues and Options in Psychology Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing

Web link to online specification: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level>



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