



SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Entry September 2023

www.parkstone.poole.sch.uk



WELCOME

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Sixth Form at Parkstone Grammar School. We welcome students from a range of schools into our Sixth Form where we provide an outstanding education within a vibrant learning environment.

Moving into Sixth Form is an exciting step in your education. It is in Sixth Form that you will begin to specialise your chosen path of study, engage in a number of leadership roles and consider possible career routes. At Parkstone we provide the support, expertise and guidance to help you make informed choices in which you will thrive and succeed.

We pride ourselves on our extensive curriculum offer, in collaboration with Poole Grammar School, enabling students to choose between 29 different subjects. We also offer a diverse curriculum enhancement programme to complement your A Level subjects, as well as enrichment, a full lecture series, work experience, PE and wellbeing. Students will be fully supported by a strong pastoral team who will support you to achieve your best. We also offer a huge range of clubs, societies and trips to extend and enrich the curriculum, alongside many sports and musical groups.

I hope that you find our prospectus useful – it provides information on the curriculum we offer as well as information on all aspects of Sixth Form life. I hope that you will decide to pursue your post 16 studies with us and look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form in September.



David Hallsworth
Headteacher



PROGRAMME OF STUDY

At Parkstone all students will start on three A Levels in Year 12 and continue these three subjects into Year 13, at the end of which they will gain three A Level qualifications. To supplement their programme of study in Year 12, students will be expected to follow a combination of curriculum enhancement and enrichment activities. At the end of Year 12 all students will sit formal internal exams and be expected to meet an agreed standard to ensure all students are on track to meet their academic potential in Year 13. The results of these exams also inform teachers’ decisions regarding post 18 predicted grades. By providing students with a diverse range of opportunities, they are enabled to make informed future choices based on their interests and goals.

Year 12		INTERNAL EXAMS	Year 13		EXTERNAL EXAMS
Subject 1	A Level		Subject 1	A Level	
Subject 2	A Level		Subject 2	A Level	
Subject 3	A Level		Subject 3	A Level	
Curriculum Enhancement and Enrichment					

Curriculum Enhancement:

Activities offered as part of the curriculum enhancement include the extended project qualification (EPQ). This is an opportunity to explore a specialised study that fosters confidence to work independently and creatively, allowing practice in essay writing and independent research. Universities view the EPQ an ideal pre- university preparation.

Other courses are available including Language Leadership, Sports Leadership, Core Maths and Art Project.

Enrichment:

Students in Year 12 will undertake an Enrichment Programme which offers a range of exciting opportunities. The programme includes a series of lectures by external speakers, community service, volunteer work, and a range of self-improvement activities such as yoga, self-defence, mindfulness and sign language.

Wellbeing:

All students supplement their studies with one wellbeing session per fortnight. Topics include:

- ‘Time to Talk’ sessions. These will focus on life satisfaction, positive emotions, and whether their life is meaningful.
- ‘Taking Care of Me’, which focuses on time management and developing a successful balance between school, work and social life.
- a variety of talks and discussions on employment, going to university and apprenticeships

WHAT TO EXPECT



MRS IZARD
Assistant
Headteacher



MRS MOORE
Pastoral Head
of Sixth Form



MR COLLIS
Academic Head
of Sixth Form



MR WATTS
Assistant Head
of Sixth Form



MRS KELLY
Assistant Head
of Sixth Form

General Care:

All students are attached to a tutor group with a personal tutor who will help with any daily issues, provide structured time for self-reflection and guide you through the various administration processes within the Sixth Form. You have two Heads of Year: Mrs Moore and Mr Collis who are supported by Mr Watts and Mrs Kelly, the Assistant Heads of Sixth Form. Mrs Izard, Assistant Headteacher, has overall responsibility for the Sixth Form.

General Details:

When you enter the Sixth Form, you will be allocated to a tutor group that is composed of approximately 25 students of the same age. Contact between form tutors and their tutees takes place in the morning. Tutor groups meet twice weekly for Sixth Form assemblies, which are a valuable forum for the communication of important information and self-reflection. New entrants are placed alongside existing Parkstone students as well as students from their previous school where possible. A Taster Day for external applicants takes place in June after the GCSE exams to introduce staff, meet other students and sample Sixth Form lessons.

The form tutor is responsible for the welfare of his/her tutees and should always be initially consulted about any academic or pastoral matter. Mrs Moore, Mr Collis, Mr Watts, Mrs Kelly and Mrs Izard are always available to advise or deal with any matters referred to them by tutors.

Facilities:

As a Sixth Former you have access to the new Sixth Form teaching block. In this block you will be able to make use of the Sixth Form Resource Centre, which has computers, laptops, work spaces and its own café. You can also meet with the Sixth Form Team. Alongside these new facilities you also have access to the library, empty classrooms, dining hall, ICT suites and wireless connectivity if you would like to use your own devices in your study periods.

Expectations:

Along with the privileges of being a Sixth Former, there are certain responsibilities: at all times you are expected to maintain high standards of behaviour, both in and outside the school community, adhere to the Sixth Form dress code and to be a role model for younger students. In addition, you must arrive on time for school, afternoon registration and lessons, produce assignments as requested and adopt a responsible attitude towards attendance.

SIXTH FORM STUDY

The Sixth Form places new and very different demands on a student. The timetable is made up of lessons in the subjects chosen plus supporting lessons and study periods. Students are given both specific and general tasks to do outside of timetabled lessons.

Students need to organise their own time effectively and prioritise carefully, making sure that they have ample time to carry out research and to read around their subjects. We would expect students to spend up to five hours per subject per week on homework and independent study.

Extra-Curricular Life:

There are a wide range of clubs and societies available to members of the school, including Young Enterprise, Computer Club, Science Society, Amnesty International and Debate Society. There are opportunities to participate in musicals, a variety of bands, Student Voice and a diverse Enrichment and Enhancement programme that enables the development of varied skills and knowledge which cannot be obtained “within the classroom”. In addition, students are very proud of their annual charity week and organise a Christmas Celebration for local senior citizens.

Finance:

Parkstone Grammar School provides free tuition, text books and course materials, however students are expected to pay for printing within School. Each term students are given printing credits towards this cost. Voluntary contributions are requested from parents for the many day and residential visits that support learning in school. In the case of hardship, please contact the school’s Finance Office to discuss the contribution further.

Paid Employment:

Sixth Form study is equivalent to a full-time job. It is therefore important students do not become over-involved in paid employment; employment lasting more than five hours per week is unacceptable. The school fully understands the benefits of outside employment, not only for the financial benefits but also for the experience of working in a team, time management and communicating with the public. Nevertheless, it would be very short-sighted to hinder the realisation of academic potential for the sake of money earned. We look to parents to understand and support this point of view.

16-19 Bursary Fund:

This is a fund to help 16-19 year olds facing financial hardship to remain in full time education after Year 11. It is available to those aged under 19 on 31 August in the academic year in which they start their programme of study. The 16-19 Bursary Fund has two elements: Level 1 Award for Vulnerable Young People and Level 2 Awards for Discretionary Learner Support. More information is available from the Bursary Team in the School Office.

JOINING SIXTH FORM

Entry Requirements to Year 12:

Students are required to have achieved six GCSEs (including Mathematics and English Language) at grades 5 or above. Some subjects have more specific requirements – see subject profiles for further details.

In exceptional circumstances, the Headteacher reserves the right to admit students who have not met the entry requirement to subjects.

Subjects offered for A Level:

- Ancient History (mixed classes held at Poole GS)
- Art & Design: Fine Art
- Art & Design: 3D Design/Graphic Communication (mixed classes held at Poole GS)
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology: Fashion & Textiles
- Design & Technology: Product Design (mixed classes held at Poole GS)
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- French (mixed classes held at both sites)
- Geography
- Geology (mixed classes held at Poole GS)
- German (mixed classes held at both sites)
- History
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Media Studies (mixed classes held at Parkstone GS)
- Music
- Philosophy of Religion and Ethics
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish (mixed classes held at both sites)
- Theatre Studies (mixed classes held at both sites)

Note: Subjects will only be offered if demand is sufficient. If there is sufficient demand for any other A Level subject that we do not offer then we will investigate the possibility of adding it to the curriculum.

Other Courses:

- Curriculum Enhancement
 - Extended Project Qualification
 - Enrichment Programme
 - Wellbeing Programme
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Entry Requirements to Year 13:

Students entering Year 13 must have attended our Sixth Form in Year 12.

All students would be expected to have passed formal internal exams at the end of Year 12. Students who do not meet this standard will be given advice and guidance to support them into Year 13.

WHY CHOOSE PARKSTONE?

Good academic qualifications can open many doors and at Parkstone we have dedicated staff to enable you to reach your full potential. The development of your character is equally important and you should consider how these objectives may best be achieved.

In the Sixth Form we offer many opportunities for students to take responsibility and gain leadership experience, these include: Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl, Sixth Form Prefects, Sports Reps, Heads of House, organising and participating in charity events, political fora and mentoring younger students.

The Sixth Form can be regarded as a society made up of people with differing abilities and interests. Your help is needed to make it run smoothly. You can be assured that the more you are prepared to put into school life the more satisfaction and enjoyment you will get out of it.

Key dates:

17 October 2022	Introduction to Parkstone Sixth Form Evening
November 2022	Registration and Period 1: Year 11 meet Year 13 students
December 2022	Data Collection: Initial Option Choices
January 2023	Year 11 mock examinations
February 2023	Data Collection: Updated Option Choices
May-June 2023	GCSE Examinations
29 June 2023	Taster Day (provisional date)
25 August 2023	GCSE Examination Results published
	Data Collection: Final Option Choices
	Applicants Confirmation of Place meeting
September 2023	Courses begin

If at any time you have any concerns about your future, please see your tutor, Heads of Sixth Form, or Mrs Izard, all of whom will be pleased to give advice.



A LEVEL SUBJECT PROFILES

ANCIENT HISTORY	08	GEOGRAPHY	14
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ANCIENT HISTORY

Board: OCR

Qualifications to start course:

No additional qualifications beyond the entry requirements are needed. You do not need to have studied this subject prior to A Level.

This course offers you the opportunity to study the fascinating civilisations of the Greek and Roman worlds and events that have moulded our society and culture. The course incorporates social and political history and makes use of a wide variety of ancient sources from histories to comic plays.

Course outline:

In Year 12 the Greek module concentrates on the society of Athens (interplay of political, social, economic, cultural and religious factors.) The Roman module considers the Julio-Claudian Emperors, 31 BC- AD 68 and the impact of Imperial rule for the inhabitants of Rome.

In Year 13, the Greek module investigates relations between Greek states, and between Greek and non-Greek states. The Roman module investigates the use and abuse of power and the fall of the Republic.

Benefits of studying Ancient History:

In addition to learning about an inherently interesting and significant period in European history, you will develop excellent textual analysis skills and enhance your powers of analysis. It is highly regarded by universities and could be taken alongside Modern History.

Year 12:

Unit 1: Society of Athens 449 – 399 BC

Unit 2: The Julio-Claudian Emperors, 31 BC - AD 68

Year 13:

Unit 1: Relations between Greek states, and between Greek and non-Greek states, 492 - 404 BC

Unit 2: Roman History use and abuse of power and the fall of the Republic

ART & DESIGN (Fine Art)

Board: AQA

Qualifications to start course:

Students will need to have achieved a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art.

Description of subject:

Our A Level Art and Design course allows students to go on a journey of self-realisation and set their own subject matter, drawing on the work of other artists and designers for initial inspiration.

This “voyage of discovery” approach allows students to build on and extend their achievements from the previous year. Further independent research, development of ideas and off site work will take place, and students are expected to explore a number of areas of study within fine art such as drawing, painting, mixed media, sculpture, ceramics, installation and print making.

The Future:

The creative industries are the fastest growing economic industries in Britain. 8% of all UK employment are creative occupations and its rate of growth is four times the rate of the UK workforce as a whole. Art and Design can lead onto a wide range of work opportunities. Careers range from Product Design, Graphic Design, Animation, Illustration, Fashion Design, Architecture, Exhibition Designer, Teacher, Theatre Set Designer, Prop/Model Maker, Art Director and much more.

Year 12:

Component 1: Foundation Project

Component 2: Personal Investigation

Year 13:

Component 1: Personal Investigation continued

Component 2: Externally set Assignment

ART & DESIGN (3D Design/Graphic Communication)

Board: OCR

Qualifications to start course:

Students will need to have achieved a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art or Design Technology.

Description of subject:

Students can choose to follow a range of project pathways all of which explore practical and critical/contextual work through a range of processes and media. The routes students explore are:

Three-dimensional Design (H605): Students might choose to pursue projects in product design, architecture, sculptural work, animation and other design disciplines that have three dimensional outcomes. Students use a wide range of drawing techniques and modelling materials to realise their designs.

Graphic Communication (H602): This will offer a range of different approaches to graphic design that include a personal selection and exploration of disciplines such as illustration, advertising, branding, typography and packaging.

The OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art and Design consists of two components, 60% personal portfolio and 40% externally set task. Both are teacher assessed and externally moderated by OCR.

The Future:

Studying this course can lead to opportunities for studying courses in Graphic Design, Architecture, Interior and Product Design, Illustration, Animation and Computer Game Design as well as many other related courses at higher education.

Year 12 and Year 13:

A series of Personal Investigation

Year 13:

Externally set assignment

BIOLOGY

Board: OCR

Qualifications to start course:

Students will need to have achieved a Grade 6 or above in either GCSE Biology or Double Award Science.

Description of subject:

Biology is the study of living things, which is a wide and diverse area ranging from Molecular Biology to Ecology. This is a time of rapid advances especially in Cell Biology and Genetics with huge implications for human health. To supplement the course students can participate in 'Biology Surgeries' to clarify understandings, an active Biology group within the Student Science Committee, a Natural History club, a Zoology club and a Biology newsletter. Students studying A Level Biology often find it beneficial to study Chemistry, Physics or Mathematics at A Level too.

The future:

Biology is a difficult A Level due to the quantity of content but it is not impossible if students choose to work hard and listen to their teacher's advice. Possible careers include: Botany, Ecology, Biomedical research, Neurology, Human Genomics, Pharmacology, Medicine, Physiotherapy, Optometry, Veterinary, Microbiology, Epidemiology, Palaeontology and Anthropology.

Year 12:

- Practical Skills in Biology
- Foundations in Biology: Cells and Biological Molecules
- Exchange and Transport
- Biodiversity

Year 13:

- Practical skills
- Communication, Homeostasis and Energy
- Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems

BUSINESS

Board: Pearson Edexcel

Qualifications to start course:

No additional qualifications beyond the entry requirements are needed. You do not need to have studied this subject prior to A Level.

Description of subject:

A study of the world of business is practical, up to date and exciting. Ideas, situations and theories are explored and investigated using real examples and personal experience. The subject is explored through case studies, problem-solving activities, data interpretation, personal research, presentations and IT applications. It is important you are interested in business matters and have a desire to explore why and how the study of business contributes to modern life.

The future:

There are many types of business careers including: Advertising Account Executive, Banker: Investment/Commercial, Banking Manager, Buyer, (Industrial or Retail), Distribution/Logistics Manager, Insurance Underwriter, Management Consultant, Market Research Executive, Human Resources Manager, Public Relations Account, Stockbroker.

Year 12:

Theme 1: Marketing and people

- Meeting customer needs
- The market
- Marketing mix and strategy
- Managing people
- Entrepreneurs and leaders

Year 13:

Theme 3: Business decision & strategy

- Business objectives and strategy
- Business growth
- Decision-making techniques
- Influences on business decisions
- Assessing competitiveness
- Managing change

Theme 2: Managing business activities

- Raising finance
- Financial planning
- Managing finance
- Resource management
- External influences

Theme 4: Global business

- Globalisation
- Global markets and business expansion
- Global marketing
- Global industries and companies (multinational corporations)

CHEMISTRY

Board: OCR

Qualifications to start course:

Students will need to have achieved a Grade 7 or above in either GCSE Chemistry or Double Award Science.

Description of subject:

Chemistry aims to understand the behaviour of the physical universe at a scale so minute and detailed it often defeats the imagination of the most gifted artists; yet its outcomes have provided all of our material technologies from the engineering of pharmaceuticals to the construction of spacecraft. Chemistry is fundamentally a practical science that seeks understanding through investigation of the underlying principles that govern the behaviour of all materials.

The future:

Major 'non-scientific' employers such as merchant banking houses and law firms 'head-hunt' and recruit high quality science undergraduate students even before they have completed their degrees. A Chemistry degree makes a graduate eligible to follow employment in many professions including business & retail management, the food industry, health care professions, and many more.

Year 12:

- General Principles of Chemistry: formulae, equations, atomic structure, bonding
- Introduction to Inorganic, Physical and Organic Chemistry
- Laboratory and experimental skills in Chemistry

Year 13:

- As per Year 12, but extending into advanced study of topics in Inorganic, Physical, and Organic Chemistry
- Laboratory and experimental skills in Chemistry

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Board: OCR

Qualifications to start course:

Students will need to have achieved a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics. You do not need to have studied this subject prior to A Level.

Description of subject:

Computers are part of almost every aspect of our lives, from the phones we use to the food we eat, so studying Computer Science can be a seriously smart move for the 21st century. Not only will you learn about computers you'll also learn about the real-world applications of technology. You will research topics, solve problems, challenges and puzzles. Computer Science is a practical subject, you will learn to program using several programming languages leading you to create computer games, develop interactive websites and design and create a program of your choice.

The future:

Computing graduates are among the highest earners in the UK. Imagine designing a circuit board for the next generation of iPads or creating a satellite program that could warn about oncoming tsunamis. With new tech innovations driving up the demand for computing skills, computing graduates are amongst the most in-demand job applicants.

Year 12:

- Fundamentals of programming, data structures and algorithms
- Data representation, computer systems, organisation and architecture
- Fundamentals of communication and networking

Year 13:

- Fundamental of functional and object orientated programming
- Systematic approach to problem solving
- Non-examined Assessment: The Computing Practical Project

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY (Fashion & Textiles)

Board: AQA

Qualifications to start course:

Students ideally will have achieved a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Design & Technology, this does not have to have been Textiles specifically. However, other qualifications such as GCSE Art & Design will be considered on an individual basis where Design & Technology was not studied at GCSE, or other qualifications if sufficient interest and skills can be evidenced.

Description of subject:

Areas of study will include practical exploration of surface decoration and dyeing, fabric manipulation and formation, pattern cutting and modelling, investigation of fibres and fabrics, commercial practice, fashion history, designers and social influences on modern design and technology. This subject also requires design and make Non-examined Assessment.

The future:

1 in 11 people in the UK presently work in the creative industries, of which Fashion and Textiles related industries are the largest employer of all the UK's creative industries. Presently, the creative economy is rising faster than the wider job economy, as creativity becomes increasingly highly valued in the 21st century job market. Studying textiles can lead you to a wide variety of exciting careers, such as Design, Retail, Merchandising, Journalism, Photography, Marketing, Bio Design, Green Chemistry and Textiles Technology.

Fashion and Textiles is frequently studied with Art & Design but also goes well with other subjects such as the Sciences, Languages and Business.

Year 12:

- Exploration and experiment with a wide range of materials and techniques
- Study of historical design and social influences on modern design and technology
- One practical investigation
- One mock written examination

Year 13:

- Study of fibres and fabrics
- Study of commercial and industrial practice
- One major practical NEA project (50% of A Level)
- Two written examinations (50% of A Level)

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY (Product Design)

Board: Eduqas

Qualifications to start course:

Students will need to have achieved a Grade 6 in GCSE Design and Technology or Mathematics where Design and Technology has not been studied previously.

Description of subject:

Design and Technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. The course encourages learners to use creativity and imagination when applying iterative design processes to develop and modify designs, and to design and make prototypes that solve real-world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values.

The future:

Higher Education courses include: Product Design: Resistant Materials – Engineering (Mechanical, Civil, Structural, Soil and many more) Design; Product Design; Furniture Design; Industrial Design; Interior Design; Materials Science. Those considering a relevant higher level apprenticeship will also benefit greatly from the course.

Years 12 & 13:

Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century (Written Examination: 3 hours 50% of qualification)

Students will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of:

- technical principles
- designing and making principles along with their ability to analyse and evaluate wider issues in design and technology.

Component 2: Design and make project (Non-examined Assessment: approximately 80 hours 50% of qualification)

A sustained design and make project, based on a brief developed by the candidate.

ECONOMICS

Board: Pearson Edexcel

Qualifications to start course:

No additional qualifications beyond the entry requirements are needed. You do not need to have studied this subject prior to A Level.

Description of subject:

The forces of economics shape your life now and in the future. What you pay for your shopping, the cost of your house and the availability of health care are all determined, in part, by economics. You will study current economic issues, problems and institutions that affect everyday life and the ideas behind these. You will develop your ability to understand, analyse, evaluate and solve problems.

The future:

Economics graduates do not have to choose a financial occupation, in fact, a degree in Economics can help a graduate find work in almost any job sector: Economist for Government/Industry, Agricultural Economist, Financial Risk Analyst, Management Consultant, Accountant, Statistician, and Journalist.

Years 12:

Introduction to markets and market failure

- Nature of economics
- How markets work and fail
- Government intervention

The UK Economy performance and policies

- Measures of economic performance
- Economic growth
- Macroeconomic objectives and policy

Year 13:

Business Behaviour and the labour market

- Revenues, costs and profit
- Market structures
- Government intervention

A global perspective

- Poverty and inequality
- Emerging and developing economies
- Role of the state in the macroeconomy

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (Socio-Linguistics)

Board: AQA 7702

Qualifications to start course:

Students will need to have achieved a Grade 6 or above in either GCSE English Language or English Literature.

Description of subject:

Language is all around us! Rather than simply taking it for granted, this subject allows you to explore issues such as how our gender affects our use of language, prejudices about certain accents, and how technology is fast altering the ways in which we communicate. Much of the course is underpinned by knowledge and application of theories of professional linguistics. You will also study how children learn to speak and write, see how English has changed over time, and develop an understanding of its position in the world today. You will learn about English grammar so that you can analyse a range of texts, uncovering how language is often crafted to manipulate public attitudes. You will be required to complete two pieces of coursework.

The future:

This course opens doors to a range of university degrees (including Science and Medicine in some cases). It can also lead to a range of fulfilling careers such as: Law, Journalism, Politics, Teaching and Lecturing, Advertising and Marketing, Speech and Language Therapy, Media Research and presenting (radio and TV), Human Resources and Web Content Management.

Year 12:

- The study of aspects of language in society, related to gender, social groups, occupation and geographical region
- Analysis of how texts are manipulated to represent people and institutions
- Development of writing skills in producing analytical essays and opinion pieces, also feature articles on language issues and concerns

Year 13:

- Extending knowledge on text variation and representation
- The study of how children learn to speak, read and write
- Extending knowledge on language diversity and change over time, also English on a global scale
- Non-examined Assessment: Original writing plus an independent study into an aspect of language

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Board: AQA (A) 7712

Qualifications to start course:

At least a Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature.

Description of subject:

Throughout history, the great obsessions of humankind have been explored in the form of literature. Issues of love, death and the meaning of life are ingrained in the very fabric of the novels, poems and plays featured on the English Literature course.

This course takes a historicist approach - working from the belief that no text exists in isolation but is the product of the time in which it was produced. You will explore works by a variety of writers including: Shakespeare, Mary Shelley, Kate Chopin, F Scott Fitzgerald, Tennessee Williams, Sylvia Plath, Kathryn Stockett and a range of poets

An essential requirement is your willingness to read widely beyond the texts studied and to debate ideas. You also need an enthusiasm for language and an interest in the contexts in which works of literature are produced.

The future:

This course can lead to further study of this subject, careers in writing, publishing, the media, teaching and many others.

Year 12:

- Love through the Ages: Shakespeare
- Love through the Ages: Prose and Poetry
- Unseen Poetry

Year 13:

- Love through the Ages: Shakespeare, Poetry and Prose
- Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the Present Day
- Non-Exam Assessment: Independent Critical Study

FRENCH

Board: AQA

Qualifications to start course:

Students need to have achieved a Grade 6 or above in GCSE French.

Description of subject:

French is an interactive subject with a focus on oral and written communication. The inclusion of French film and literature provides a window into French-speaking culture, its people and their attitudes. The course draws upon authentic contemporary publications which cover diverse aspects of life in Francophone countries. Any modern foreign language at A Level is lively and demanding, providing an enjoyable challenge. We offer our students further opportunities such as a cultural and linguistic trip to Paris, and the opportunity to work with younger students learning French.

The future:

A language is particularly valuable for careers in: Business, Government, Media, Finance, Medicine, Social Care, Law, Marketing, Computer Gaming, Translation and Interpreting, Travel and Tourism, Voluntary and Charitable sectors. An A Level language is a rigorous subject which is well-respected by Russell Group universities including Oxford and Cambridge.

Year 12:

- Study of a film: "La Haine"
- Changes in family structures
- 'Cyber-society'
- The role of volunteering
- A culture proud of its heritage
- Contemporary Francophone music
- The seventh art (French Cinema)

Year 13

- Study of a novel: "No et Moi"
- The positive aspects of a diverse society
- Life for the marginalised
- How criminals are treated
- Teenagers, the right to vote and political engagement
- **Demonstrating, strikes: who holds the power?**
- Politics and immigration

GEOGRAPHY

Board: AQA

Qualifications to start course:

Students need to have achieved a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography or a Grade 7 or above in another Humanities subject.

Description of subject:

Geography explores big questions, such as what is the future of the planet and its environments? What causes natural hazards? Is there a solution to world poverty? How are landscapes formed?

Through this course you will discover different climates, cultures and countries as well as places closer to home. You will cover a range of human and physical topics and investigate interactions between the two. As well as classroom study, the course includes fieldwork trips to local coastal landforms and possibly even an international trip such as Iceland.

The future:

A Geography A Level is extremely well received by employers as it promotes global awareness, research techniques and develops decision making skills essential in careers today. Possible careers include: Resource Management; Transport and Town Planning; Surveying; Cartography; Meteorology; Advertising; Law and Social Services.

Year 12:

- Coastal Environments
- Fieldwork Skills
- Changing Places
- Contemporary Urban Environments
- Individual Fieldwork Investigation

Year 13

- Individual Fieldwork Investigation
- Hazards: Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Fire and Tropical Storms
- Water and Carbon Processes
- Global Systems and Governance

GEOLOGY

Board: OCR

Qualifications to start course:

Students need to have achieved a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics and at least one Science.

Description of subject:

Geology will change the way you look at the world forever. It is the all-encompassing science, combining aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and is recognised as a science by universities. Consider Geology if you are inquisitive, interested in the natural world, sciences, physical geography and you enjoy outdoor work; Geology will expand your understanding of the history and evolution of the Earth, including its life forms and past environments.

Fieldwork is a key area and a number of trips are undertaken to a diverse range of destinations such as Sicily, Pembrokeshire and Kimmeridge Bay. If you enjoy experiencing the natural world, we're interested in physical aspects of geography and if you want to know more about the history and evolution of the Earth, including its life forms and past environments, then Geology is for you.

The future:

Geology can take you places! Geology can be an asset to those looking to move into Environmental Science based courses or careers, Civil Engineering, Climate Science, Space Exploration; and more.

Year 12:

- Foundations in Geology
- Global Tectonics
- Interpreting the Past
- Structural Geology

Year 13:

- Petrology and Economic Geology
- Basin Analysis
- Geohazards
- Dinosaurs and Evolution

GERMAN

Board: AQA

Qualifications to start course:

Students need to have achieved a Grade 6 or above in GCSE German.

Description of subject:

German is an interactive subject with a focus on oral and written communication. The inclusion of German music, film and literature provides a window into German-speaking culture, its people and their attitudes. Any modern foreign language at A Level is lively and demanding, providing an enjoyable challenge. We offer our students further opportunities, such as a cultural and linguistic trip to Berlin, working with younger students learning German, participating in a debating workshop with other local schools and the possibility of funded work-shadowing in Germany. We encourage students to enter prestigious competitions such as the Oxford German Olympiad and Anthea Bell Translation Prize.

The future:

A language is particularly valuable for careers in: Business, Government, Media, Finance, Medicine, Social Care, Law, Marketing, Teaching, Computer Gaming, Translation and Interpreting, Travel and Tourism, Voluntary and Charitable sectors.

Years 12 & 13:

Aspects of Society:

- The family
- The digital world
- Youth culture (fashion, music & TV)

Artistic Culture:

- Festivals and traditions
- Art and architecture
- Cultural life in Berlin

Study of a Film:

Currently – Goodbye Lenin

Multiculturalism:

- Immigration
- Integration
- Racism

Aspects of Political life:

- Germany and the EU
- Politics and Youth
- German reunification

Study of a Literature:

Currently – “Die Verwandlung”
by Franz Kafka

HISTORY

Board: AQA

Qualifications to start course:

Students need to have achieved a Grade 6 or above in GCSE History or another Humanities subject.

Description of subject:

With our course you will focus on ideas of change and continuity and how the monarchy has developed over time. You will also discuss and debate topics such as imperialism, empire, war and ideology. Understanding that history is a multi discipline which spans literature, geo-politics and philosophy is critical to success at A Level. You will have opportunities to take part in conferences and residential trips including to the Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

The future:

History is a highly regarded academic discipline and the skills acquired are transferable to many professions such as Law, Journalism, archival work, Politics and academia.

Years 12:

The Tudors, 1485-1547 - Exam

- The Rule and Reigns of Henry VII and Henry VIII

The Birth of the USA, 1760-1776 - Exam

- Colonial America and Causes of The American Revolution

Year 13:

The Tudors, 1485-1547 - Exam

- England Under Edward VI and Mary I

- The Shaping of Elizabethan England

The Birth of the USA, 1760-1801 - Exam

- The outcomes of the War of Independence

- The setting up of a new nation after the War of Independence

Germany 1815-1945 – Coursework

- An independent study of Germany across a century, investigating the growth of Anti-Semitism and Nationalism culminating in the emergence of the Nazi Party and Rise of Hitler

- This is a 3000-4000 word essay completed alongside the examined units



MATHEMATICS

Board: EdExcel

Qualifications to start course:

Students need to have achieved a Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

Description of subject:

A Level Mathematics provides students with a thorough grounding in the mathematical tools and techniques often needed in the workplace. The logic and reasoning skills developed by studying A Level Mathematics make sure the qualification is widely respected by all universities. At A Level 67% of the content is Pure Mathematics and 33% is applied, split equally between Mechanics and Statistics.

The future:

Studying A Level Mathematics will prepare students for a wide variety of careers including Finance, Engineering, Architecture and the Sciences. It is highly regarded by employers due to its emphasis on problem solving and high level numeracy skills.

Having a broad mathematical knowledge and secure technical ability will help the transition from sixth form to higher education.

Year 12:

- **Pure:** Development of algebra alongside new work in trigonometry, vectors, exponentials and logarithms. Introduction of differential and integral calculus
- **Mechanics:** Kinematics, forces and Newton's laws
- **Statistics:** Data analysis, representation of data, probability and hypothesis testing

Year 13:

- **Pure:** More advanced algebra and trigonometry, calculus, series and sequences
- **Mechanics:** Moments and application of kinematics
- **Statistics:** Probability, regression and the Normal distribution

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Board: EdExcel

Qualifications to start course:

Students need to have achieved a Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

Description of subject:

Studying Further Mathematics consolidates and reinforces students' A Level Mathematics work, helping them to achieve the very highest of grades. Lessons provide an insight into the higher levels of the subject covering challenging topics such as imaginary numbers and multi-dimensional geometry. Further Mathematics requires mathematical ability coupled with a willingness to work independently and helps to promote excellent time management skills. There are 4 papers two Pure Mathematics (50%), Mechanics (25%) and Decision Mathematics (25%)

The future:

Any student planning to take a Mathematics rich degree such as Mathematics, Engineering, Sciences, Computing, and Economics will benefit enormously from taking Further Mathematics. Many of the highest achieving universities are looking for students that have achieved well in this course. The skills gained from studying Further Mathematics are also in high demand by the very best employers in a wide variety of fields.

Year 12:

The course followed is the full 2 year course In A Level Mathematics.

Year 13:

- **Pure:** (50%) complex numbers, matrices, hyperbolics, polar coordinates, differential equations, calculus and vectors
- **Applied Mechanics:** (25%) momentum, impulse, work energy, power, elastic strings, springs and collisions in one and two dimensions
- **Decision Mathematics:** (25%) algorithms, route inspection, linear programming and critical path analysis.

MEDIA STUDIES

Board: Eduqas

Qualifications to start course:

No additional qualifications beyond the entry requirements are needed. You do not need to have studied this subject prior to A Level.

Description of subject:

The Media Studies A Level is an exciting and contemporary course that gives students the opportunity to explore how the media shape our world through the study of nine media forms including advertising and marketing, film, television, video games, blogs and newspapers. Additionally, students develop practical skills including the chance to create their own music video and promotion.

The future:

This course is ideal for students wishing to study Film, Media, English or Journalism at university and an excellent foundation for those who may be considering a career in the UK's highly successful and profitable creative industries which includes television, film, animation and music production.

Year 12:

Analysing Media Language and Representation

- In depth newspaper study, music videos, advertising/marketing and film posters.

Analysing Industry and Audience

- Advertising and Marketing, The Film Industry and The Video Games Industry.

Non-examined Assessment (30%)

- Create a cross-media production to include an original music video for a new or local/unsigned artist or band and related print or online products.

Year 13:

Media Forms and Products in Depth

- Television, Magazines and Media in the Online Age.

MUSIC

Board: EdExcel

Qualifications to start course:

Students need to have achieved a Grade 7 or above in GCSE Music and instrumental or singing skills equivalent to at least Grade 5 of Associated Board. Students who have not studied GCSE Music may be considered at the discretion of Head of Music.

Description of subject:

The A Level Music course extends the GCSE skills of performing, composing and listening in a way which emphasise their interdependence. Students perform a 'live' recital on their main instrument, compose two pieces and learn about a variety of musical genres through the study of set works. Students may perform on any instrument and in any musical styles and are encouraged to learn to play a wide range of music from folk, popular and classical tradition, to jazz and non-western genres.

The future:

Studying A Level Music will prepare you for a wide variety of careers in the musical world, including Professional Performing, Teaching, Music recording and Composing. It is also highly regarded by universities.

Year 12:

- Performing – recital
- Composing – two compositions
- Appraising – written assessment

Year 13:

- Performing – recital (30% of the total marks)
- Composing – 1 composition, 1 technical study (30% of the total marks)
- Appraising – written assessment (40% of the total marks)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Board: OCR

Qualifications to start course:

No additional qualifications beyond the entry requirements are needed. You do not need to have studied this subject prior to A Level.

Description of subject:

“Not thoughts to repeat, but how to think” is the aim of A Level Philosophy and Ethics. Students learn to analyse logical arguments and develop critical thinking by challenging premises and offering alternative explanations. Much attention is paid to improving evaluative skills in order to present coherent, persuasive arguments which arrive at well-informed judgements.

The future:

Equipped with the skills of critical thinking, Philosophy and Ethics leads to careers in Law, Medicine, Journalism, Accounting, Media and the world of Business.

Year 12 & 13:

Philosophy of Religion:

- Plato & Aristotle
- Soul, Mind & Body
- Proofs for the Existence of God
- Religious Experience
- Problem of Evil
- The Nature & Attributes of God

Ethics:

- Natural Law
- Situation Ethics
- Kantian Ethics
- Utilitarianism
- Euthanasia
- Business Ethics
- Meta-ethics
- Conscience
- Sexual Ethics

Developments in Buddhist Thought

- The Buddha
- Taking Refuge
- Samsara
- The Three Marks of Existence
- The Four Noble Truths
- Meditation
- The Development of Mahayana

Buddhism:

- Madhyamika & Prajnaparamita
- Buddhism in the West
- Engaged Buddhism & Activism

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Board: OCR

Qualifications to start course:

No additional qualifications beyond the entry requirements are needed however a Grade 6 or above in GCSE PE would be advantageous. Students must be actively involved in sport at club level from the list of sports approved by OCR which can be found at www.ocr.org.uk.

Description of subject:

The course allows students to explore and enhance their own sporting ability whilst extending students' knowledge relating to anatomy and physiology, socio-cultural, sports psychology, biomechanics, skill acquisition and practical aspects of physical activity and sport. This specification creates confident, independent thinkers and effective decision makers who can operate effectively as individuals or as part of a team.

The future:

The practical and theoretical aspect of the subject lends itself to a wide range of Further Education courses such as: Sport and Exercise Sciences, Sports Nutrition, Psychology, Teaching, Physiotherapy, Public Relations, Business & Events Management, to name but a few. If you would like to discuss where A Level PE could take you please speak to a member of the PE Department who would be happy to help.

Year 12 & 13:

Component 01: Physiological

- factors affecting performance
- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Exercise physiology
- Biomechanics.

Component 02: Psychological

- factors affecting performance
- Skill Acquisition
- Sports psychology.

Component 03: Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport

- Sport and Society
- Contemporary issues in physical activity and sport.

Component 04: Performance in physical education (NEA)

- Performance or coaching of an activity taken from the approved lists*.

*The approved lists can be found in section 2e of the “OCR AS and GCE guide to NEA in Physical Education”.

PHYSICS

Board: AQA

Qualifications to start course:

Students need to have achieved a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Physics or Double Award Science and Mathematics.

Description of subject:

Physics is the study of the natural world covering sizes from fundamental particles to the universe itself. Between these extremes there are many topics we cover which are relevant to everyday life. A Level Physics sparks a curiosity about how the world around you works. It develops the ability to think logically and to break down larger questions into smaller “bite size” pieces. Although A Level Mathematics is not a requirement to the course it would be highly beneficial. You need to be comfortable with GCSE mathematical concepts such as algebraic manipulation, standard form and indices, as well as being open to learning new mathematical techniques, such as logarithms and exponential functions.

The future:

Physics is valued because it is demanding. It is a great foundation for careers in: Physics, Medicine, Engineering, Computer Science, Astronomy, Journalism, Law, Finance, Biology, Meteorology, Medical Physics, Radiography, Oceanography and many, many more.

Year 12:

- Particles, Quantum Phenomena and Electricity
- Mechanics, Materials and Waves
- Investigative and Practical Skills

Year 13:

- Fields and Further Mechanics
- Nuclear Physics, Thermal Physics

One optional topic from:

- Astrophysics
- Medical Physics
- Engineering Physics
- Turning Points in Physics or Electronics.

POLITICS

Board: EdExcel

Qualifications to start course:

No additional qualifications beyond the entry requirements are needed, however a Grade 6 or above in a GCSE Humanities subject would be advantageous. You do not need to have studied this subject prior to A Level.

Description of subject:

The first year of study is of the political and government systems of the United Kingdom, as well as starting to look at the core ideologies of conservatism, socialism and liberalism. The second year involves a study of the political system in the USA both as an individual topic and in making comparison with the UK system of government. We also look at the development of feminism as an ideology. A wide range of teaching and learning styles are deployed including lectures, discussions, debates and group activities.

The future:

Occupations include Law, Journalism, the Civil Service, Police Service, Armed Forces, UK & International Business, Political Research, and Politics.

Year 12:

- Political Participation: Democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.
- Core Political Ideas: Conservatism, liberalism and socialism.
- UK Government: The constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches.

Year 13:

- Complete Core Political Ideologies
- Non-core Political Ideas: Feminism
- USA: The US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories.

PSYCHOLOGY

Board: AQA

Qualifications to start course:

Students need to have achieved a Grade 5 or above in a Science. You do not need to have studied this subject prior to A Level. A keen interest in Biology is important as we look at lots of biological explanations of behaviour as well as study Biopsychology as a topic.

Description of subject:

- Does prison really change criminal behaviour?
- Why do we forget?
- Do your childhood relationships influence your adult ones?

Psychology will give you an understanding of the way people think and why people behave in a certain way. You will develop a number of skills including analytical thinking, communication and problem solving. An interest in Biology is required for success.

The future:

Students who study A Level Psychology typically go on to study the following subjects at university: Psychology, Sociology, Business Studies, English, Teaching, Law, Sports and Exercise. Studying Psychology at university can then lead to a whole host of exciting career options including: Marketing, Business Development, Human Resources, Forensic Psychology, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Teaching, Clinical Psychology and Educational Psychology

Year 12:

- Social Influence
- Psychopathology
- Memory
- Attachment
- Research Methods
- Biopsychology

Year 13:

- Approaches in Psychology
- Research Methods
- Relationships
- Stress
- Forensic Psychology
- Issues and Debates in Psychology

SOCIOLOGY

Board: AQA

Qualifications to start course:

No additional qualifications beyond the entry requirements are needed. You do not need to have studied this subject prior to A Level.

Description of subject:

- Why is the issue of mental health so topical today?
- Is educational achievement affected by gender, ethnicity or social class?
- What is the link between globalisation and terrorism?

If investigating questions like these sounds interesting then Sociology may be for you. This course combines the study of contemporary social issues and trends in behaviour with sociological theory and research. You have the opportunity to explore these issues via debate, individual and group research, problem solving and discussion.

The future:

Sociology is a social science and will provide an excellent basis for many careers such as Local and Central Government positions, Police, Probation Services, Legal Profession, Counselling, Nursing, Social Services, Occupational Therapy, Social Worker, Physiotherapist, Teacher, Criminal Profilers, Journalism, Public Relations and Marketing.

Year 12:

- Education and Sociological Methods
- Family and Households

Year 13:

- Beliefs in Society
- Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

*The approved lists can be found in section 2e of the "OCR AS and GCE guide to NEA in Physical Education".

SPANISH

Board: AQA

Qualifications to start course:

Students need to have achieved a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Spanish.

Description of subject:

Students develop the four language skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing through the study of topics such as social issues and trends, and political and artistic culture in the Hispanic society. In addition, students study a literary text and a film, and undertake an individual research project on a subject that is of interest to them relating to a country where Spanish is spoken. The course allows students to develop a range of transferable skills such as communication, creativity, critical thinking and research skills.

The future:

Languages support you in standing out from the crowd: they are sought after by many employers as a valuable skill. A language is particularly valuable for careers in: Business, Government, Media, Finance, Medicine, Social Care, Law, Marketing, Computer Gaming, Translation and Interpreting, Travel and Tourism, Voluntary and Charitable sectors. An A Level language is a rigorous subject which is highly valued by Russell Group universities including Oxford and Cambridge.

Year 12:

Aspects of Hispanic society

- Modern and traditional values, cyberspace and equal rights

Artistic culture in the Hispanic world

- The influence of idols, Spanish regional identity, Hispanic cultural heritage
- Film

Year 13:

Multiculturalism in Hispanic society

- Immigration, racism, and integration

Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world

- Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens, monarchies and dictatorships, and popular movements
- Literature and IRP Project

THEATRE STUDIES

Board: EdExcel

Qualifications to start course:

Students need to have achieved a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Drama and English Language or English Literature.

Description of subject:

The course offers a broad foundation in both the theory and practice of Theatre. You will learn how production and performance skills can communicate meaning through experience as an audience member in visits to live theatre, as a performer for your group's practical presentation and as a director in your plans to realise a set text on stage.

The future:

Theatre Studies A Level may be the first step on your path to a career in the Creative Arts Industry whether on stage, backstage, on screen or on a film set. Alternatively, you may pursue a career in Applied Arts. Previous students have found this course has helped in a broad range of career paths from Teaching to Law and have found that the analytical, presentational, group skills and degree of discipline required has been a valuable experience for further study and future careers.

Year 12:

- Study of 2 set plays, live productions, study of key theatre practitioners and performances of 2 scripted extracts, along with a 3,000 word written reflective report

Year 13:

- Devised performance plus working notebook (3,000 words)
- Final performance of extract 3 of a scripted play and completion of the 3,000 word written report and 3 hour written paper (set plays and live production analysis).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Entry September 2023

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