



The Sixth Form

2021-2023

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Future Ready

What might the world look like in five, ten or 20 years' time? Will the phenomenal pace of technology – driverless vehicles, artificial intelligence, quantum computing – improve our lives for the better or present new moral and societal difficulties? How will the political and economic landscape look after Brexit? Will we have discovered a way to stop or even reverse the effects of climate change? And what role might you play in answering these and other questions?

The Sixth Form at Wycombe Abbey is about getting you *Future Ready*: building strong academic foundations and developing your personal qualities so that you can succeed and find fulfilment in the future, no matter what challenges might lie ahead.

In the Sixth Form you have the satisfaction of choosing the subjects that you want to study (and dropping the subjects you no longer want to study) and the confidence gained by handling your first public examinations. You'll find that lessons have a very different atmosphere in the Sixth Form: you will be taking the lead in discussion; you will be conducting your own research outside of the classroom; and you will be *active* – questioning, thinking, taking responsibility – not passively receiving information. Naturally we hope that you enjoy the subjects that you eventually choose to study and that you achieve the very best grades you can – but studying A levels isn't all about the final result. It is about igniting a love of learning that stays with you for the rest of your life. This is why we provide opportunities for you to continue to discover more outside of lessons, in societies, essay competitions, lectures and conferences, and more.

In the Sixth Form your responsibilities in House and in school change. You will take the lead in helping to run the House, organising sports teams, music groups and societies, and co-ordinating major whole-House or whole-school events. At the top of the school you set the tone and are role models for younger girls. Your support and enthusiasm matter and you have real influence throughout the school. The Carrington Award, our in-house enrichment programme, has been designed help you cultivate skills in four important areas: Leadership and Responsibility, Confidence and Self-Reliance, Creativity and Vision, and Critical Thinking and Intellectual Curiosity. Through teacher-led sessions, guest speakers and immersive educational experiences, you will hone your personal skills further and uncover talents you weren't aware you had. What you learn, together with the friendships you build through the Carrington Award and in your classes, will stand you in excellent stead when you make the transfer from your Senior House to Clarence. In Clarence in particular there is greater freedom, independence and accountability – not least in the opportunity to organise your own grocery shopping and cooking each week! With groups of 10 study bedrooms around each House kitchen, plus considerable freedom in the evenings and weekends, Clarence is the perfect stepping stone from school to university life.

One of the most rewarding aspects of your time in the Sixth Form will be forming of new friendships - with smaller classes and a greater range of activities just for Sixth Formers, you'll find that you will mix more closely with a broader range of girls and make new connections, as well as deepening those friendships of many years.

At some point you will also turn your thoughts to your future beyond Wycombe Abbey. For many of you, that will mean a course at a leading university in the UK. Others might be looking further afield – to Europe, the US, Hong Kong or even Australia. Some of you will want to attend a leading Art, Music or Drama school. And by the time you get to Upper Sixth, we might see an expansion of the degree apprenticeships and school leaver programmes that attract those students who know which discipline they want to specialise in immediately. The Sixth Form team are hugely experienced in helping you navigate this range of options and helping you put together the strongest application you can – from course research and interview practice to gap year opportunities and more.

The opportunities in the Sixth Form are vast. Your academic achievement is of course important but we want you to be so much more than a string of impressive grades. We want you to be leaders in House, in the school, and eventually in your own career fields. We want you to have the intellectual curiosity to understand some of the world's problems, the vision to solve them, and the confidence to go out and do it. In short, we want you to be Future Ready.

You travel a long way in the Sixth Form; your horizons will have broadened from conquering GCSEs to nothing less than a global perspective. You will be at the peak of your career here, and the combination of your talents and maturity will give us all a glimpse of what you will achieve later in life.

Choosing A levels: The Basics

The purpose of this part of the booklet is to give you and your parents an insight into the academic life of the Sixth Form and to help you make the right decisions about your A level choices. If you want to know more about any of the areas mentioned, please feel free to contact the Deputy Head (Academic), the Director of Sixth Form, the Deputy Heads of Sixth Form or the relevant Heads of Department.

We recommend that you choose to take four A level subjects in the Lower Sixth and continue with either three, or all four, in the Upper Sixth. All offers from universities in the UK are made on the basis of three A level grades – so it is definitely a case of quality not quantity! The situation can be a little different if you are planning to apply to universities in the US or in Ireland, where opting for four A levels can often be beneficial. If you are interested in taking Further Maths A level, you can do this as a fourth or even a *fifth* subject, but this would be the only case where you are permitted to take five A levels.

Since September 2017, all subjects follow the reformed A level courses. The major effect of the reforms is that you will no longer take AS level examinations at the end of the Lower Sixth; instead you will follow a two-year, linear A level course, with examinations only at the end of your Upper Sixth.

Each A level subject is delivered in eight 35-minute periods per week, though there will be some flexibility in the amount of direct contact time offered by different departments, particularly where the number of girls opting for a subject is small. In addition to curriculum periods, you will be expected to work for between four and five hours per week outside of lesson time on each subject.

It is also worth bearing in mind the other academic commitments you will have in the Sixth Form:

- **The Carrington Award:** All girls follow the Carrington Award, the School's enrichment programme. The Carrington Award cultivates skills in four important areas: Leadership and Responsibility, Confidence and Self-Reliance, Creativity and Vision, and Critical Thinking and Intellectual Curiosity. You will be taught in small groups and will have a Carrington Award mentor who will track your progress through the two-year course. Parts of the programme will be delivered by guest speakers and immersive educational experiences with boys from local schools.
- **EPQ or UPP:** In addition to the A level subjects you choose, you will also opt for either the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or the University Preparation Project (UPP). Both options involve you researching and writing an extended essay on a topic of your choice. The EPQ is an externally-validated qualification, recognised and valued by universities, and culminates in the production of a 5,000-word essay and project logbook. The UPP is an internal Wycombe Abbey qualification. It culminates in a shorter essay with no requirement to produce a logbook. You will be given a comprehensive introduction to the EPQ and UPP when you start the Sixth Form and won't have to decide which option to take until later in the Lower Sixth.
- **Other academic options:** We have other academic offerings at Sixth Form, depending on demand. In past years these have included short courses in Italian, Philosophy and in computer literacy. Details will come your way in due course.

The variety of options available to you in the Sixth Form means that you may be able to pursue an academic interest of yours even if, for whatever reason, you are unable to do so at A level. For example, if you want to study Engineering at university and have opted for Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry A levels (by no means the only combination!), the EPQ/UPP might give you an opportunity to explore your love of music at a deeper intellectual level. If you plan to study Law at university, none of your A level subjects will relate directly to that degree but the EPQ/UPP will give you a chance to research a legal issue of interest, and the critical thinking section of the Carrington Award will be especially helpful for you.

Choosing A levels: Three Key Factors

Your choice of A levels should be based on:

1. The subjects you have enjoyed studying thus far
2. The subjects you have done well in thus far
3. The subjects you need for your university course, if you know what you want to study at university

1. Your enjoyment of your A level subjects is a key criterion. If you enjoy studying the subject (or think you will enjoy studying the subject if it is a new one), you are far more likely to be successful in tackling the challenging A level course. You are also more likely to undertake the additional reading and independent work required for success if you have a genuine interest in the subject.

It can be more difficult to judge whether you will enjoy studying a new A level subject – History of Art or Economics, for example. Read the information about the course contents in this booklet and think back to the taster lessons you had in these subjects at the end of your Lower V year. Remember that choosing to study a new subject at A level should be a positive choice because you really like the subject – and not because a new subject will surely be better than anything you have studied before!

2. Whilst it is not necessary to have secured the highest grade at GCSE in order to study the subject successfully at A level, you should bear in mind that the content of many A level subjects – Maths, Sciences, Latin, Modern Foreign Languages, for example – builds on the content of the GCSE courses and requires pupils to develop a greater depth of understanding and more sophisticated approaches. If you found the subject difficult at GCSE but want to pursue it at A level, make sure you speak to relevant teachers about the knowledge and skills that will need to be in place for successful A level study.

Some A level subjects do not build in any great sense on the GCSE content, and instead contain lots of material that will be new to all pupils. This is obviously true in the case of the new A level subjects. Again, though you can't judge how you will perform in the study of Psychology, for example, you will have an idea of your aptitude in the Sciences and in essay writing from your GCSE work.

3. Even if you do not know what you want to study at university yet, it is important that you understand that whatever your choice of A levels, you will close some doors and open others in terms of your degree choice. Most science degrees require or at least prefer two A levels from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Further Maths and/or Psychology. If you want to study more than one of Biology, Chemistry or Physics, it's sensible that Chemistry should be one of these (i.e. the combination of just Physics and Biology is appropriate for only a small number of degree courses).

In the Arts and Humanities, there is usually more flexibility. An English Literature, History or Modern Foreign Language degree usually requires the corresponding A level, and an additional essay-writing subject and/or language is useful. A degree that will cover material new to all undergraduates – Anthropology, Law or Philosophy, for example – generally has no specific A level requirements, though some universities suggest helpful combinations.

If you don't find yourself drawn especially to the Arts or to the Sciences, there are an increasing number of degree courses at leading universities that straddle the traditional divide. Liberal Arts courses can be found at Bristol, Exeter and King's College London and Arts and Sciences courses at Birmingham and UCL.

Choosing A levels: Available Subjects

The following subjects will be offered to you next year:

- Art and Design
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Chinese (Pre-U)
- Classical Civilisation
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- Economics
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- German (Pre-U)
- Government and Politics
- Classical Greek
- History
- History of Art
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Mathematics AS*
- Further Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Spanish

*Mathematics AS level is a two-year course. It can be chosen as a fourth or a fifth option.

In addition to four or five choices from the list above, all pupils will complete the EPQ or UPP (see page 3).

We cannot guarantee to offer any subject for which there is insufficient demand (usually at least four pupils). Some combinations of subject may not be possible to timetable, though we will always do our best to offer any combination you request. Occasionally Heads of Department may choose to change exam board for their subject.

Choosing A levels: University Courses

It is important to understand the effect your A level choice will have on your future application to university. In the UK, selecting three or four A levels will inevitably open up some degree courses to you whilst closing the door on others. For example, choosing History, History of Art, Biology and Maths would allow you to apply for History and History of Art related degrees, some science degrees, such as Biology, Biological Sciences or Psychology, and a large number of degrees that do not require any particular A level combination, such as Law, Politics and Theology (of course this might change if you dropped one of the four subjects at some point in the Sixth Form). But such an A level combination would not allow you to apply for Physics or Engineering at university (these courses require Physics), and wouldn't be the strongest combination for an Economics degree application, even if many Economics courses require only Maths A level (supplementing Maths with Further Maths and/or Economics would make for a stronger application).

So long as you are comfortable with the doors you keep open and the doors you have to close, you should be able to come to a sound decision about your A level choices.

For those of you planning to apply to the most competitive universities in the US, taking four A levels to completion can be an advantage. However, it has to be balanced against your other commitments and you have to bear in mind that US universities are looking for more than just academic excellence in their applicants. If you think you might want to apply to Irish universities, including Trinity College Dublin, it is very likely that you will need to take four A levels in order to score the requisite number of points for entry.

Considering your university degree before you even get to the Sixth Form might seem a tough task. But you do not need to know *exactly* which course you want to study. You just need to have a rough idea of the options out there – those you are happy to close and those you might like to keep open.

You have all had the opportunity to take the Morrisby tests at the start of this term. These objective tests are used to create a profile of your ability, aptitudes and personality. A detailed report is produced, based on a combination of the results of the tests and an interest questionnaire, and suggestions are made to help with your choice of A level subjects, higher education courses and careers. During the Autumn Term, you will have an interview with a member of the Morrisby team in order to consider your future plans, taking into consideration the recommendations of the report. Use this opportunity wisely!

The Sixth Form Centre is well stocked with information on a wide range of careers and courses. There are prospectuses from UK universities and colleges, as well as from many US and European universities. Additionally, higher education institutions have entry profiles on their websites which allow students to see at a glance the qualifications, aptitudes and skills required for individual courses, and it is a good idea for you to check these for any courses that you may wish to pursue later in your education. You are always welcome to come to the Sixth Form Centre to talk to a member of the Sixth Form team and you can be reassured that there is a full programme of university preparation throughout the Sixth Form.

You can see on the next pages the kinds of university courses that do have specific A level requirements or recommendations. This information can change each year, so the best place to look for up-to-date information is on a particular university's website.

Dr N Carrier, Director of Sixth Form
Miss E Boswell, Deputy Head (Academic)

Accountancy

Required: Maths (most courses)

Agriculture/Food Science

Required: One or two Sciences (including Maths) (some courses); Chemistry (some courses)

Anthropology

Recommended: A combination of Science and Humanities (some courses); Biology (for Biological Anthropology courses); Classics, History and/or Geography (for Social Anthropology courses).

Architecture

Required: Maths and/or Physics (most courses) and/or Art (some courses); a portfolio of work (some courses)

Recommended: A combination of Sciences and Arts (some courses)

Art and Design/Fine Art

Required: Art and Design (most courses)

Recommended: Design and Technology and/or Physics (some courses)

Biology/Biochemistry/Zoology

Required: Chemistry and Biology (most courses)

Recommended: Maths (most courses)

Business and Management Studies

Required: Maths (some courses)

Chemistry

Required: Chemistry and one other Science (all courses)

Recommended: Maths and Further Maths (some courses)

Classics

Required: Latin and/or Greek (most courses)

Recommended: English Literature and/or History and/or a Modern Foreign Language (some courses)

Computer Science

Required: Maths (most courses)

Recommended: Computer Science (most courses) and/or Further Maths (some courses)

Drama

Required: No particular A levels, but experience in acting, writing, producing and/or directing (most courses)

Recommended: English Literature (some courses)

Economics

Required: Maths (most courses). **NB. Some courses require Further Maths.**

Recommended: Economics (most courses) and/or Further Maths (some courses)

Engineering

Required: Maths and Physics (all courses). **NB. Some courses require Further Maths**

Recommended: Further Maths (some courses) and/or another Science (course-dependent)

English Literature

Required: English Literature (all courses)

Recommended: Another Humanities subject

Environmental Sciences

Required: Chemistry and/or Biology (course-dependent); Maths (some courses)

Recommended: Geography, Maths, Politics (some courses)

Geography

Required: Geography (most courses)

Recommended: A Science subject and/or Maths (some BSc courses)

Health Sciences (Physiotherapy, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, etc.)

Required: Most courses do not have specific requirements, though UK work experience is usually needed.

Recommended: Chemistry and/or Biology (some courses)

History

Required: History (all courses)

Recommended: Another Humanities subject (some courses)

History of Art and Architecture

Required: Most courses do not have specific requirements

Recommended: History of Art and/or Religious Studies (some courses)

Human Sciences

Required: A Science, often Biology (most courses)

Recommended: Another Science subject, including Maths (most courses)

Law

Required: No particular A levels are required; significant work experience is expected

Recommended: A Humanities subject and/or Maths (most courses)

Linguistics

Required: English Literature and/or a Modern Foreign Language and/or Greek/Latin (course-dependent)

Recommended: A Science subject (some courses)

Mathematics

Required: Maths (all courses) and Further Maths (most courses)

Medicine and Dentistry

Required: Biology and Chemistry (all courses); varied work experience, including in the NHS

Recommended: Another Science or Maths (some courses); a Humanities subject (some courses)

Modern Languages

Required: For French, German and Spanish courses, the appropriate A level is required (all courses).

Recommended: Another Modern Foreign Language and/or Latin/Greek and/or a Humanities subject (some courses)

Oriental, African or Asian Studies

Required: A Modern Foreign Language and/or Latin/Greek (some courses)

Recommended: A Humanities subject (some courses)

Music

Required: Music (all courses); a proven record of performance and ABRSM grades or equivalent (some courses)

(Note that applications for performance-based courses are made through UCAS Conservatoires)

Pharmacy

Required: Chemistry (most courses)

Recommended: Another Science subject (most courses)

Philosophy

Required: No particular A levels

Recommended: A Humanities subject (most courses); Maths (some courses)

Physics

Required: Maths and Physics (most courses); Further Maths (some courses)

Recommended: Another Science subject (some courses); Further Maths (some courses)

Politics or Social Sciences

Required: No particular A levels

Recommended: At least one Humanities subject

PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics)

Required: No particular A levels

Recommended: History and/or Maths (some courses); at least one Humanities subject (some courses)

Psychology

Required: A Science subject (all courses); two Science subjects (some courses)

Recommended: One or two Science subjects including Psychology (most courses)

Sports Science

Required: A Science subject (all courses)

Recommended: Another Science subject, including PE (most courses)

Theology

Required: No particular A levels

Recommended: A Humanities subject (most courses)

Veterinary Medicine

Required: Biology and Chemistry (all courses); varied work experience with small and large animals

Recommended: Another Science subject (some courses)

Sixth Form Guidance

General

During your Lower Sixth year your Housemistress will continue to be the member of staff with responsibility for overseeing your wellbeing and academic progress. She will be in close consultation with your Lower Sixth Tutor who has particular responsibility for supporting you through making your university applications, under the guidance of the Deputy Head of Sixth Form (LVI) and the Director of Sixth Form. Both these latter members of staff also take an active interest in your academic progress and help to support, encourage and guide you as you move through the Sixth Form.

Induction

All Sixth Formers are asked to return to Wycombe in September a day before the rest of the school comes back. The extra day for the Lower Sixth is devoted to inducting you into Sixth Form life, with talks on the new responsibilities you will be taking on, the various extra-curricular activities open to you, and ways of coping with the challenges ahead. There is a talk for you and your parents on Sixth Form life on the first day of term and an opportunity to meet your LVI Tutor, who will support you throughout your time in the Sixth Form. The Upper Sixth learn more about life in Clarence, are taught some basic cookery skills, have personal safety talks and further guidance on university applications. Both year groups are invited to dine with the staff on their first evening back. The Activities Days later in September are designed to develop cultural awareness as well as the independent learning and leadership skills of the Lower Sixth and the intellectual confidence and personal transferable skills of the Clarence girls.

University Applications

Help with university applications begins at the start of Lower Sixth with a talk for you and your parents given by the Director of Sixth Form. In the Autumn term you will be taught how to research different universities and courses and will have individual discussions with your Tutor. In the Spring Term a university admissions tutor is invited to talk to you about university applications. The Deputy Head of Sixth Form (LVI) will also have a personal interview with each of you on your university and career plans. Your parents are also invited to talks on university admissions in the Spring and Summer Terms.

A comprehensive programme to guide you through the university application process for UK, US, Oxbridge and Post-Qualification Applications takes place in the second half of the Summer term. Staff will be on hand to advise and guide you and your Tutor will support you throughout. It is, however, your responsibility to research the courses and universities in which you are interested. By the end of the Summer term of the Lower Sixth year you should be all set to complete your university application form. You complete your UCAS form in the first few weeks of your Clarence year and are given guidance and practice in handling with university interviews and admissions tests.

Should you be considering an application to US universities, we have a programme of Admissions Directors' visits throughout the Autumn term. Those of you interested in applying to the US will also be registered on our online research and application program, which allows you to look more carefully at US colleges and universities and see the success of applications made by Seniors in past years.

Please see the leaflet 'Support for University Applications Through the Lower Sixth' for further details.

Why choose Art and Design? Art and Design is both a form of communication and a means of expressing ideas and feelings. It forms a language which complements those of literary, mathematical, scientific and factually based subjects, and is especially concerned with the development of those complex mental processes involved in visual perception and aesthetic experience. Through the opportunities the course provides for personal expression, it encourages imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical and practical abilities.

What will I study? We follow the AQA course specification which offers you the opportunity to work in any medium. In your Lower Sixth year you will begin work on your *Personal Investigation* (i.e. coursework) portfolio. You will be given a range of themes or prompts to which you can respond in the widest possible way. You will gain experience of a wide range of techniques and processes and are encouraged to take responsibility for your own direction and areas of interest as soon as possible. You will complete one project and final piece and one smaller satellite project which could take the form of life drawing or an investigation into print making, for example, to show a development of skills.

There is an opportunity to extend your skills by attending life-drawing classes one evening a week.

The Upper Sixth course builds on the skills acquired in Lower Sixth allowing for greater depth of study. As part of your *Personal Investigation unit*, you create one project, with written elements between 1000 and 3000 words, in which you develop an exploration of an idea, issue, concept or theme. This involves research, organisation, development and evaluation of your ideas to produce a resolved personal response. For the second unit of the course, the *Externally Set Assignment* in January of UVI, you choose a question from the examination boards paper and from February until April complete a period of preparation (sketchbook research, studies, drawings, photographs, models, etc.), you are given 15 hours of examination time to produce a final composition.

As with any A level subject, a high degree of commitment is required and study will extend beyond the timetabled provision. This will include work in the evenings and/or weekends in the Art Studio.

How will I be assessed? All work is internally marked and externally moderated by the examination board at the end of the Upper Sixth.

Unit title

Personal Investigation	Portfolio of sustained work with final outcomes	60%
Externally Set Assignment	15hours unaided piece(s) plus preparation.	40%

There is an exhibition of all A level students' work at the end of the course.

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...discussing your ideas with Art Department staff and developing them further.
- ...an analysis of artists' works and practical experimentation with their techniques.

...producing a final outcome(s), displaying a range of your skills and use of materials.

Miss K Williams, Head of Art and Design

Why choose Biology? Biology is the study of living organisms and the processes of life, from evolutionary, physiological and molecular perspectives. Understanding this area of science will give you a greater appreciation for the natural world and satisfy your curiosity about how organisms survive and thrive in their respective habitats. Like all sciences, studying Biology will develop your knowledge and understanding of the scientific method, your research and quantitative skills, your problem-solving and analytical ability and your awareness of the role science plays in society. If you want to apply for a degree in the Biological or Life Sciences or Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine, it is an essential A level to take.

What will I study? The two-year course covers ten topics. *Biological Molecules* introduces you to the chemicals of life: the organic and inorganic molecules and ions that are fundamental to the structure and physiology of living organisms. *Cells, Viruses and Reproduction of Living Things* explores the ultrastructure of prokaryotes, eukaryotes and viruses, including the types of nuclear division. *Classification and Biodiversity* examines the evidence used in the development of models for the classification of organisms and the limitations of these models. The topic includes the principles underlying natural selection and how this can lead to speciation. In *Exchange and Transport*, you will cover the transport mechanisms in cells and mass flow systems in organisms, including the mammalian circulatory system and the vascular system in plants. *Energy for Biological Processes* builds on knowledge of carbohydrates and enzymes and considers the sources of energy in living organisms, including respiration and photosynthesis, and the roles of co-enzymes and electrons.

Microbiology and Pathogens explores the response of the human body to infection and the social, economic and ethical implications of treatment and control of disease. In *Modern Genetics*, you will apply your knowledge of nucleic acids and proteins to their role in gene expression. We also consider epigenetics and the use of stem cells in medical advances. *Origins of Genetic Variation* covers meiosis, natural selection, dihybrid inheritance of alleles and genes and the effect of selection pressures on allele frequencies in gene pools. *Control Systems* builds on knowledge of transport mechanisms and considers the processes of chemical and nervous coordination as well as the role of plant growth substances and hormonal control in mammals. Finally, *Ecosystems* considers the interactions between organisms and the environment, including details of how biotic and abiotic factors are involved in the development of ecosystems over time and the influence of humans on ecosystems.

How will I be assessed? The ten topics above are assessed in three written examinations at the end of your Upper Sixth year.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Advanced biochemistry, microbiology and genetics	1h45	multiple-choice, short answer, calculations, extended writing	30%
Advanced physiology, evolution and ecology	1h45	multiple-choice, short answer, calculations, extended writing	30%
General and practical principles in biology	2h30	short answer, calculations, extended writing, synoptic	40%

Your practical skills are also assessed throughout the course: you will need to demonstrate competence in 12 skills areas, from use of a microscope to dissection of an organ.

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...dissecting an organism to help understand their anatomy and physiology.
- ...modelling biological molecules such as proteins and DNA.
- ...using experiments to investigate biological principles.

Mrs E Wallace, Head of Biology

Why choose Chemistry? Chemistry occupies a central position in the sciences and its study teaches you to handle a large body of knowledge, to extract salient points and to formulate rules. You will discover how important Chemistry is in modern society, how it impinges on all aspects of our everyday lives, and how it explains the material world. You will develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills. You will also extend your observational, deductive and manipulative skills and gain a deeper appreciation of the scientific method.

Chemistry will appeal to you if you are self-motivated and have the determination to succeed, the ability to analyse situations, the intuition to select relevant information and explanations, and a logical mind with the capacity to interpret. A healthy interest in the world around you and the enthusiasm to appreciate that Chemistry is a living, progressing and fascinating subject would, of course, be most welcome.

If you are considering Chemistry A level, you should be a reasonable mathematician with a strong pass at GCSE or IGCSE. If you are not studying Mathematics at A level, you are expected to attend a Mathematics for Science course. A good pass in Chemistry at GCSE or IGCSE is expected as many of the topics studied at A level have already been met and this knowledge is then built upon and extended. You are expected to subscribe to *Chemistry Review* and *New Scientist* as well as to read the science sections of newspapers/media websites. You are also encouraged to attend Science Activities on a Monday afternoon.

Chemistry A level is often studied in conjunction with other sciences and can lead to a wide range of degree options, from pure Chemistry to applied Chemistry courses like Biochemistry, Material Sciences, Pharmacology or Natural Sciences. In addition, it is required for all Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine courses at UK universities.

What will I study? The course is divided into six units. *Development of Practical Skills in Chemistry* introduces you to the fundamental skills needed to collect and analyse data, from planning and implementing through to analysing and evaluating. *Foundations in Chemistry* covers basic chemical concepts, including atomic structure, reaction of acids and bonding and structure, building on GCSE knowledge. In *Periodic Table and Energy*, you will explore inorganic and physical chemistry and the applications of energy use to everyday life and industrial processes. *Core Organic Chemistry* covers the chemistry of organic molecules, including hydrocarbons, alcohols and haloalkanes. *Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements* explores energy, reaction rates and equilibria and the periodic table. Finally, *Organic Chemistry and Analysis* introduces you to new functional groups, from carboxylic acids to esters, and includes a study of NMR spectroscopy.

How will I be assessed? The topics above are tested in three written examinations at the end of your Upper Sixth year.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry	2h15	multiple-choice, short answer, calculations, extended writing	37%
Synthesis and analytical techniques	2h15	multiple-choice, short answer, calculations, extended writing	37%
Unified chemistry	1h30	short answer, calculations, extended writing, synoptic	26%

Your practical skills are also assessed throughout the course: you will need to demonstrate competence in 12 skills areas, from measuring pH to chromatography.

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...a multi-stage organic synthesis.
- ...using (and bursting) balloons to model molecular orbitals.
- ...using redox titration techniques to find the amount of iron in an iron tablet or copper in a brass screw.

Mrs Z Edwards, Head of Chemistry

Why choose Classical Civilisation? The Classical Civilisation course offers an exciting exploration into many areas of the classical world including literature in translation, archaeology, art and architecture, history, politics and philosophy. The influence of the classical world is all around us; Classical Civilisation gives you the chance to study some of these contributions in their original, classical contexts. Whether it is reading great literature, admiring magnificent sculpture, investigating ancient politics or delving into classical history, Classical Civilisation provides something for everyone.

Classical Civilisation complements many popular A level subjects, particularly English Literature, History, History of Art, Religious Studies and Drama. When combined with Latin and/or Classical Greek, it can provide an excellent and well-respected foundation for traditional Classics degrees, or it can be studied without classical languages in preparation for many degrees including Classical Studies, Archaeology and Anthropology, Ancient and Modern History, English and Oriental Studies. If you are looking at predominantly science or Mathematics A levels, Classical Civilisation may provide just the contrast you are looking for.

You do not need to have studied any classical languages to do A level Classical Civilisation.

What will I study? The course is divided into three units. *The World of the Hero* consists of an in-depth study of Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*. This unit is solely focused on the study of literature in translation. *Culture and the Arts* involves a study of Greek Theatre and visual and material culture, combined with literature in translation (Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*, Euripides' *Bacchae* and Aristophanes' *Frogs*). In *Beliefs and Ideas*, you will study the politics of the Late Republic, from Sulla's retirement in 79 BCE to the death of Cicero in 43 BC. This unit involves an area of classical thought, in combination with either the study of literature in translation or visual and material culture.

How will I be assessed? The units are assessed in three written papers at the end of the Upper Sixth.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
The World of the Hero	2h20	sections on Homer and Virgil and a comparison of both	40%
Culture and the Arts	1h45	short answer and extended writing	30%
Beliefs and Ideas	1h45	short answer and extended writing	30%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...debating why epic poetry has remained popular for over 2,500 years.
- ...learning about key political institutions and machinations within the Roman Republic.
- ...discussing whether or not the Greek idea of tragedy is still relevant in today's society.

Mrs J Tidbury, Head of Classics

Why choose Classical Greek? The Classical Greek course is perfect for those of you who would like to extend your knowledge of the Classical Greek language and read some of the greatest prose and verse literature in the original Greek language. Through studying Greek literature, you will acquire a deeper knowledge and understanding of the culture, politics and society of ancient Greece and will be encouraged to consider the influence of these great classical texts on later European literature and values.

Greek complements many popular A level subjects, particularly Latin, French, Spanish, Mathematics, English Literature, Religious Studies and History. The Classical Greek course will develop your linguistic, analytical and evaluative skills and as a result will provide an excellent foundation for a number of degree courses including Classics, Law, Ancient and Modern History, Archaeology, Anthropology, English, Philosophy and Theology. If you enjoy studying Classical Greek language and literature and have a keen interest in the ancient Greek world, Classical Greek may be the course for you. The Classical Greek course is normally limited to those who already have Greek GCSE, as the course will build on the linguistic foundations which you have already acquired during your GCSE course.

What will I study? The course consists of four units. The *Unseen Translation* and *Prose Composition or Comprehension* units require you to translate both prose and verse unseens. You will also choose between an English into Greek exercise or a comprehension, with questions testing both basic understanding and your knowledge of syntax and grammar. The focus for much of these units is on building your vocabulary and knowledge of linguistic structures.

The *Prose Literature* and *Verse Literature* units cover works by Herodotus, Plato, Xenophon, Homer and Sophocles.

How will I be assessed? The units are assessed in four written papers at the end of the Upper Sixth.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Unseen Translation	1h45	translation of two passages of Greek, scan two lines of verse	33%
Prose Composition or Comprehension	1h15	translation, grammar, comprehension or translation of a passage into Greek	17%
Prose Literature	2h00	translation of a passage of set text, extended writing	25%
Verse Literature	2h00	translation of a passage of set text, extended writing	25%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...translating a range of Greek dialects through both unseens and set texts.
- ...stretching your mind by discussing challenging philosophical ideas or historical events.
- ...finding out what tragedy meant to the Greeks and how it has been interpreted over time.

Mrs J Tidbury, Head of Classics

Why choose Computer Science? Developing your understanding of programming, problem solving and computational thinking will allow you to navigate through an increasingly digital world. Computers are at the heart of our society, from medical systems and transportation to commerce and social networking. As you gain creative and technical skills in this discipline, you will be able to analyse and solve more complex real-world problems. Computer Science A level is very often required or recommended for university-level study of the subject but the problem-solving skills it fosters are applicable to many other degree disciplines. The A level requires good competence in Mathematics.

What will I study? The course is divided into three units. The first, *Computer Systems*, covers the characteristics of contemporary systems architecture and other areas. It includes an exploration of the characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices and an examination of software and software development. You will also study data (types, structures and algorithms) and their impact on web technologies. There is also a module on legal, moral and ethical issues in Computer Science.

The second unit, *Algorithms and Programming*, introduces you to elements of computational thinking, programming and problem solving, as well as covering pattern recognition, abstraction and decomposition. You build on your knowledge of algorithms, looking at their design and efficiency and expanding your understanding of standard algorithms.

Finally, the *Programming Project* gives you a chance to analyse, design, develop, test and evaluate a program written in a suitable programming language in response to a practical coding problem. This unit is not assessed in an exam but in the form of a report containing a solution to the selected problem.

How will I be assessed? The first two units are assessed in two written examinations taken at the end of the Upper Sixth year, with the *Programming Project* assessed through a report (worth 20% of the A level)

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Computer Systems	2h30	short, long and extended questions	40%
Algorithms and Programming	2h30	short, long and extended questions	40%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...discussing the environmental impact of computers in the world.
- ...learning how to use computational thinking to solve a problem, such as using recursion to make the Fibonacci series.
- ...coding up a problem in Python and testing the speed of an algorithm compared to other methods.

Mr A Porter, Head of Computing

Why choose Drama? Drama A level will help you develop and apply an informed, analytical framework for making, performing, interpreting and understanding drama and theatre. You will also have many opportunities to create theatre, both from existing texts and from your own ideas, in a range of styles, genres and eras. The course will hone your creativity and independence of mind, allow you to analyse and evaluate your own work and the work of others, and enable you to participate as both a theatre maker and an audience member.

What will I study? The course is divided into three components.

In *'Creating Original Drama'*, you will create an original piece of theatre based a stimulus of your choice and employing the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company. The exam board supplies a set list of practitioners/companies from which you can choose to work. You must also complete a 'working note book' to accompany your performance.

In the *'Making Theatre'* component, you must study extracts from three contrasting plays and interpret, rehearse and perform them. Again, you must choose a practitioner or company as an influence for your performances. You then choose one of the three extracts you have worked on to perform in front of a visiting examiner. You must also complete a 'reflective report' evaluating how you have interpreted the three extracts.

Finally, *'Drama and Theatre'* is an examination study of two complete texts (*'Metamorphosis'* by Berkoff and *'A Servant of Two Masters'* by Goldoni) that you must write about in terms of your practical ideas on performance, direction and design. The final part of the exam is on a piece of live theatre that we will see during the course.

How will I be assessed? *'Making Theatre'* is assessed both through the final performance and a written creative process log that demonstrates your knowledge of the extracts, its context within the play as a whole and explains and reflects upon the process of creating your interpretation of the extract. This component is externally assessed and is worth 30% of the A level. *'Creating Original Drama'* is internally assessed and externally moderated and is also worth 30% of the A level.

'Drama and Theatre' is assessed by a written examination at the end of the Upper Sixth.

Unit title	Exam time	A level %
'Drama and Theatre'	2h30	40%

Alongside Drama A level, you will also have the opportunity to participate in the LAMDA examinations and a number of other extra-curricular shows and events that will be taking place throughout the year.

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...working collaboratively on both devised and scripted performances.
- ...watching the work of established practitioners and companies.
- ...interpreting texts from the point of view of a director and an actor.

Mr J Harrington, Head of Drama

Why choose Design Technology? Design is both a form of communication and a means of expressing ideas from the chair that we sit on to the car and aeroplane that we drive and fly. It is often the cutting edge of technology that pushes and develops our creative and innovative mindset. Design Technology encompasses all aspects of the mathematical, scientific and artistic subjects that blend the complex thought involving perception and aesthetic experience. The course will undoubtedly provide opportunities for personal development and expression, encouraging innovation and creativity enhanced by analysing and evaluating skills.

What will I study? We follow the Edexcel course specification which offers you the opportunity to develop your design style and techniques using a wide variety of materials and manufacturing processes to make a final product that you will have for many years ahead upon completion. The coursework project begins with the initial analysis of design problems and working with a client / user to identify a real need. The start of the portfolio is critical with a solid foundation given from the theory. In your Lower Sixth year you are taught the majority of the theoretical topics from materials to Nano-technology, robotics, manufacturing processes to advance principles in sustainability and environmental, analysis and evaluation of design outcomes and decisions, impact on social, moral, ethical aspects along with developing your unique style of graphical capability building a portfolio to illustrate your skills and development.

The Upper Sixth course builds on the skills acquired in Lower Sixth allowing for greater depth of study. The coursework project begun in Lower Sixth continues with manufacture and analysis and evaluation. The final product will be an important part of your final submission. The coursework project is internally and externally assessed with submission including the folder and practical outcome. The complexity and execution is essential to the final submission.

There is likely to be an opportunity to attend a variety of exhibitions.

As with any A level subject, a high degree of commitment is required and study will extend beyond the timetabled provision. This will include work in the evenings and/or weekends in the DT Workshop.

How will I be assessed? The course is both internally and externally assessed by moderators and examiners at the examination board at the end of the Upper Sixth.

Unit title

Written Assessment 50%	Principles of Design Technology	2hours 30 mins
Non-examined assessment 50%	Coursework project	Completed across LVI / UVI

There is an exhibition of all A level students' work at the end of the course.

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...discussing your ideas with DT Department staff and developing them further.
- ...an analysis of designers' works and practical experimentation with their techniques.
- ...producing a final outcome, displaying a range of your skills and use of materials and manufacturing processes.

Miss H Allen, Design Technology

Why choose Economics? Economics is concerned with how we allocate the goods and services that we need and want. It examines the many choices that have to be made – by individuals, firms and governments – about how to distribute our limited resources. Whilst government aims to improve our wellbeing, there is no unique way of achieving it and problems such as inflation, unemployment, national debt and poverty continue to impose challenges for policy makers. The subject is very relevant to events which are occurring every day in the world news and in your own lives. In fact, much can be learnt about Economics from simply observing everyday experiences – such as shopping and travel – with a more critical eye than you might have used before. The A level aims to develop students who can debate economics issues such as inequality or immigration, use and interpret data to analyse economic problems, discuss alternative courses of action and keep up to date with national and international trends.

The course assumes no prior knowledge of Economics itself and only a basic mathematical understanding, which is easily covered by the GCSE/IGCSE specifications. The main requirement is to be able to think clearly and logically, and to write well-structured arguments. These are, of course, skills which are relevant to other A level subjects too.

What will I study? The course develops an understanding of the micro-economic and macro-economic principles and applies them in a range of contexts to appreciate their value and limitations in explaining real-world phenomena. The course is divided into four themes: Theme 1, *Introduction to markets and market failure*, introduces you to the nature of economics, how markets work and why they fail. Theme 2, *The UK economy – performance and policies*, asks you to consider macroeconomic concepts such as the role of government on the UK economy, national income and aggregate demand and supply. Theme 3, *Business behaviour and the labour market*, focuses on the development of microeconomic theories and principles, including business growth, revenues, costs and profits and the labour market. Finally, Theme 4, *A global perspective*, covers the wider global economy, exploring international trade, emerging and developing economies and the financial sector.

How will I be assessed? The four units are assessed in three papers taken at the end of the Upper Sixth year.

Paper title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Markets and business behaviour (Theme 1 and 3)	2h00	multiple-choice, short answer, data response, extended writing	35%
The national and global economy (Themes 2 and 4)	2h00	multiple-choice, short answer, data response, extended writing	35%
Micro and macroeconomics (all Themes)	2h00	two data responses and open response based on stimulus	30%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...watching a news story and applying relevant economic models to the issue.
- ...researching the impact of immigration on UK productivity.
- ...presenting and discussing ways that government might reduce regional inequality.

Mrs A Kiln, Head of Economics and Enterprise

Why choose English Literature? If you love reading, talking and writing about literature then it is hard to imagine a more suitable A level subject for you! This is an opportunity to join the greatest, longest conversation in humanity, to embark on a voyage of discovery – of the world, society, yourself – and to grow in confidence to express your own critical and creative voice. We read for pleasure but we also read to learn about who we are, and we are privileged to have so many incredible texts to encounter throughout the A level course. We aim to develop your ability to engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and effectively apply your knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation in writing. The course also promotes exploration of the contexts of the texts you are reading, as well as the responses of literary critics and other readers. English up to this point has given you just a taster of the great literature that has shaped the world - it's time to take things to the next level and join the feast!

What will I study? The course is divided into three components. In *Drama and Poetry pre-1900*, you have the opportunity to explore Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, as well as looking at Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* in connection with Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Books IX and X.

In *Comparative and Contextual Study*, you will explore a wide range of American Literature (1880-1940), including Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* and Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. This unit develops wider contextual and critical understanding of American Literature through consideration of a broad range of extracts in preparation for unseen critical analysis. You are also expected to consider comparisons between two of the novels you have studied.

Literature post-1900 is a coursework unit. You will write two essays: one is a one close reading of a poem, while the other explores connections between a novel and a play.

All texts are supported by a range of secondary material, including recently published critical articles and texts, while you are encouraged to enrich your experience of literary discussion by regularly reading *The English Review*. A wide variety of theatre trips and academic trips form a vital part of forging active and meaningful interpretations of the set texts and their contexts. Our subscription to Digital Theatre + puts a world of drama at your fingertips, providing a wealth of productions and resources for all to enjoy. The richest resource, of course, will be the world-class teachers who will guide you through your literary journey!

How will I be assessed? The first two components are assessed by closed-text written examinations at the end of your Upper Sixth year. As mentioned above, *Literature post-1900* is a coursework unit, worth 20% of the A level.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Dram and Poetry pre-1900	2h30	extended writing	40%
Comparative and Contextual Study	2h30	extended writing	40%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...exploring and evaluating interpretations of Hamlet's inactivity.
- ...discussing representations of masculinity and femininity in *Paradise Lost*.
- ...a close reading of a passage of American Literature.

Mr S Lenton, Head of English

Why choose Geography? Do you have a lively and enquiring mind? Are you interested in understanding the world around you? Are you looking for a broad subject that opens many doors? Then Geography A level may be for you! It is not a requirement that you should have studied Geography at GCSE in order to take Geography A level, however, a willingness to explore theories and learn new ideas is essential.

What will I study? The *Physical systems* unit is built around two topics: Landscape Systems and Earth's Life Support Systems. In the first topic you will develop an understanding of dryland landscapes and the geographical processes that influence them. In the second topic, you will examine the water and carbon cycles vital to our planet.

The *Human interactions* unit is also built around two topics: Global Connections, and Changing Spaces; Making Places. In the first topic, you will focus on the systems of migration and the governance of human rights on a global scale; in the second topic, you will develop an insight into the nature of places and the fluidity of their meanings and representations.

Geographical Debates allows you to explore two of the most challenging, dynamic and fascinating geographical issues of the 21st century in the Disease Dilemmas and Tectonic Hazards topics. You will be required to think synoptically and look for links between all the modules studied across the two years.

The *Investigative Geography* unit gives you the opportunity to undertake an independent investigation linked to any aspect of the specification that satisfies your intellectual curiosity. This component is designed to encourage you to deepen your knowledge and understanding of your chosen topic, whilst developing a number of geographical and study skills relevant to higher education or within the world of work

In order to prepare for this independent investigation, all Lower Sixth geographers will attend a residential field trip to introduce fieldwork technique. Throughout the year we shall so be conducting local fieldwork as well as spending a day in London looking a rebranding. Towards the end of the Lower Sixth year, you will be required to submit a plan for your own investigation, after detailed consultation with your teachers. We expect you to use part of your summer holiday to collect data and begin the write-up.

How will I be assessed? The first three units are assessed in written examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth year. As mentioned above, the Investigative Geography unit is a non-examined unit, worth 20% of the A level.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Physical Systems	1h30	short answer and extended writing in response to Resource Booklet	22%
Human Interactions	1h30	short answer and extended writing in response to Resource Booklet	22%
Geographical Debates	2h30	short and medium answers, synoptic and extended writing in response to Resource Booklet	36%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ... experiencing first-hand evidence of changing physical landscapes.
- ... discussing and debating key geographical issues such as migration and human rights.
- ... developing evaluation skills to understand key geographical articles on topics including global disease

Miss G Taylor, Head of Geography

Why choose Government and Politics? The A level Politics course is an exciting two-year course that aims to help you understand the relationship between political institutions, processes and ideas. In your first and second years, you will study the government and politics of the UK and the US. There will be an opportunity to attend a conference with leading UK politicians in your first year. In the second year, you will also learn about key political ideas on human nature, society and the state, and how these ideas have guided politicians to this day. You will develop an ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate political information critically, forming well-rounded arguments and reasoned judgements. Political developments can often take us by surprise. This course aims to help you make sense of these events and place them within their context.

This course will suit you if you are interested in current affairs and politics in Britain and the wider world. There is no specific requirement for students wishing to study Government and Politics at A level other than a genuine interest in learning more about the workings of government and political debate, and an open, flexible and enquiring mind.

The skills developed are excellent preparation for reading Politics at university, either alone or in combination with another subject. They will also stand you in good stead for a wide range of professions, whether more humanities-based, literary or scientific.

What will I study? The course is divided into three units. In *Government and politics of the UK*, you consider a wide range of topics related to the UK government, including the British constitution, devolution, parliament, the Prime minister and cabinet, the judiciary, and the role of the EU. You also explore democracy and participation, elections and referendums, and the influence of political parties and pressure groups.

In *Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics*, you examine a range of issues related to the government of the USA and you begin to compare and contrast the approaches of the UK and US governments. Topics include the US Constitution, the judicial branch, the legislative branch, the executive branch, the electoral process and direct democracy, political parties, pressure groups and civil rights.

Finally, in *Political ideas*, you conduct an in-depth exploration of the ideologies of liberalism, socialism, conservatism, and anarchism.

How will I be assessed? The units are assessed in three written examinations taken at the end of Upper Sixth.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Government and politics of the UK	2h00	'explain', extract-based and evaluative essay questions	33.3%
Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics	2h00	'explain', extract-based and evaluative essay questions	33.3%
Political ideas	2h00	'explain', extract-based and evaluative essay questions	33.3%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ... a whole-class discussion of UK and US current affairs and analysis and evaluation of the key points.
- ...drawing comparisons between institutions and political processes in the UK and the US.
- ...exploring the assumptions made by political thinkers and how these relate to ideas on the state and the economy.

Dr S Tullis, Head of History and Government & Politics
Dr E Lorimer, Teacher of Government & Politics

Why choose History? The A level History course provides you with an exciting opportunity to study periods of dramatic and revolutionary change in Britain, Europe and the wider world. By studying seventeenth-century Britain, twentieth-century Russia and nineteenth- and twentieth-century India, you will be able to explore the workings of a variety of contrasting systems of government. You will explore such fundamental issues as the different ways in which these governments ruled and impinged upon the freedoms and liberties of their people, and the ways in which opposition and dissent were expressed against them. Themes of empire, (de-)colonisation, revolution and dictatorship are ever relevant and important. Above all, you will encounter a number of compelling and colourful characters, about whom you will reach your own conclusions.

Study of History requires curiosity, a love of the written word and a willingness to make and challenge judgements about the past. The aim of the A level course is to equip you with a broad range of historical knowledge and understanding. You will learn to evaluate critically the significance of a wide variety of source materials and interpretations. As you progress through the course we hope to instil in you the confidence to define your own questions and set your own goals. We teach advanced skills of analytical writing and discussion that should carry you far, whatever your chosen university discipline and career. The great joy of History is that it is a study of humankind. We explore human nature, human failings and human successes, which were responses to events and attitudes that may be very different or very similar from our own. As we study, we therefore question our own values and perspectives.

What will I study? The course is divided into three units. In the *Breadth Study: Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603-1649*, you will explore issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through key questions about the crucial reigns of James I and Charles I and the ‘British revolution’, including ‘How far did the monarchy change?’, ‘To what extent and why was power more widely shared during this period?’, ‘Why and with what results were there disputes over religion?’, ‘How effective was opposition?’, ‘How important were ideas and ideology?’ and ‘How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?’

In the *Depth Study: Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–1929: The Russian Revolution and the Rise of Stalin* you study in depth the coming and practice of communism in Russia. You will explore concepts such as Marxism, communism, Leninism, and Stalinism, ideological control and dictatorship. This unit also enables you to consider issues of political authority, the power of individuals and the inter-relationship of governmental and economic and social change.

Finally, you will complete a coursework unit on *Historical Investigation on Britain and India, c.1845-1948*. This gives you the opportunity to address key aspects of Britain’s relationship with its most important colony over a period of at least 100 years in order to develop your understanding of the process of change over a long period. You will gain an understanding of British treatment of India and how this changed over time, the Indian nationalist movement and the role of figures such as Gandhi, Nehru and Jinnah in the eventual gaining of Indian independence.

How will I be assessed? The first two units are assessed by written examinations at the end of the Sixth Form. The third unit is a 3000-3500-word coursework essay, worth 20% of the A level.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Breadth Study	2h30	partly historical interpretation	40%
Depth Study	2h30	partly source-based	40%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...reading and analysing texts and sources on the extent of Stalin’s purges – does killing so many of his own people suggest that he was mad?
- ...discussion and debate on the nature of the British Empire – should modern Britain pay reparations to former colonies?
- ...re-enactment, including by film-making, of the execution of Charles I.

Dr S Tullis, Head of History and Government & Politics

Why choose History of Art? The History of Art A level allows you to explore global art and architecture from 500BC to the present day. Studying History of Art provides you with in-depth knowledge about particular works of art and architecture and gives you the analytical skills and technical vocabulary to think and write critically about any paintings, sculptures and buildings that you encounter. All of the works studied are placed in their cultural and historical contexts so that the ways in which they reflect society and ideas can be appreciated. History of Art therefore helps to provide you with a broad understanding of many different historical periods, cultures, groups and individuals from across the globe.

No prior knowledge or practical artistic skill is needed to study History of Art. A general interest in art and architecture and a desire to know more is all that is required. History of Art is a humanities subject that provides similar analytical and essay writing skills to other subjects such as History, English and Religious Studies, whilst also enhancing your visual acuity and awareness.

The History of Art department organises numerous day trips to museums and galleries in London such as the Royal Academy and the Victoria and Albert Museum. There is a very popular 6-day trip to Florence and Rome to support the teaching of the Renaissance and Baroque period studies. You will have the opportunity to enter national Art History competitions such as ARTiculation, SPoKE and Write on Art.

What will I study? The course is divided into two papers, 'Visual Analysis and Themes' and 'Periods'. You will begin in LVI by focusing on visual analysis where you will be equipped with the skills and terminology to analyse and interpret any painting, sculpture or building. You will then study one Theme: Nature, and one Period: The Renaissance in Italy. The 'Nature in Art and Architecture' theme focuses on how the natural world has inspired works of art and architecture. You will study works by a variety of artists and architects including J.M.W. Turner, Katsushika Hokusai, Barbara Hepworth, Vincent van Gogh, Ai Weiwei, Damien Hirst and Frank Lloyd Wright. 'Invention and Illusion: The Renaissance in Italy (1420-1520)' spans one of the most extraordinary concentrations of artistic achievement that the world has ever seen. The ideas, values and iconic artworks of the Italian Renaissance continue to shape our own ideas of beauty, perfection and culture today. Beginning with the innovative challenges of Masaccio in Florence, you will explore the cultural contexts of the Renaissance in Rome and Venice through the work of artists such as Donatello, Brunelleschi, Raphael, Michelangelo and Titian.

In UVI you will study an additional Theme: Identities and a further Period: The Baroque in Catholic Europe. 'Identities in Art and Architecture' considers how art reflects and shapes our understanding of identity, be it status, gender, nationality or ethnicity. You will study a variety of works by artists and architects including Jan van Eyck, Frida Kahlo, Marc Quinn, Edouard Manet, Salvador Dali and Christopher Wren. In 'Power and Persuasion: The Baroque in Catholic Europe (1597-1685)' you will investigate the impact of religious, historical and philosophical factors on art and its audiences across Italy, France, Spain and the Spanish Netherlands. Artists and architects studied will include Caravaggio, Bernini, Artemisia Gentileschi, Rubens and Velázquez.

How will I be assessed? Both units are assessed in written examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth year.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Visual Analysis and Themes	3h00	extended writing, some visual stimulus	50%
Periods	3h00	short answers, extended writing	50%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...learning about how the life of an artist impacted their work, e.g. Why did Bernini sculpt a portrait of his mistress but then send a servant to mutilate her face? Why did Quinn make a self-portrait using his own blood?
- ...researching and curating your own virtual exhibition on a topic such as the depiction of the female nude in art. Why is the female nude so much more common than the male nude in art?
- ...taking a tour around Wycombe Abbey to analyse the architectural features and works of art that you probably never noticed before! Did you know that in our classroom we have a rose window!

Miss E Bowen, Head of History of Art

Why choose Latin? The A level Latin course is perfect for those of you who would like to extend your knowledge of the Latin language and read some of the greatest prose and verse literature in the original Latin language. Through studying Latin literature, you will acquire a deeper knowledge and understanding of the culture, politics and society of ancient Rome and will be encouraged to consider the influence of these great classical texts on later European literature and values.

Latin complements many popular A level subjects, particularly Classical Greek, French, Spanish, Mathematics, English Literature, Religious Studies and History. The Latin A level course will develop your linguistic, analytical and evaluative skills and as a result will provide an excellent foundation for a number of degree courses including Classics, Law, Ancient and Modern History, Archaeology, Anthropology, English, Philosophy and Theology. If you enjoy studying Latin language and literature and have a keen interest in the Roman world, A level Latin may be the course for you! The A level Latin course is normally limited to those who already have Latin GCSE, as the course will build on the linguistic foundations which you have already acquired during your GCSE course.

What will I study? The course consists of four units. The *Unseen Translation* and *Prose Composition or Comprehension* units require you to translate both prose and verse unseens. You will also choose between an English into Latin exercise or a comprehension, with questions testing both basic understanding and your knowledge of syntax and grammar. The focus for much of these units is on building your vocabulary and knowledge of linguistic structures.

The *Prose Literature* and *Verse Literature* units cover set texts chosen from works by Cicero, Tacitus, Virgil, Ovid and Livy.

How will I be assessed? The units are assessed in four written papers at the end of the Upper Sixth.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Unseen Translation	1h45	translation of two passages of Latin, scan two lines of verse	33%
Prose Composition or Comprehension	1h15	translation, grammar, comprehension or translation of a passage into Latin	17%
Prose Literature	2h00	translation of a passage of set text, extended writing	25%
Verse Literature	2h00	translation of a passage of set text, extended writing	25%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...exploring the historical context of an unseen translation passage.
- ...analysing and discussing the various literary devices used by the greatest authors of the Roman world.
- ...learning how to scan the metre of elegiacs or hexameters in order to appreciate the sound of Latin poetry.

Mrs J Tidbury, Head of Classics

There are four pathways in Mathematics available in the Sixth Form:

1. Mathematics AS level (over two years)
2. Mathematics A level (over two years)
3. Mathematics A level (over two years) and Further Mathematics AS level (over one year in the Upper Sixth)
4. Mathematics A level (over one year in the Lower Sixth) and Further Mathematics A level (over one year in the Upper Sixth)

Mathematics AS level (over two years)

Why choose Mathematics AS level? Mathematics at AS is a challenging and interesting course, building on work previously met at GCSE and IGCSE level but also introducing you to new ideas in the subject. It serves as a very useful support for many qualifications as well as being a sought-after qualification for the workplace and for courses in higher education. It is particularly useful if you would like to maintain your mathematical fluency without opting for the full A level (e.g. for university admissions tests).

The study of Mathematics AS will suit you if you enjoy the challenge of problem solving using algebraic methods. The Pure Mathematics content requires a very sound knowledge of GCSE or IGCSE Mathematics, particularly the sections devoted to algebra and trigonometry. The Statistics content extends the probability and statistics learned in GCSE and IGCSE Mathematics, and the Mechanics content extends the areas of GCSE and IGCSE Physics that deal with forces, velocities, momentum and energy.

What will I study? The AS course is divided into three units. In *Pure Mathematics* you will extend your knowledge of such topics as algebra and trigonometry as well as learning some new areas, including calculus. If you enjoyed the challenge of problem solving at IGCSE using such techniques, then you should find this course appealing. Although many of the ideas met in Pure Mathematics are interesting in their own right, they also serve as an important foundation for other branches of Mathematics, especially Mechanics and Statistics.

When studying *Mechanics*, you will learn how to describe mathematically the motion of objects and how they respond to the forces acting upon them, from cars in the street to satellites revolving around a planet. You will also learn the technique of mathematical modelling, that is of turning a complicated physical problem into a simpler one that can be analysed and solved using mathematical methods. Many of the ideas met in the course offer a vital introduction to such important modern fields of study as cybernetics, robotics, biomechanics and sports science, as well as to the more traditional areas of engineering and physics.

In *Statistics*, you will learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions. The range of probability problems that started at IGCSE is thus extended by using the new mathematical techniques studied on the Pure Mathematics course. Many of the ideas met in this course have applications in a wide area of other fields - from assessing the cost of car insurance to probability of a comet hitting the Earth in the near future. It supports such subjects as Geography, Biology and Economics particularly well.

How will I be assessed? The units are assessed in two examinations taken at the end of Upper Sixth.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	AS level %
Pure Mathematics	2h00	calculators allowed	62.5%
Statistics and Mechanics	1h15	calculators allowed	37.5%

Mathematics A level (over two years)

Why choose Mathematics A level? Mathematics A level is designed to build upon the mathematics studied at GCSE and prepare you for a degree with a significant mathematical component or where clarity of thought and logic are highly valued. It is challenging but interesting, introducing new ideas that some of the greatest minds of the millennium have produced. It serves as a very useful support for many qualifications as well as being a sought-after qualification for the workplace and for courses in higher education.

The study of Mathematics A level will suit you if you enjoy the challenge of problem solving using algebraic methods. The Pure Mathematics content requires a very sound knowledge of GCSE or IGCSE Mathematics, particularly the sections devoted to algebra and trigonometry. The Statistics content extends the probability and statistics learned in GCSE and IGCSE Mathematics, and the Mechanics content extends the areas of GCSE and IGCSE Physics that deal with forces, velocities, momentum and energy.

What will I study? The A level course is divided into the same three units as the AS course, above, but the level of mathematics is more challenging. You will cover the AS level content in the first year and the A level content in the second year.

In *Pure Mathematics* at A level you will extend your knowledge of such topics as algebra and trigonometry as well as learning some new ideas, including calculus and numerical methods. If you enjoyed the challenge of problem solving at IGCSE using such techniques, then you should find this course appealing. Although many of the ideas met in Pure Mathematics are interesting in their own right, they also serve as an important foundation for other branches of Mathematics, especially Mechanics and Statistics.

When studying *Mechanics*, you will learn how to describe mathematically the motion of objects and how they respond to the forces acting upon them, from cars in the street to satellites revolving around a planet. You will also learn the technique of mathematical modelling, that is of turning a complicated physical problem into a simpler one that can be analysed and solved using mathematical methods. Many of the ideas met in the course offer a vital introduction to such important modern fields of study as cybernetics, robotics, biomechanics and sports science, as well as to the more traditional areas of engineering and physics.

In *Statistics*, you will learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions. The range of probability problems that started at IGCSE is thus extended by using the new mathematical techniques studied on the Pure Mathematics course. Many of the ideas met in this course have applications in a wide area of other fields - from assessing the cost of car insurance to probability of a comet hitting the Earth in the near future. It supports such subjects as Geography, Biology and Economics particularly well.

How will I be assessed? The units are assessed in three examinations taken at the end of Upper Sixth.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Pure Mathematics 1	2h00	calculators allowed	33.3%
Pure Mathematics 2	2h00	calculators allowed	33.3%
Statistics and Mechanics	2h00	calculators allowed	33.3%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...calculating the sum of an infinite series to determine the distance travelled by an object.
- ...modelling the rate of increase of a population of rabbits over time using differential equations.
- ...using the normal distribution to investigate the waiting time at a doctor's surgery.

Mathematics A level and Further Mathematics AS level

Why choose Mathematics A level and Further Mathematics AS level? In this combination, the Mathematics course A level will be the same as the standard course over two years, taught in the same number of periods. The Further Mathematics AS level course aims to push the concepts even further whilst introducing brand new topics such as complex numbers and matrices. This will be perfect for those whose future university subject or career might require more mathematics than the single A level provides. Good examples of such courses would include Economics and some Science or Engineering courses.

What will I study? The Mathematics A level course (see above) will be covered in the standard two year course classes.

You will take additional lessons in the Upper Sixth to cover the Further Mathematics AS level course. The Further Mathematics course is divided into two units. In *Core Pure Mathematics*, you will examine proof, complex numbers, matrices, and further work on algebra, calculus and vectors. In *Further Mathematics Options*, you have the opportunity to take a paper extending your understanding of Statistics or Mechanics. You can also opt to study Decision Mathematics, which includes work on algorithms and networks.

How will I be assessed? The units are assessed in two examinations taken at the end of Upper Sixth *alongside the three examinations for Mathematics A level*.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	AS level %
Core Pure Mathematics	1h40	calculators allowed	50%
Further Mathematics Options	1h40	calculators allowed	50%

Mathematics A level and Further Mathematics A level

Why choose Mathematics A level and Further Mathematics A level? This course aims to immerse you deeply in the incredible world of Mathematics. It is designed to prepare you for the study of a very mathematical course at university, for example, Mathematics, Physics or Engineering courses.

What will I study? You will cover the entire Mathematics A level course (see above) in the Lower Sixth and the entire Further Mathematics A level course in the Upper Sixth. The Further Mathematics content extends the topics covered in the first whilst introducing new topics such as complex numbers, linear algebra and hyperbolic functions. It also allows the opportunity to introduce new concepts in Statistics, Mechanics and Decision. It is divided into four units: Core Pure Mathematics 1 and 2, and Further Mathematics Option 1 and 2.

How will I be assessed? The units are assessed in four examinations taken at the end of Upper Sixth *alongside the three examinations for Mathematics A level*.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Core Pure Mathematics 1	1h30	calculators allowed	25%
Core Pure Mathematics 2	1h30	calculators allowed	25%
Further Mathematics Option 1	1h30	calculators allowed	25%
Further Mathematics Option 2	1h30	calculators allowed	25%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...studying matrices which are used to control the motion of characters in CGI films.
- ...discussing the air flow over an airplane wing using complex numbers.
- ...using critical path analysis to schedule a workforce to complete a project.

Dr I Wallwork, Head of Mathematics

Modern Foreign Languages: Chinese, French, German and Spanish

Why choose a modern foreign language? If you choose to study one or more of Chinese, French, Spanish and German, you will be choosing to develop further your communication and comprehension skills, whilst aiming to deepen your understanding of the grammar of your chosen language(s), and to demonstrate a cultural appreciation of your chosen country. Alongside studying the language you will also gain the valued skills of prioritising, filtering and making quick decisions under pressure. You will explore the country's heritage through articles from newspapers, magazines, websites and, of course, through studying literature, films and even music. In the case of Pre-U, your understanding of the German and Chinese mindset will become an essential part of your lessons.

As you progress into the Upper VI you will focus on contemporary issues and you will need to keep up to date with current affairs and issues. You will need to read the online foreign newspapers regularly. Naturally, studying a language outside your chosen target language country will never be as effective as learning it within the country, so you are expected to spend part of your long holidays in the target language country to put what you have learned in the classroom into practice.

The A level and Pre-U courses in Modern Languages will offer you the opportunity to build on the knowledge you acquired at GCSE. The focus in the Sixth Form is firmly on the target language countries and the life of the societies where your languages are spoken.

You will need to have secured a high grade at GCSE to be able to join the Lower Sixth class. At the beginning of the year we organise an induction to 'ease you in gently' and introduce you to the tasks and skills needed for A level language study.

We conduct some of the lessons in the Language Laboratory and you are encouraged to participate, respond, and share your opinions and views. In addition to weekly language and culture lessons, you will also attend weekly conversation lessons in small groups with a native speaker, who will help you prepare for the oral component and focus on your intonation, fluency and pronunciation. Attendance at the language-specific weekly News Club is considered to be an integral part of the course.

So, why study Modern Languages post-GCSE? Because the country needs you! To quote one student: "It is a brilliant course and gives you the opportunity to tap into other cultures as well as studying a broad range of topics: history, literature, philosophy, politics, cinema ... the list goes on!"

What will I study? The course is divided into four components:

1. Speaking
2. Listening, Reading and Translation
3. Writing and Usage
4. Chinese Culture

For the *Speaking* component, you have a choice of topics on which to prepare a conversation for the oral examination, including the history, current affairs or culture (art, cinema, literature and traditions) of the Chinese world. You will also be asked to have a general conversation with the visiting examiner.

For the *Listening, Reading and Translation* and *Writing and Usage* components, the syllabus provides the following topics for exploration: Family, Young people, Education, The media, Work and leisure, and Equality of opportunity. You will look at vocabulary, grammar, linguistic structure and Chinese sayings (Chengyu) through these different topics.

For *Chinese Culture*, you will explore the founding of the People’s Republic of China and one work of Chinese literature/film from *Chronicle of a Blood Merchant* by Yu Hua, *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow* by Wang Anyi or Tian Zhuangzhuang’s film *The Blue Kite*.

How will I be assessed? The *Speaking* unit is assessed in an oral examination with a visiting examiner. The other three units are assessed in written examinations. All are taken at the end of the Upper Sixth year.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Speaking	c.15m	prepared discussion and general conversation	20%
Listening, Reading and Translation	2h30	translation into English, dictionary allowed	30%
Writing and Usage	2h00	stroke skills, letter writing and Essay, dictionary allowed	25%
Chinese Culture	2h30	essay questions in English	25%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...discussing the change from “One Child Policy” to “Two-Child Policy” and its impact on families in current China.
- ...exploring how the Chinese Communist Party took power in China over the years 1937-1949.
- ...understanding the impact of the Cultural Revolution on Chinese films and literature.

Ms X Wan, Head of Chinese

What will I study? You will examine social issues, social trends, politics, current affairs and cultural matters as they pertain to France and French-speaking countries. As well as considering the impact of the French presidential elections, your work will include amongst others a study of equal opportunities in France, of environmental issues and of the impact of technology in our daily lives. Culture lessons will include references to significant events from 20th and 21st century French society. We focus on the impact of youth culture by analysing films such as *La Haine* and *Les 400 coups*. During your conversation lesson, you can expect to debate contentious and important issues.

In the Upper Sixth, you will explore the French mindset through Voltaire’s *Candide* and at least another text such as *Le Horla* by Maupassant. The topics of your conversation lessons are closely linked to your course and you will have the opportunity to present an aspect of culture you have found particularly interesting. All French students will take part in cultural events throughout the year, including theatre trips to Oxford and London and lectures at the French Institute. You should also attend workshops and dinners run by our Modern Linguists Society, the International Film Club, the Oriental and Russian Societies. Wycombe Abbey is building a strong reputation for debate in the yearly national competition held in London which we hope you will be able to maintain.

How will I be assessed? You are assessed in an oral examination with a visiting examiner and two written papers. All are taken at the end of the Upper Sixth year.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Listening, Reading and Writing	2h30	comprehension and textual response translation into/from French	50%
Writing	2h00	two essays in French on set texts/films	20%
Speaking	c.22m	prepared and unprepared discussion	30%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...familiarising yourself with French slang whilst exploring social issues through the medium of contemporary cinema and music.
- ...discussing the changing trends in the family from a French perspective.
- ...using key literary works to explore philosophical ideas from the Age of Enlightenment.

Mrs L Nott, Head of French

What will I study? The course is divided into four components:

1. Speaking
2. Listening, Reading and Translation
3. Writing and Usage
4. Topics and Texts

For the *Speaking* component, you will discuss an article based on one of the topics from the syllabus and you will then have a conversation about a topic related to German history, current affairs or culture which you have chosen and researched yourself in detail.

For the *Listening, Reading and Translation* and *Writing and Usage* components, the syllabus provides a list of topics for exploration. These include human relationships, law and order, cultural life/heritage, religion and belief and many more. You will look at vocabulary, grammar, linguistic structure and idioms through these different topics.

In *Topics and Texts*, you are likely to focus on an in-depth study of Germany in the post-reunification period, looking at the film 'Russendisko' and the book 'Zonenkinder'.

How will I be assessed? The *Speaking* unit is assessed in an oral examination with a visiting examiner. The other three units are assessed in written examinations. All are taken at the end of the Upper Sixth year.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Speaking	c.16m	prepared and unprepared discussion	25%
Listening, Reading and Translation	2h15	comprehension, translation from English	25%
Writing and Usage	2h15	essay in German (350-450 words), grammar questions	25%
Topic and Texts	2h30	essay in German (350-500 words), essay in English	25%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ... debating the pros and cons of Germany's decision to stop using all nuclear energy.
- ... watching a film extract on the topic of immigration and discussing the issues involved.
- ... presenting your research about a singer or group currently in the German charts.

Mrs M Dworkin, Head of German

What will I study? In the Lower Sixth, lessons will relate to the themes of social issues, social trends, politics, current affairs and cultural matters as they pertain to Spain and/or Spanish-speaking countries. You will focus on the hugely important Hispanic world and study how the values and ideas of today's younger citizens are being shaped by the Spanish regional system and local values and traditions. There will be lessons to explore various aspects of the Hispanic cultural heritage, from Spanish Cava to bull fighting. You will have time to consider the cultural significance and importance of World Heritage Sites such as the Alhambra and Machu Picchu. In both years, you follow a course of Spanish literature, most notably the works of globally influential Hispanic writers such as Gabriel García Márquez, and Federico García Lorca. You will also study a Hispanic contemporary film director, such as Pedro Almodóvar.

In the Upper Sixth, culture lessons will turn to a more detailed exploration of contemporary political issues that have arisen out of complex historical legacies, such as the role of the monarchy and the Catholic Church. You will consider the more recent impact in Europe of the Franco dictatorship and Spain's change to democracy. A programme of extra-curricular Hispanic cultural events is offered throughout the academic year, including theatre trips to Oxford and to the national Spanish Debating Competition, which is held in London each Spring.

How will I be assessed? You are assessed in an oral examination with a visiting examiner and two written papers. All are taken at the end of the Upper Sixth year.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Listening, Reading and Writing	2h30	comprehension, textual response translation into/from Spanish	50%
Writing	2h00	two essays in Spanish on set texts/films	20%
Speaking	c.22m	prepared and unprepared discussion	30%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...discussing the importance of politics in young people's lives.
- ...looking at existing legislation against racism.
- ...understanding the impact of the civil war and Franco's dictatorship.

Ms E Piqué, Head of Spanish

Why choose Music? Music at A-level is a hugely varied course that follows on naturally from the IGCSE course. It continues to focus on the elements of Performing, Composing, Listening and the History of Music, but in greater detail and taking the associated skills to a higher level. The skills and content of the A-level Music course provide excellent preparation for studying Music at undergraduate level either at universities or conservatoires. The broad range of skills developed through the course – practical, aural, creative, analytical and historical – provide excellent preparation for a wide range of other humanities and language subjects at university. Many students choose A-level Music alongside Maths and Sciences and this combination also works extremely well.

The course is designed to develop your skills as a performer, undertaking and learning from regular recorded performances as a soloist and/or ensemble player. It is expected that you will play a full role in the extra-curricular life of the department to further enhance your performing experience and enable you to access the highest marks. You will learn how to compose in medium-scale forms, producing a single composition for either instruments or voices. You will also study four-part harmony in the style of J S Bach. Finally, through the study of a variety of set works from across the history of Western Classical music, world and popular music you will gain a deep understanding of how styles and genres have evolved, and you will develop your aural perception skills through listening exercises.

You do not need to have followed the IGCSE Music course in order to study the subject at A-level, but you should be a competent instrumentalist or singer.

What will I study? The course is divided into three units. In *Performing* you will perform regularly throughout the course, being involved in various aspects of the musical life at Wycombe Abbey, as a soloist and ensemble player. You will undertake recorded performances and listen back to them critically. At the end of the course you will produce a recording (either solo and/or ensemble) lasting a minimum of 8 minutes. This unit is non-examined and is assessed instead by coursework.

For the *Composing* component, you will compose in many different styles and will learn how to write four-part vocal harmony in the style of J S Bach. At the end of the course you will have produced two submitted pieces. One will be a composition (either free choice or in response to a title given by the examination board) lasting a minimum of 4 minutes. The other will be a harmony exercise, writing music by adding Alto, Tenor and Bass parts to a given Soprano line in the style of J S Bach (Bach Chorale). These coursework pieces complete the assessment for this unit.

In the *Appraising* unit, You will study set works from each of these musical topic areas: Vocal music, Instrumental music, Music for film, Popular music and Jazz, Fusion (World music), and New directions (20th and 21st Century music).

The set works will include pieces by J S Bach, Vivaldi, Mozart, Berlioz, Vaughan Williams, Debussy, the Beatles and many more. You will learn about the stylistic features of the genres, the historical context of the set pieces and how to analyse the music using technical vocabulary. You will also develop your aural skills. Set works will be studied in depth but there will also be a wider listening repertoire list provided by the examination board to introduce you to the work of other composers who wrote in those styles.

How will I be assessed? As mentioned above, two of the three components – Performing and Composing – are completed through the submission of coursework which is then externally assessed. Each of these components is worth 30% of the A level. There is one written examination taken at the end of the Upper Sixth year.

Unit title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Appraising	2h00	questions on set works, melody/rhythm completion, listening exercise, essay questions	40%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...analysing the musical features of Vivaldi’s Concerto in D minor, and learning about the composer and historical context of the piece.
- ...adding a bass line to a given soprano melody to provide a foundation for stylistic harmonic progressions.
- ...composing a short set of variations on a melody provided by your teacher.

Mr S Reid, Director of Music

Why choose Physical Education? If you are interested in building on your existing abilities, at whatever level, in Physical Education and have genuine enthusiasm and enjoyment for the subject, then it may be the right choice for you. The A level specification seeks to develop your skills and abilities, challenging you as a reflective participant and requiring you to be involved in activities in order to acquire knowledge and understanding as the basis for improved performance.

The course is designed to encourage you to build on your previous experience to enhance your knowledge and increase your understanding of the modern day sporting arena; evaluate and discuss current developments in sport such as the impact of new technology, sport-specific rehabilitation and use of ergogenic aids; develop an ability to appreciate the relationship between theory and practice and to apply theoretical knowledge to develop understanding of practical performance in sport; and pursue and develop the performance and analysis of one physical activity throughout the course.

The academic rigour of this subject is maintained by its weighting towards examination questions rather than coursework. It is an interesting course, requiring lots of different study skills, and will provide an enjoyable breadth and balance to your other studies.

What will I study? The course is divided into three papers. In *Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport*, you study three topics: Applied Anatomy and Physiology. Skill Acquisition and Sport and Society. In the first topic, you develop knowledge and understanding of the changes within the body systems prior to exercise, during exercise of differing intensities and during recovery. You will interpret data and graphs relating to changes within the musculoskeletal, cardio-respiratory and neuro-muscular systems and the use of energy systems during different types of physical activity and sport and the recovery process. In the second topic, you will learn how skill is acquired and the impact of psychological factors on performance, and will develop your understanding of the principles required to optimise the learning of new, and the development of existing skills. In the third topic, you explore the interaction between, and the evolution of, sport and society.

Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport also consists of three topics: Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics, Sport and Psychology and Sport and Society and Technology in Sport. The first topic considers the adaptations to the body systems through training or lifestyle, and how these changes affect the efficiency of those systems. Pupils develop knowledge and understanding of motion and forces, and their relevance to performance in physical activity and sport. The second topic explores the role of sport psychology in optimising performance in physical activity and sport. The third topic allows you to examine the interaction between sport and society and the technological developments in physical activity and sport.

The *Practical Performance in Physical Activity and Sport* paper is a non-examined assessment, where you are assessed as a performer or coach in the full-sided version of one practical activity. You also complete written/verbal analysis of your performance.

How will I be assessed? Two of the papers are assessed in two written examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth. The third paper is a non-examined assessment, worth 30% of the A level.

Paper title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport	2h00	multiple-choice, short answer extended writing	35%
Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport	2h00	multiple-choice, short answer extended writing	35%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...visiting Sport Science laboratories to complete physiological monitoring.
- ...discovering the provenance of historical sports – Mob Football, Real Tennis and the Ancient Olympic Games.
- ...creating links between your own psychology and behaviour in sport in relation to elite performers, such as Olympic medallists or World Champions.

Mrs S Bryett-Windle, Director of Sport

Why choose Physics? The A level Physics specification provides an innovative and contemporary course, which will encourage you to gain knowledge and understanding in Physics and its applications, and to develop your enjoyment and interest in the subject. You will develop the skills to link theory to experiment in new and changing situations, and will acquire an appreciation of how Physics has developed and is used in present-day society. You will realise the importance of Physics as an endeavour which interacts with social, philosophical, and economic matters, you will recognise the quantitative nature of Physics and how mathematical expressions relate to physical principles.

Physics is a suitable choice for you if you have found Physics interesting and enjoyable at GCSE or IGCSE, if you want to find out about how things in the physical world work, and if you enjoy applying your mind to solving problems. A grade 7 or above at GCSE or IGCSE in Physics is desirable. A good grade in GCSE or IGCSE Mathematics is also a requirement. It is not necessary to study A level Mathematics in order to be successful in Physics; there is a Mathematics for Science course which runs throughout the Sixth Form and is designed to equip you with the necessary mathematical skills if you are not taking Mathematics A level.

What will I study? The course is divided into ten units. In *Particles and Quantum Phenomena*, you will venture into the exciting field of Particle Physics and be introduced to the fundamental properties and nature of matter, electromagnetic radiation, wave-particle duality and the photoelectric effect. *Electricity* builds on your knowledge of electricity and provides opportunities for practical work and discussion of important applications. In *Mechanics*, you will be introduced to vectors, develop your experience of forces and energy, and learn how to analyse projectile motion. *Materials* involves the study of the bulk properties and tensile strength of materials, including some destructive testing. In *Waves*, your knowledge of waves will be expanded to include refraction, diffraction, interference and superposition.

Fields explores one of the great unifying ideas in Physics. You will develop your understanding of gravitation, electrostatics and magnetic field theory and their practical applications, including planetary and satellite orbits. In *Further Mechanics*, your knowledge of mechanics is stretched to include circular motion and simple harmonic motion as well as forced vibrations and resonance. *Thermal Physics* considers the thermal properties of materials, specific heat capacity and latent heat. You will also extend your knowledge of ideal gases and the molecular kinetic theory model. *Nuclear Physics* covers the characteristics of the nucleus, the properties of unstable nuclei and the emission of alpha, beta and gamma radiation. You will look into how energy is obtained from the nucleus by fission and fusion.

We choose the final topic from the following: Astrophysics, Medical Physics, Engineering Physics, Turning Points in Physics or Electronics. We usually opt for Medical Physics (the physics of vision, ECG machines, MRI and x-ray imaging).

Every two years there is a trip to CERN in Geneva to see the world-famous Particle Physics laboratories. We encourage you to subscribe to *Physics Review* magazine which provides useful and interesting reading.

How will I be assessed? The topics are assessed in three written examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth.

Paper title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Paper 1 (Topics 1-5)	2h00	multiple-choice, short and long answer	34%
Paper 2 (Topics 6-9)	2h00	multiple-choice, short and long answer	34%
Paper 3 (Practical skills, data analysis, Topic 10)	2h00	short and long answer	32%

Your practical skills are also assessed throughout the course: you will need to demonstrate competence in 12 skills areas, from use of an oscilloscope to safe handling of ionising radiation.

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...observing particle tracks in a cloud chamber and forming hypotheses from your observations.
- ...using quantum mechanics to explain the appearance of neon lights.
- ...calculating the speed you would need to fire a rocket to escape the surface of Mars.

Mrs C Dowdall, Head of Physics

Why choose Psychology? What is the difference between the brain and the mind? Psychology is the study of mental processes, especially in relation to behaviour. It can lead into a number of specialist fields including Clinical, Developmental, Cognitive and Social Psychology. The subject can help your understanding of spiritual, moral, ethical, social and other issues through developing your understanding of variety and complexity of the human mind, human behaviour and human relationships. We debate the value and usefulness of Psychology as a science and the applicability of scientific study to everyday situations. We see how studies in Psychology have shaped our environment and have impacted on how we are taught, interact and what we understand about our own behaviour. You need to have a natural curiosity about life and why humans behave in the way they do to enjoy Psychology.

At A level you will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the core areas of Psychology – social, cognitive, developmental, biological and individual differences – through studying a range of topics.

What will I study? The course is divided into three papers, with the majority of Papers 1 and 2 covered in the Lower Sixth and Paper 3 covered in the Upper Sixth.

Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology covers topics including social influence, memory, attachment and psychopathology. You will study memory, including short and long term memory, different models, eye witness testimony and factors affecting its validity and uses. This is followed by the study of the ways in which research has helped us understand more about how and why human infants form attachments and the results of a loss, or lack of any attachment. You will consider conformity; why people conform and obey, as well as methods of studying obedience. You will be expected to discuss an event which illustrates obedience or an aspect of conformity, such as the My Lai massacre and consider why civil disobedience became a mass movement. You will also look at possible explanations and definitions of psychological abnormality and discuss therapies used to help people overcome their problems with everyday living such as depression, phobias and OCD.

Paper 2: Psychology in context covers topic including approaches in psychology, biopsychology and research methods. You consider the three main approaches to the subject: learning, cognitive and biological. Research methodology helps us understand the value and limitations of studying people or animals, looking at different types of experiments, ways of drawing up questionnaires, and interpretation of data and using statistics. You may be asked to conduct a short analytical task, generally of a practical nature, and write up the results with regard to procedure and sample, and then assess the outcome of the exercise. You will study the structure and function of the nervous system and the endocrine system, considering their role in the stress response. You will also look at localisation of brain function and the techniques used to investigate the brain like MRI scans, EEGs and ERPs, and study biological rhythms, including sleep.

Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology covers topics including issues and debates, gender, stress and aggression (those these topics may change). Within the compulsory issues and debates topic, you will consider areas such as culture bias, gender bias, free will and determinism and the nature-nurture debate. The study of gender allows you to investigate our understanding of gender and atypical gender development. Stress covers the biological backgrounds for our physiological and psychological responses to stressful situations, together with approaches and treatments. In aggression, you will examine biological and social-psychological explanations and consider the influence of the media.

How will I be assessed? The papers are assessed in three written examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth.

Paper title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Paper 1	2h00	multiple-choice, short and long answer	33.3%
Paper 2	2h00	multiple-choice, short and long answer	33.3%
Paper 3	2h00	multiple-choice, short and long answer	33.3%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ... carrying out synchronicity and reciprocity observations of mothers and babies in a local coffee shop.
- ... using 1990s lonely hearts columns to decipher specific characteristics sought out by individuals, and applying thematic and content analysis to the findings
- ... assessing notorious studies, made famous by their lack of adherence to the British Psychology Society's ethical code, and discussing ways to modify these to fit with recent guidelines

Why choose Religious Studies? The course combines the traditional with the modern and is designed to develop your interest and enthusiasm for the rigorous study of religion. It encourages the skills of enquiry and critical analysis in relation to issues in philosophy, ethics and theology and you will be encouraged to explore the contributions of key philosophers, while at the same time reflecting upon your own values and beliefs. You will then be required to articulate these through reasoned argument with reference to established scholarly thinking.

An interest in debating and a willingness to read around the subject are beneficial. No previous experience of Religious Studies or Philosophy and Ethics at GCSE is needed.

The course is an excellent foundation for those of you wishing to pursue Philosophy or Theology at university. It also acts as a good basis for those hoping to enter careers in law, the media, education and medicine. The study of Religious Studies complements many other disciplines and prepares you for the demands of academic study in a variety of fields including History of Art, Anthropology, Psychology, Politics and Law.

What will I study? The courses is divided into three units: *Philosophy of Religion*, *Religion and Ethics* and *Developments in Christian Thoughts*. All units are taught across the two years of Sixth Form.

The Lower Sixth course covers the philosophy of religion, ethics and theology, including a study of major philosophical influences such as the work of Aristotle and Plato and their relation to classical arguments for the existence of God, the philosophy of mind and the problem of evil. It also includes the exploration of ethical theories such as natural moral law, utilitarianism and situation ethics and the application of these to ethical dilemmas (e.g. sexual ethics and euthanasia). The course also draws connections between philosophy and theology through the study of Christology and soteriology (salvation and the afterlife).

The Upper Sixth course builds upon the knowledge, understanding and skills developed in the Lower Sixth year. Topics which require detailed study include the nature and meaning of religious language and the challenge of logical positivism. You will also explore twentieth-century perspectives of faith, including revelation and religious experience, religious pluralism and the challenge posed to traditional viewpoints by developments in sociology, psychology and secular approaches. A study of metaethics (the meaning of ethical language), business ethics and modern developments in ethical thought will also be pursued in relation to issues such as gender in society and theology.

You are expected to extend your knowledge by reading around the subject.

How will I be assessed? The papers are assessed in three written examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth.

Paper title	Exam time	Exam questions	A level %
Philosophy of Religion	2h00	extended writing	33.3%
Religion and Ethics	2h00	extended writing	33.3%
Developments in Christian Thought	2h00	extended writing	33.3%

A Sixth Form lesson might involve...

- ...reading Plato’s allegory of the cave and deciding whether his view of knowledge is valid.
- ...watching Richard Dawkins and Alister McGrath debate ‘The God Delusion’.
- ...applying Kantian Ethics and Utilitarianism to issues of corporate responsibility, like the Ford Pinto case.

Mrs A Khan, Head of Religious Studies

The Carrington Award

Educationalists join universities, employers and policymakers in worrying that A levels do not adequately prepare young people to survive and thrive in the “real world”. It is acknowledged that even exceptional results in A levels do not necessarily mean that you are well prepared for success at university, for lifelong learning or for professional achievement. The Carrington Award was developed with the principle that our role extends beyond the promotion of academic excellence to ensuring that you are prepared for the many challenges that you will face in your personal and professional adult lives. It aims to develop your abilities and knowledge in the following areas:

- Study skills for lifelong learning
- Leadership in theory and practice
- Future global trends
- Critical analysis and argument
- Applying for internships and graduate jobs
- Personal wellbeing and self-development

Throughout the Lower Sixth you will receive four periods a week of teaching for the Carrington Award. Half of these will be in classes of around ten girls, each with an Award Mentor to support your progress through the programme. The other half will be delivered in talks and other activities for the entire year group. Recent speakers contributing to the Carrington programme have included climate scientist and record-breaking explorer Felicity Aston MBE, one of the first female cabinet ministers Baroness Bottomley, former UK National Security Adviser Sir Mark Lyall Grant and Princess Tessy of Luxembourg.

In the Upper Sixth you will have one double period a week and will have the option to choose an enrichment course that appeals to you. Choices may include; ‘An Introduction to Philosophy’, ‘Tomorrow’s Scientific World’, ‘Virtual Cultural Tours’, ‘Literature and Film Review’.

The Carrington Award will be enhanced by several immersive educational experiences, which will allow you to practise the skills you have learned in a practical, professional and reflective environment. These include:

- **Wycombe Management Conference:** This event is devoted to developing entrepreneurship, commercial awareness and business management. The two-day event is organised in a partnership between Wycombe Abbey and The Royal Grammar School in High Wycombe. The conference features business games and simulations designed to replicate the kind of challenges and choices faced by business leaders. Each company team is guided through the two-day process by a mentor: a professional with first-hand experience of management and business decision making, and you will have the chance throughout the conference to hear from numerous business experts from a range of different fields.
- **Leadership Summit:** This activity explores what it means to be a leader. You will have the opportunity to take charge in a variety of practical tasks, designed to test your leadership, decision making and teamwork. You will learn how to plan tasks, brief others on a course of action and to give feedback on performance. You will be joined by pupils from other local schools so that you can experience working alongside and leading different people.
- **Communications Conference:** This conference aims to develop communications skills and understanding of how news media are produced. You will receive professional media training covering social media, presentation skills, PR, writing press releases, and television interview techniques. Skills will then be tested in an exciting media crisis simulation, where you will work under pressure to develop media strategies, draft press releases, manage social media and participate in television interviews with real-life news journalists.
- **Academic Forum:** Prior to university interviews, this conference allows you to explore an academic passion in greater depth. Joined by boys from a local grammar school, you will engage with some challenging debates surrounding the academic discipline you have chosen to study at university, followed by a series of inter-disciplinary team tasks to help develop your ability to think laterally and react to unfamiliar ideas.

Ms E Bowen, Deputy Head of Sixth Form (Enrichment)

The Extended Project Qualification is an opportunity for you to undertake a piece of independent and original research. The course provides you with an introduction to research skills; following this you undertake most of the work independently under the guidance of a supervising teacher. After working on the topic for the majority of your Lower Sixth year, you will be expected to produce an essay of 5,000 words at the beginning of your Upper Sixth year and also present your findings to an audience.

This qualification can be selected as an addition to A levels and certain UK universities give lower offers on condition of an A or A* grade in the EPQ. The EPQ requires self-motivation and a strong interest in the topic you choose to research. Essay-writing skills alone are not enough, as you will be expected to record in-depth evaluations of your planning and research into a logbook.

Girls in recent years have completed projects on the rise of the USA as an economic powerhouse in the late 19th-century, the transition of Romania from communism to the present day, the political apparatus in Aristophanes' comedies, the use of algae as a biofuel, and the theme of hierarchy in 1970s British sitcoms. The choice really is yours!

Mr O Murphy, EPQ Co-ordinator

Other Opportunities in the Sixth Form

The Sixth Form offers you many opportunities to extend and enrich your learning experiences, skill and abilities, and personal development. As this booklet goes to print, enrichment courses for 2021-2023 are still to be finalised. Further details will follow in due course but some of the best established and most popular are outlined below; some do require a minimum number of pupils to run.

Sport in the Sixth Form

By the time you reach the Sixth Form we feel that you are ready to choose from a variety of sporting activities and to follow them to a reasonable standard, acquiring a healthy level of fitness in the process.

In the Lower Sixth, certain activities are compulsory. You are all expected to take part in House Games once a week throughout the year. This gives you the opportunity to represent your House in a variety of sports in inter-house competitions. The Upper Sixth and Lower Sixth also have a compulsory double lesson of Physical Education each week. The activities on offer include use of the Fitness Suite, aerobics, squash, badminton, trampolining, basketball, swimming, tennis, climbing, hockey, volleyball, netball, handball, pilates/yoga and fitness classes.

For those of you who are more competitive, school teams are offered in lacrosse, netball, swimming, polo, gymnastics, squash, skiing, athletics, hockey, tennis and fencing. Mid-week and weekend fixtures are arranged with other schools for many of these teams. If you are of county standard and above, you are encouraged to pursue your sport with the help of outside coaches if necessary. A ski team is entered annually for the National Schools Ski Championships held in the Alps.

There are several optional recreational clubs that run in the evenings including squash, badminton, basketball and football. Numerous paid extra-curricular activities are available to you including karate, fencing, pilates, kickboxing, ballet, tap dancing, climbing, polo, sailing, rowing, trampolining, golf, judo, tennis and squash coaching.

Level 3 Certificate in Higher Sports Leadership

Sports Leadership at Wycombe is highly valued and helps to develop independent and confident young women. The qualification benefits you in several areas of life, not just on the sports pitch. You will develop self-esteem, confidence and motivation as well as organisational skills, communication and an appreciation of others. We have designed the delivery of the award to help inspire you to take an active role in school and community life at whatever level of sport you choose. Sports Leadership events and tournaments put Wycombe Abbey at the heart of our community, reaching out to local primary and prep schools, secondary schools, and schools catering for those with special educational needs.

The *Level 3 Certificate in Higher Sports Leadership* is a nationally-recognised qualification that enables successful learners to lead unsupervised groups of people in sport and recreational activities. This qualification builds upon the skills and experience gained through the Level 2 Award in Sports Leadership, such as communication, planning, health and safety and organisation. The course will be a combination of theory and practical and will take two years to complete. The course will be taught in weekly Games lessons.

There are no written exams and assessment is made upon your ability to demonstrate your leadership skills for a certain period of time, within a range of settings. A sports event will be led during the first year of the course with volunteering taking place in the community service time allocation during the second year of the course. A pass/fail decision is based on the completion of all theory aspects, a successful event, and completion of 30 voluntary hours. This decision is made by the class teacher and is moderated by Sports Leaders UK.

Mrs S Bryett-Windle, Director of Sport

Music in the Sixth Form

There are a great many opportunities for you to participate in group music-making in the Sixth Form. *Choral Group*, which prepares a major work performed with Eton in their School Hall at the end of the Easter term, is very popular and open to all. *Chapel Choir* is an auditioned group of over 40 singers and leads important school functions such as the Carol Services and the Remembrance Service, as well as undertaking international concert tours regularly with the Chamber Orchestra; in July 2019 they travelled to Germany, in 2017 they toured Rome, Sorrento and the Amalfi coast performing in churches, cathedrals and St Peter's Basilica, Vatican City; and in July 2015 they visited Andalucía, performing in Seville, Granada, Córdoba, Cádiz and Carmona. *Holst Singers* is for the choral elite, a 12-voice *a cappella* group that performs in major school concerts and the Carol Services, as well as taking part in international tours. *Symphony Orchestra* and *Chamber Orchestra* are the school's flagship ensembles for advanced instrumentalists and perform in major events throughout the year. *Symphony Orchestra* and *Chamber Orchestra* gave their main concert at St John's, Smith Square in London in February 2019 and a small number of Clarence soloists have the opportunity each year to perform a concerto movement with one of these ensembles. The *Jazz Sextet*, *Clarinet and Saxophone Ensembles* are extremely popular and put on extravaganza performances, often with student vocalists.

Chamber music gives instrumentalists the chance to work together in small groups, either informally or towards concert performances and competitions. Our girls' achievements have included places in the National Youth Orchestra, National Youth Choir, choral scholarships to Oxford and Cambridge and selection for the final of the South East Schools' Chamber Music Festival which Wycombe Abbey co-founded with Harrow and North London Collegiate School. Other opportunities for group music-making include *rock bands* which are organised by girls and supported by Miss McClure, Mr Ledingham and Mr McKee, *Phire*, the student-led Gospel choir, and joint productions with the Drama department.

Mr S Reid, Director of Music

Drama in the Sixth Form

Many girls pursue their interest in Drama by taking up or continuing with private Speech and Drama lessons. These lessons generally prepare you for a Grade 6, 7 or 8 Bronze, Silver or Gold LAMDA Medal examinations in subjects such as Acting, Verse and Prose, Musical Theatre and Public Speaking. They can also be used to increase your physical and vocal confidence. You can choose to work alone or with a partner, but if you are new to the school in Lower Sixth you will begin as a soloist so that we can assess your ability.

There is an Upper School Production in the Spring Term which all members of Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth are welcome to audition for. Involvement can range from working front of house, make-up, set design, costume, lighting, stage management and performing.

We also invite Lower Sixth Formers to submit their own script ideas for the 'Drama Society Production'. The chosen pupils will then have the opportunity to direct, rehearse, design, produce and perform their play at the beginning of the Autumn term in their Upper Sixth year.

Sixth Formers interested in drama are also encouraged to attend Drama Society events and to help direct and produce lower school drama productions and projects during the year. We find that involvement in the Drama Department brings a great sense of achievement and pleasure to all the pupils who take part.

Mr J Harrington, Head of Drama

Careers and Work Experience

There are many opportunities throughout the Sixth Form for you to investigate future careers, including Career Spotlights and the annual Careers Seminar. Pupils who are new to School for the Sixth Form can take the Morrisby Online Profile and will have the opportunity to meet with an independent Careers Adviser. This is something that those of you at Wycombe Abbey in the Fifth Form will have accessed at the start of your UV year. This online resource can be used for information and guidance throughout your time in the Sixth Form.

Work experience is actively encouraged. Placements are valuable in allowing you to investigate careers and opportunities, assist your career planning, build your self-confidence, self-esteem and interpersonal skills, and to help support university applications. Work experience is essential for those of you wishing to studying Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine. Given the short length of terms, it is recommended you carry out your work experience during school holidays. You should seek out a suitable placement through your network of family and friends, but the Careers Department can also provide assistance and has a growing number of links with organisations offering work experience opportunities.

For professional career insights, there are also various courses which usually run for one day and are often in the London area, though others can be longer and further afield. There is an impressive array of courses spanning career areas such as Law, Medicine, Cybersecurity, Engineering, Journalism and the Media, to name a few. To avoid disruption to Sixth Form studies, most courses take place in school holidays and leaves. We are a partner school of InvestIN Education and you can therefore benefit from a 10% discount on any of their courses.

We also recommend other programmes which we think are worthwhile. During the summer holidays several banks, including Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley run one or two-day courses designed primarily for female students who are interested in graduate careers and internships in financial services. There are also a number of post-A level programmes such as the Horizons scheme run by Accenture or those run by IBM. For those of you who would like to have a more extended experience of work after A levels, the Year in Industry is recommended for scientists, particularly engineers, and the Deloitte Scheme for those interested in Mathematics, Finance or Economics (Economists should also apply to the iea summer school). Aspiring art historians may wish to participate in the John Hall programme in Venice. Those interested in STEM should investigate the Headstart courses in association with the EDT and also those provided by the Smallpeice Trust. Those with aspirations to pursue a career in aeronautical engineering or aviation may wish to apply for the Sir Adrian Swire Flying Scholarship awarded annually to a Lower Sixth girl.

Details of these programmes can be obtained from the Head of Careers and are also publicised on the Higher Education and Careers page on My Wycombe. For any further support, the Head of Careers is happy to meet with you individually and runs regular drop-in sessions.

Mrs A Kiln, Head of Economics, Careers & Enterprise

Tycoon Enterprise Competition

In the Lower Sixth you have the option of taking part in the Tycoon Enterprise Competition run by the Peter Jones Foundation. Working in small teams of between 3 and 5 pupils, you will come up with a business idea and produce a viable and costed business plan. This will be submitted to the Peter Jones Foundation to apply for a start-up loan of up to £500. If you are successful in securing funding, you will then launch your business and trade over a specified period with the aim of making a profit. From any net profits following repayment of the start-up loan, the Peter Jones Foundation asks that at least 30% of any profits are returned to them to enable them to support more students. The remainder of your net profit should be donated to the School charities or can be reinvested in your business if you are to continue trading beyond the competition.

The competition runs from September to the end of April and whilst it is great fun, it is also hard work and can be time consuming. You will have some regular mentoring sessions and will need organise your own weekly team meeting. Typically, you will spend about three hours per week on your business. At certain times such as during the run up to a selling event, or when finalising your business plan, there will be an even bigger time commitment required.

You will do everything that a real business would have to do. You decide on what products to make and sell, or which services you think your company could offer. The companies are supported by mentors in School plus some volunteer

business advisors and entrepreneurs from the wider community. As company members you will gain skills such as organisation, delegation, the basics of business finance and what it takes to be an entrepreneur.

After submitting your Tycoon Enterprise Competition evaluation report at the end of your trading period, your business will be judged and an overall winner, Key Stage 5 winner and runner up will be chosen. Finalists will be invited to the Tycoon Enterprise Awards Ceremony in the Summer term. In previous years this has been held at Buckingham Palace. The overall competition winner will receive £1,000 of funding to assist in making their business sustainable.

Mrs A Kiln, Head of Economics, Careers & Enterprise

Community Service

Community Service normally takes place in the Upper Sixth year. This work forms part of our Giveback commitment and fosters a sense of citizenship, awareness of the wider community and is fundamental in fulfilling the school's stated aim of encouraging service to other people, many of whom are less fortunate than ourselves.

We have links with a wide range of placements, including: visiting the elderly in day centres, supporting teachers in playgroups and primary schools, and helping out with local welfare organisations. Some students may also be able to mentor younger pupils at Wycombe Abbey or deliver science workshops in local schools.

We have a special relationship with a local comprehensive school, Cressex Community School. Girls in Clarence visit the school weekly to help students with literacy and other subject skills. As part of their Sports Leadership commitment, some girls assist with sports activities in local schools. We are in partnership with Horizon, a local sports club for young children with disabilities. Students in Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth offer a three-term commitment, helping teach swimming in our school pool, under the supervision of the coaches working for Horizons.

Community Service is demanding, enjoyable, and always rewarding. It enables you to gain invaluable experience of life and a measure of independence outside the boarding environment. It is all part of growing as a rounded human being and our commitment to the wider community.

Rev'd Penny Nash, Chaplain

Leiths Introductory Certificate in Food and Wine

You may opt into the popular 40-week professional culinary diploma course (over Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth) run by the world famous Leiths Cookery School. You will be taught to cook from scratch to a very high standard. The course covers a huge range of basic skills and a wide variety of cooking styles and dishes, from a BLT salad with soft boiled egg, jointing a chicken, leading up to an impressive rack of lamb with herb crust or salmon noisette with hollandaise sauce. The classic desserts of exotic fruit pavlova and lemon meringue pie are timed to perfection and there is even an opportunity for wine tasting! To assess your expertise there is a theory and practical examination at the end of the course.

If you opt for this course, you must commit fully for the duration of the course. It requires 2.5 hours a week and there will be weekly prep. There is a charge for this course and a letter will be sent home to parents during UV with all details and an opportunity to sign up.

Mme M Bonnefoy, Cookery Teacher

You will begin the GCSE course with a double lesson a week in the first year, as well as one period of conversation and two double lessons a week in the second year. There is no controlled assessment and the course will be assessed in all four skills (25% for each: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking).

The course will cover three main themes, each including some sub topics:

- Identity and culture (Self, Family, Free Time, Technology)
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest (Home Town/Region, Social issues, Health, Environment)
- Study and employment (School life, Education post 16, Employment)

Mrs C D'Andrea-Brion, Italian Teacher

Photography

A photography course, delivered by Art staff, is offered as a paid extra to Sixth Formers. It is fun, creative and exciting. You will work in small groups, have the use of a digital SLR and a film camera and learn to develop your digital photography skills as well as process negatives and black and white prints in the school darkroom. A variety of skills and techniques will be taught and you will be encouraged to experiment and challenge your creative potential by using our photography studio. The annual Photography competition and a display in LAC offers the opportunity to showcase your work. The number of places on the course is limited and is dealt with on a first-come, first-served basis. A letter will be sent to you during the Summer term of UV giving details of costing and inviting you to sign up for the course.

Mrs H Spence, Photography Teacher

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme - Gold

The Gold Award is open to all girls in the Sixth Form. The award requires you to undertake extra-curricular physical recreation, to pursue a skill, to volunteer and give some form of service to others, and to plan and complete an expedition after the necessary training and practice. In addition, there is a requirement to take part in a residential project with the aim of meeting and working with others who are not already known to the participant. For this there is a wide variety of opportunities outside school such as conservation working holidays, learning to sail, Cathedral camps, Tall Ship voyages, Outward Bound courses, and more. Currently the enrolment fee is £40.

The expedition is a challenging 4 day hike (plus an acclimatisation day) in difficult terrain. Complete of other sections (volunteering, physical, skills, residential) requires a lot of personal organisation and determination. Expeditions are usually done on foot within the UK, in a 'wild country' area like the Lakes or Snowdonia. Each year, in the Easter or Summer holidays, a walking expedition is arranged which you can use as your practice before your assessed expedition the following season. Expeditions arranged through school in this way normally cost around £410 including transport to and from the expedition.

Many of the extra-curricular activities available in school can be used to fulfil sections of the award, including sport and Sports Leaders, music, drama, and service in school as a Prefect or School Officer. By bypassing Silver and moving straight on to Gold level on your 16th birthday, as most participants do, you can complete the Gold Award by the end of the Sixth Form.

Achieving an Award will give you many skills, build on your own confidence and give you an outward-looking view on life. You will be recognised for doing things you want to do (and may even be doing already). You will make a difference to other people's lives and your community, be fitter and healthier, make new friends and have memories to last you a lifetime. You probably won't have finished in time for your UCAS personal statement but you will find the award can really make a difference for employers whether it is a work placement/internship, summer job or even your first career job.

All Gold awards are presented at events held at the Royal Palaces and is something along with your own achievements that you will remember for the rest of your life. And above all, it is great fun!

More information can be found at www.dofe.org

Mr A Porter, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Leader

Senior Debating and Public Speaking

Debating has become an increasingly popular activity at Wycombe in the last few years. We now debate with a number of different boys' schools on a regular basis. The Debating Society meets every Monday evening and is primarily aimed at the Sixth Form, especially the Lower Sixth. Skills you learn are useful for A level study and helpful in later life, particularly in interviews and presentations. We compete regularly in the English Schools' Mace, Oxford and Cambridge Union School Debating Competitions, and others which fit into the termly calendar.

If you wish to take part in public speaking, you will have the opportunity to compete in the Rotary Club Youth Speaks Competition: we enter two teams to both the intermediate and senior sections, and our teams regularly win through to later stages of the competition, reaching the National finals in 2016 and 2017.

Each House also appoints a House Debating Officer who helps to prepare younger girls for the Junior House Debating Competition which takes place as a balloon debate every year; this is a key role which serves as another excellent opportunity to develop your own debating skills through coaching other girls.

Mr Alec Howells, Teacher i/c of Debating and Public Speaking

Model United Nations

The school's Model United Nations (MUN) programme is one of the largest and most active in the country with more than 120 girls participating.

The team has won multiple awards competing at conferences across the world including recent competitions in the Republic of Ireland, Spain and the United States. Last year, the team won an Award of Excellence at NHSMUN in New York, the world's largest MUN conference attended by 5,000 young people.

In MUN, pupils develop and promote their own solutions to pressing world problems – from armed conflict and climate change to economic development and human rights. Taking on the role of diplomats and political leaders, pupils negotiate support for their ideas in simulations of international diplomatic forums such as the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly. The aim is to build an understanding of current global challenges amongst the next generation of world leaders and thinkers, while developing the skills that young people need to thrive in a globalised world.

We also organise WASAMUN: a three-day international affairs conference attended by young people from across the country. Pupils studying Geography will find our simulation of the Arctic Council particularly relevant to their A-Level course. We are also the only conference in the UK to offer a Model United States Congress for pupils undertaking A-Level Government & Politics.

In the past, many of our most active team members have started MUN for the first time in the Lower VI.

More information can be found on our dedicated website at mun.wycombeabbey.com.

Dr A Goddard, Teacher i/c of Model United Nations

Science Activities

Sixth Form Science Activities are designed to broaden your laboratory experience and to offer you the opportunity to do and see things you might not encounter during A level science courses. The activities take place weekly and offer the chance to pursue a wide variety of projects.

In Physics, you have the opportunity to undertake individual project work in areas that interest you such as Astronomy or Particle Physics, or even in areas beyond the A level specification, such as Relativity. You will hear talks from physicists and engineers, design moving objects to print on our 3D printer, and you can also choose to work towards entering the Physics Olympiad Competition.

In Chemistry, you solve a “Disaster in the Lab” activity by using chemical analysis, synthesise azo dyes and use them to tie dye, make soap and carry out the organic synthesis of paracetamol analysing the final product. In all these activities, you have the opportunity to use apparatus and chemicals that are not required at A level but that are interesting and, especially in the cases of the synthesis experiments, highly challenging.

In Biology, there will be opportunities to carry out experiments to explore areas beyond the syllabus such as extracting DNA from fruit, studying anatomy and investigating how pregnancy tests work.

In Psychology, you will be exploring psychological theory and debating its impact on society. You will construct and conduct your own psychological experiment, as well as meeting with other psychology pupils from the Royal Grammar School and Piper’s Corner for discussions over dinner.

If you have a particular interest in topics relating to Medicine, Engineering, Astronomy, Forensics or other scientifically based subjects, you may wish to use Science Activities’ time to explore an area of your choice.

Mrs S Buxton, Director of STEM

Young Scientists Journal

The Young Scientists Journal (ysjournal.com) is an international journal, written, reviewed and produced by students aged 12-20. Its mission is to inspire, empower and connect young scientists across the world by stimulating the publication of scientific research by school students, in order to contribute to the progress of science.

Contributions to the journal can take the form of a report on some original research, a review article, a magazine article or a blog post – the choice is yours – and, as well as the obvious benefits of networking and boosting a CV, these contributions can contribute to a CREST award. Furthermore, as the year goes on, opportunities will become available to be part of the Senior Team of YSJ, which leads the four key areas of the journal - Editorial, Production, PR & Marketing and Outreach & Events.

Dr L Fernandez, Teacher of Biology and Psychology

Greenpower Car

The Greenpower Car project involves designing, building and racing a car in Formula 24 (under 16 years old) and Formula 24+ categories. All teams have the same motor and one pair of 12 volt batteries per race, but other than that you are free to design a car from your own imagination, or build a kit car, which competes in a separate category. The events involve two x 90 minute races for F24 and a one-hour race for F24+ at some of the best motorsport venues in the UK such as Goodwood, Renishaw Castle Coombe and Dunsfold Park. In F24, at least three team members must drive the car, and up to six further members can act as pit crew, so there is plenty of action for everyone. In F24+ the team can choose how many drivers they use in each race. Wycombe Abbey has a car built from scratch and also a kit car, completed and raced for the first time in June 2018. Our team also qualified for the International Finals at Silverstone in 2019 and had a fabulous day of racing at this iconic racetrack. This project may appeal to you if you are considering engineering, if you are keen to get involved in the exciting world of motor racing or just because it is something different and an opportunity you will possibly never have again!

Mrs S Buxton, Director of STEM

Societies and Social Events

There is a huge range of societies open to you in the Sixth Form. Some meet regularly, others only on occasion. Amongst the more popular societies are Amnesty International, Creative Writing Society, Debating Society, Economics Society, Film Club, Green Power Car, Medical Society, Law Society, Engineering Society, The Publication, and Politics Society. Several societies such as Politics, Law, Medical and Science invite distinguished speakers to address their members. Girls in the Sixth Form are the leaders and drivers of the societies – and if a society doesn't exist for your particular interest, you are encouraged to start it!

There are also a range of social opportunities in the Sixth Form. Dinner parties with boys from Eton, Radley, Winchester and Harrow are regular events and several houses and societies have well-established links with one of these schools. You also have the opportunity to enjoy larger dinner dances and informal ceilidhs with boys from these and other schools. We have a very special Summer Ball for the Lower Sixth with boys from the local grammar school.

Without a doubt the highlight of our social scene is the Caledonian Society link with Eton. This society is chiefly for the Upper Sixth girls. We have regular practices with the boys culminating in a fabulous St Andrew's Day Ball in School Hall at Eton in the Autumn term and our own Burns' Night Ball in January - both wonderful events which are also great fun!

Appendix

Useful Higher Education Websites

1. Choosing a University, College or Course

- university.which.co.uk Compares universities based on student feedback
- ucas.com Comprehensive details of courses, offer levels and application procedures from UCAS, with sections for students and parents
- unistats.ac.uk Official site for comparing UK higher education course data
- theguardian.com/education Comprehensive coverage of higher education
- timeshighereducation.com Comprehensive coverage of higher education
- london.ac.uk/tasters Excellent taster courses run by the University of London
- morrisby.com Morrisby online

2. University Courses outside the UK

- tcd.ie Trinity College Dublin
- fulbright.co.uk Information for US applicants
- australian-universities.com Australian universities
- hku.hk University of Hong Kong
- cuhk.edu.hk The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- thestudentworld.edufindme.com Courses outside the UK

3. Careers

- coa.co.uk Cambridge Occupational Analyst programmes
- workshop-uk.net Workshop Conferences – Careers Courses
- bma.org.uk Careers advice for Medicine applicants
- allaboutlaw.co.uk Careers in Law
- futuremorph.org STEM Careers
- lawsociety.org.uk Careers in Law
- engc.org.uk Careers in Engineering
- rcvs.org.uk Veterinary careers
- army.mod.uk Careers in the Army
- raf.mod.uk Careers in the Navy
- royalnavy.mod.uk Careers in the Navy or Royal Marines

4. University Apps

- UCAS The Little Guide
- What University
- University Application Guide for iPad
- bC4Me Mobile
- ApplyMed, ApplyDental, ApplyVet
- Personal Statement App
- UNiDAYS: discounts on favourite brands
- Microbiology Virtual Patients: designed by Glasgow Medical School
- The Student Guide: the world's ultimate magazine for students
- TSR: The Student Room
- UCAS Calculator

Further Information

Pupils will be asked to give us their initial list of A Level choices by Tuesday 1 December 2020, after which option blocks will be fixed. The UV Parents' Meeting on Tuesday 15 December 2020 will be an opportunity for parents to discuss A Level options further with teachers. Pupils will be asked to make final choices in the second half of the Spring term. Further changes to options will be possible after this date as long as they fit within the option blocks.

Information and advice on making choices can be sought from the following people:

Miss Emily Boswell, Deputy Head (Academic)
Dr Neal Carrier, Director of Sixth Form
Heads of Department
Housemistresses
Tutors
Subject Teachers