TARPORLEY
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Ofsted Outstanding School 2013-2014

Aspire, Learn, Achieve

Prospectus & Subject Information

Why Study at Tarporley Sixth Form College?

- **A range of A-level subjects** taught by specialists and supported by extra-curricular activities such as university visits, work experience and a diverse enrichment programme.
- **Rated as Outstanding by Ofsted**
- **Outstanding exam results**
- **Guidance and support** throughout your studies helps you to fully realise your potential.
- **You will be happy here;** our students always tell us that studying at Tarporley was the best decision they made, providing them with a balance of independence and support which enabled them to progress to their destination of choice.

Welcome

from Mr Nuttall, Director of Sixth Form

Dear Student,

"Welcome to ***Tarporley High School and Sixth Form College.*** The decisions that you are going to make this year are very important and require careful consideration.

This prospectus is only part of the information you require to make an informed decision and I, along with subject staff and Mrs Everton (Sixth Form Pastoral Manager) are more than happy to help you with any questions you might have.

Here at Tarporley Sixth Form College we are very proud of the standards achieved by past and present students in all areas of school life. We are committed to excellence in all that we do and we make no apologies for expecting the most from our students; consequently we push them very hard.

Our results at Advanced Level study over a number of years show that we have a very effective recipe for success. We aim to prepare our students for the academic and personal challenges they will face in future years. Our Sixth Formers are leaders in the school and we have high expectations of them. Students will be expected to work with commitment to their studies. The adult atmosphere of the Sixth Form means that students have more responsibility for their own learning. However, we provide support and opportunities for our students so that they can maximise their potential, therefore giving them the best possible platform for their future.

We welcome applications to our Sixth Form from students who have a real desire to benefit from the courses offered and the structured and supportive environment we provide."

Kind Regards,
Mr Nuttall
Director of Sixth Form

Mr Nuttall

"The Sixth Form is outstanding. It is highly successful in helping students to move on to higher education, training or employment"

Ofsted

Aspire

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"Almost all students successfully complete their A-level courses, enabling them to successfully move on to higher education or career options. Rigorous tracking arrangements are in place with support that is both timely and appropriate contributing to the strong success rate."

Ofsted

Supporting Our Students

The academic structure and pastoral systems in the Sixth Form are very strong and are there to support our students throughout their A-level studies. From the beginning of Year 12 through induction, monitoring of academic progress and guidance throughout the year, to post 17 and post 18 choices, our students are given personalised support in order to maximise their chances of success.

As well as highly experienced tutors, we are fortunate to have a Sixth Form Pastoral Manager who works full time with our students, providing specific and personalised support including study skills and academic support.

Induction

We offer a Year 12 residential induction in the first week of the Autumn term. The activities are very varied, providing a foundation for A-level study; from giving students the chance to make new and long lasting friendships, to enabling the tutors to give individualised pastoral support that will underpin their Sixth Form years.

Students are given crucial information about life in the Sixth Form and the skills they need to be successful over the next two years.

Post Sixth Form Support

We pride ourselves on the support that we offer to our students in their post 18 choices. Most of our students go to university once they leave us. Throughout Years 12 and 13, students are:

- Guided through the application process
- Spoken to by representatives from a number of Higher Education providers
- Taken to the UCAS conference
- Taken to the Oxbridge convention
- Taken on a bespoke university visit
- Given personalised support to ensure that all aspects of the UCAS application form are as good as possible
- Supported by visitors from a range of universities, industries and apprenticeship providers
- Given plenty of opportunities to enhance their personal statement through enrichment activities, work experience and visits to and from industry

UCAS

"We had excellent support with UCAS and writing personal statements"

Sixth Form Student

Learn

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Joining our Sixth Form is an opportunity: to develop interests and skills as an independent, motivated learner and a chance to take on a range of responsibilities and interests.

Having smaller class sizes in our Sixth Form means that students receive a great deal of individual support leading to rapid progress with their skills and knowledge.

As well as their A-level studies, we offer our students a comprehensive Citizenship programme in addition to various enrichment activities.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which develops individual research skills, is also offered in Y13.

Students choose a combination of subjects from a set of option blocks which are drawn up following consultation with Year 11 in the Spring Term.

"Achievement in the Sixth Form is outstanding. From average starting points, students' progress is significantly above national averages by the end of Key Stage 5."

Ofsted

Teaching in the Sixth Form is outstanding and is of an even higher quality than in the rest of the school. Learning is enhanced to a high level and close checks on the quality of teaching and achievement in the Sixth Form are rigorous and highly effective.

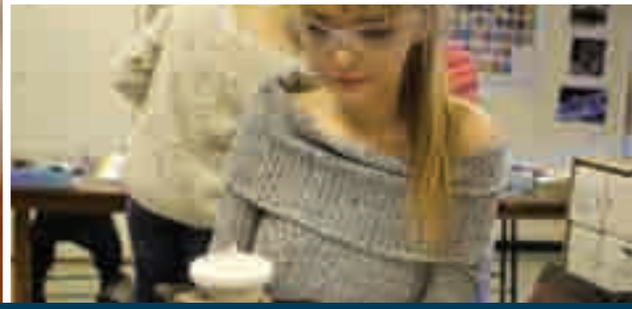
Ofsted

Educational Visits

The curriculum is supported by a range of educational visits including theatre visits, university workshops and visits to industry, allowing our students to learn outside of the classroom.

Additional Academic Support

- Tailored study group sessions help our students with the skills they need to make the best possible progress with their subjects.
- Extra revision and study support sessions are offered by subject specialists throughout the year.



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Enrichment Opportunities

Enrichment is hugely important; it provides students with some balance to their academic studies as well as giving them an advantage over other applicants in their future university, college or job applications.

Enrichment can take place in or out of school; some of the activities which are run are listed here.

- Lead Learners: some of our students apply to be a lead learner in a subject. This means working closely with teachers to support learning in lower school lessons.
- Work experience to support career aspirations including local hospitals, schools and nurseries.
- Advanced STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Leaders Award: this gives students a real insight into the world of industry where these subjects are at the forefront; additionally, it gives them an advantage when applying for these highly competitive courses at university.

"You have taken my son to heights which I don't think we would have considered without you."

Sixth Form Parent

Enrichment Opportunities

- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Gold).
- Many of our students gain experience of being an elected representative during their membership of the Sixth Form. Opportunities for this include: the Sixth Form Council, the Safeguarding Team, the 2015 Commitee and the Whole School Council.
- We have fixtures against other institutions in sports such as football, rugby, hockey, netball and basketball. Additionally, students have the option to work towards a Sports Leadership Award.
- Support with charity work across Europe, Africa, South and Central America and South East Asia.
- Student ambassadors with the Holocaust Educational Trust.

"Students in the Sixth Form have many leadership opportunities including work to help younger students. They act as safeguarding mentors and students can go to speak to them if feeling vulnerable"

Ofsted

Partnership with Parents

At Tarporley, we firmly believe that a friendly and co-operative relationship with parents and carers is vital for the full achievement of our educational aims. As such, we value our positive partnership with parents who play very important roles in supporting their child's learning.

Excellent communication between home and school, including Parent Consultation Evenings, the school website, newsletters, e-mails and text messages encourage closer links and better understanding. In addition, interim progress reports are issued every term with a summative report in the summer.

In order to support parents, we also host a number of information evenings; the first is held in September to explain how parents can support their child with their studies; another explains the university application process and a further evening explains student finance which parents find very useful. *"First time around, the whole process is quite daunting and I personally found it very useful to hear as much information as possible as early on as possible. I felt much better informed after having attended all sessions."*

"The level of support given to the students throughout the UCAS application process was amazing. The process has changed since we did it and it was very comforting to know that our daughter was guided through every step of the way. We all feel that her success of gaining five offers and having her favourite as one of them, was not only down to her hard work and determination but also down to the level of support she was given throughout. Thank you so much." Parent of Sixth Form Student.

For further information about the Sixth Form College, please do not hesitate to contact us directly or view our website: www.tarporleyhigh.co.uk

"Our daughter has completely flourished in the Sixth Form; I have always felt that the nurturing environment that you provide has helped her through and that as parents, we had a real 'ally' in the school."

Parent of Sixth Form Student

"The Sixth Form college is an outstanding setting with wonderful staff that actually care about individual needs."

Parent of Sixth Form Student

Sixth Form A-level Subject Information 2015

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Art and Design

"Art is the most intense mode of individualism that the world has known."
- Oscar Wilde

"To be an artist is to believe in life" **- Henry Moore**

An overview of Art & Design at A-level

Are you a creative, independent young mind? Do you see the world differently? Are you not averse to taking risks? Are you dedicated and passionate about Art? Are you a self-motivated worker? If you answered YES to these questions then A-level Art & Design is the course for you.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

Art & Design is the choice for individuals who are passionate about creativity and are keen to take risks, be bold and learn new skills. Students need to have the confidence to pursue personal lines of enquiry independently and with dedication using free time to develop their ideas. It is preferred that students will have secured a minimum of a grade B at GCSE.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

Throughout the course, students will be required to demonstrate an ability to research ideas in depth, both through an exploration of artists and their work to other contextual sources such as museum visits with an ability to analyse and offer personal judgements. Furthermore pupils will need to have a substantially developed ability to draw and record ideas; this will provide them with the fundamental skills required to develop and extend practical and theoretical skills; experimenting with a wide range of media and processes from personally selected starting points. Students may have the opportunity to experience visits to local and national galleries and practical workshops.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Our creative industries are a real success story. They are worth more than £36 billion a year; they generate £70,000 every minute for the UK economy; and they employ 1.5 million people in the UK. According to industry figures, the creative industries account for around £1 in every £10 of the UK's exports. Art plays a fundamental role in this industry.

Art combines well with History, Business Studies, Media Studies, English, Mathematics, Science and Expressive Arts. Many students go on to Foundation courses leading to specialist degrees in a wide variety of Arts subjects including; Fine Art, Art History, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Illustration, Textiles, Film & Animation, Silversmithing, Ceramics, Millinery, Industrial Design, Interior Design, Advertising & Marketing, Photography and Architecture.

Biology

An overview of Biology at A-level

A Level Biology is a stimulating course which explores complex biological concepts inside the human body and in the natural world. The course delves into the incredible molecular world inside our cells and relates the mechanisms to real life experiences by linking topics to contemporary issues, current medical debate and headlines. Practical work includes techniques used in hospital laboratories as well as more traditional biological investigations.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

This course is perfect for anyone who has a fascination with the world around us, the human body, the causes of diseases and advances in medicine. During the two years of study you will learn about the way scientists work and the contributions of science to modern society. The entrance requirements are a preferred grade B in GCSE Biology or GCSE Core and GCSE Additional Science.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

Successful Biology students enjoy the hard work and demands of this subject and are capable of applying theory to unfamiliar situations. Biology students enjoy the intellectual challenge of the work, can cope with abstract concepts and work with increasing independence in order to deal with the intensity of the study required. An ability to interpret graphs and experimental evidence is essential.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

A-level Biology is an essential component in many science and medical degree courses such as Dentistry, Medicine, Biological Science, Biomedical science, Physiotherapy and Forensic science. The course will also develop transferable skills that can support many degree courses such as Law, Geology and Environmental Science. Students in the past have also gone to University to study courses in Architecture, Marine Biology, Genetics, Biochemistry, Human Anatomy and Agricultural Studies.

Business Studies

An overview of Business Studies at A-level

Studying Business Studies at A-level allows students to investigate and explore the local, national and international world of commerce. Students cover a range of topics such as marketing, finance and operations. Students will take part in off-site visits to put their learning into practice in the real world. Students will benefit from the knowledge of guest speakers who will address them on a range of topics. Examinations test students on their knowledge, their ability to apply learning to a specific context as well as their analytical and evaluation skills.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

Business Studies will appeal to students who enjoy learning about real world issues. Students who enjoy current affairs and topical issues will be able to engage in up-to-date activity. Students with a desire to investigate strategy and leadership styles will become aware of such techniques and theories. Debate and presentation skills are important and developed and students' confidence is improved.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

Over the course, students will be required to demonstrate the ability to analyse and interpret data. Students will need to use basic mathematical skills to carry out formulae which then help to support arguments for particular points of view. Students will need to make decisions and justify these decisions with evidence backing up their rationale.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Some of our previous students have gone on to read a range of subjects at university including Business Studies, Accounting, Economics, Law, Human Resources and International Business Management. Careers which Business Studies allows students to embark on are varied. The skills developed are relevant in many industries and workplaces. All students are equipped for their future be it in academia or the workplace.

Chemistry

An overview of Chemistry at A-level

The study of Chemistry places you at the centre of science, as it provides links with a diverse range of subjects. Chemistry allows you to acquire not only a powerful battery of analytical skills for problem solving, but also the ability to analyse critically and to question the scientific status quo. These skills are transferrable to almost any context, and are highly valued amongst the scientific community and in the world of commerce and finance.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

Chemistry is the choice for students who are curious about the way our world works; from the atomic scale all the way up to major industrial processes. Students need to be imaginative and creative thinkers who can explore many abstract concepts. Ideally students will have achieved at least a B grade in GCSE Chemistry.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

Chemistry A-level is a mixture of theoretical and practical work. Chemistry theory requires students to think logically, have good numerical skills and be able to describe and explain chemical processes. In practical tasks students will be required to work in a methodical and timely manner, using a variety of unfamiliar chemicals safely to produce new substances.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Some of our previous students have gone on to read a range of subjects at University including Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Sciences, Engineering and of course Chemistry. Students who excel at Chemistry go on to take up careers doing a wide range of jobs that include Doctors, Dentists, Vets, Engineers, Architects, Accountants, Financial Traders, Journalists, Nuclear Scientists, Pharmacists, Solicitors, Barristers, Politicians, Teachers and Lecturers.

Computer Science

An overview of Computer Science at A-level

We live in a digitised, computerised, programmable world, and to make sense of it, we need computer science. An engineer using a computer to design a bridge must understand the limitations of the numerical methods used, how the maximum capacity estimates were computed and how reliable they are. An educated person using a government database or bidding in an eBay auction should have a basic understanding of the underlying algorithms of such conveniences, as well as the security and privacy issues that arise when information is transmitted and stored digitally. These are computing issues. A Computer Science A-level starts you on the journey to understanding or even building the systems we all use in life.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

Computer Science suits students who like to look to the future, and have an inquisitive mind about how technology works. Students need to be logical thinkers, like identifying and exploring systematic processes. Students who can think laterally and creatively to solve problems flourish at Computer Science.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

Throughout the course, students learn logical reasoning, algorithmic thinking, design and structured problem solving, all concepts and skills that are valuable well beyond the computing classroom. Students gain awareness of the resources required to implement and deploy a solution and how to deal with real-world and business constraints. Students should have an ability to think logically, and good mathematical thinking is very useful.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Computing opens the doors to many opportunities. Some of our previous students have gone on to read various Computer Science disciplines at university. Professionals with Computer Science backgrounds have never been in more demand in the UK and worldwide than they are today. Computer Scientists are employed in as varied positions from development of new movie techniques, to understanding the genetics of disease. There are many jobs that stem from Computer Science such a software developers, system analysts, engineers, creative designers, game developers, network managers, scientists and researchers.

Drama and Theatre Studies

An overview of Drama and Theatre at A-level

Drama and Theatre is a rewarding course which not only educates students by developing their knowledge and understanding of Drama but also through acquiring skills needed in all aspects of life. Studying Drama and Theatre at A-level gives you the opportunity to build a comprehensive understanding of Drama theory and practical skills. Throughout the course you will read, analyse, direct and perform plays ranging from Ancient Greek theatre, through the Elizabethan era and to the more modern work of Brecht, Berkoff, and other contemporary playwrights. You will be introduced to theatre practitioners and their repertoire, applying their techniques to your personal exploration of devising theatre. This course provides students with the chance to explore Theatre through the ages, developing their analysis of characters, themes and the social, cultural and historical aspects of play texts, whilst giving them ownership and the confidence to apply more advanced Drama techniques to their practical and directorial study.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

Drama and Theatre Studies is the choice for students who love reading a range of plays, practically and theoretically exploring their thoughts and analysis of characters, themes and relationships, researching topics to use as devising tools, performing roles as part of an ensemble and through a monologue and directing theatre. Ideally for students who will achieve at least a B grade in GCSE English Literature.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

Over the course, students will be required to demonstrate the ability to analyse and interpret using textual evidence as well as exploring the social, historical and political context of a text, through both practical and theoretical exploration. Furthermore, they should have the ability to investigate, research, direct and apply different approaches to creating drama in their practical work. Students will also need to analyse Live Theatre through the form of a review and direct a play set in the Elizabethan era for a more contemporary audience.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Some of our previous students have gone on to read a range of subjects at university including Business and Management, English Literature and American Studies. Students who excel at Drama and Theatre go on to take up careers doing a wide range of jobs that include PR, Directing and Film Producers, Journalists and Broadcasters, Solicitors, Barristers and Politicians, Teachers and Lecturers, Editors, Researchers and Writers, Film-makers, Actors and Directors, Copy-writers, Publicists and Marketing Managers and Civil Servants.

Economics

An overview of Economics at A-level

Economics allows students to investigate the national and international economy. Ever wondered why interest rates are so important? Have you considered why the government doesn't help poverty more? Economics allows the exploration of economic theories and the consideration of strategies used to avoid market failure. Students develop analytical and evaluative skills whilst also improving their ability to analyse data effectively.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

Economics would suit students with a hunger for new knowledge. Students will be able to analyse, interpret data and evaluate situations and scenarios. Students who enjoy learning about the real world will flourish in Economics.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

Students need the ability to absorb new concepts and theories at a reasonable pace. Students need to be able to interpret data and use diagrams to support statements they make. In the essay questions, students will develop their ability to structure and paragraph responses. Judgements need to be made and evaluative statements will be used for conclusions.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Some of our previous students have gone on to read a range of subjects at university including Economics, Business Management and Politics.

English Language

'If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.' **- Nelson Mandela**

An overview of English Language at A-level

Studying English Language develops a range of important skills including writing, analysis and discussion. Exploring and investigating a variety of texts including spoken, written and multimodal texts offers a fascinating insight into how and why we use language. Understanding how and why men and women speak differently, discovering how we acquire speech, how technology has produced a new form of language altogether and how the English language has evolved over the past 2000 years are topics which are truly fascinating and quite addictive! Additionally, students are given opportunities to develop their own writing in a range of genres and styles. You become journalists and authors, producing original, creative texts which you decide yourself and which could exist in the real world – chapter 1 of a new fantasy novel, an article bemoaning English football performances, a TV drama script, an article for Vogue magazine, a lively, entertaining text to engage young readers …. the choice is yours!

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

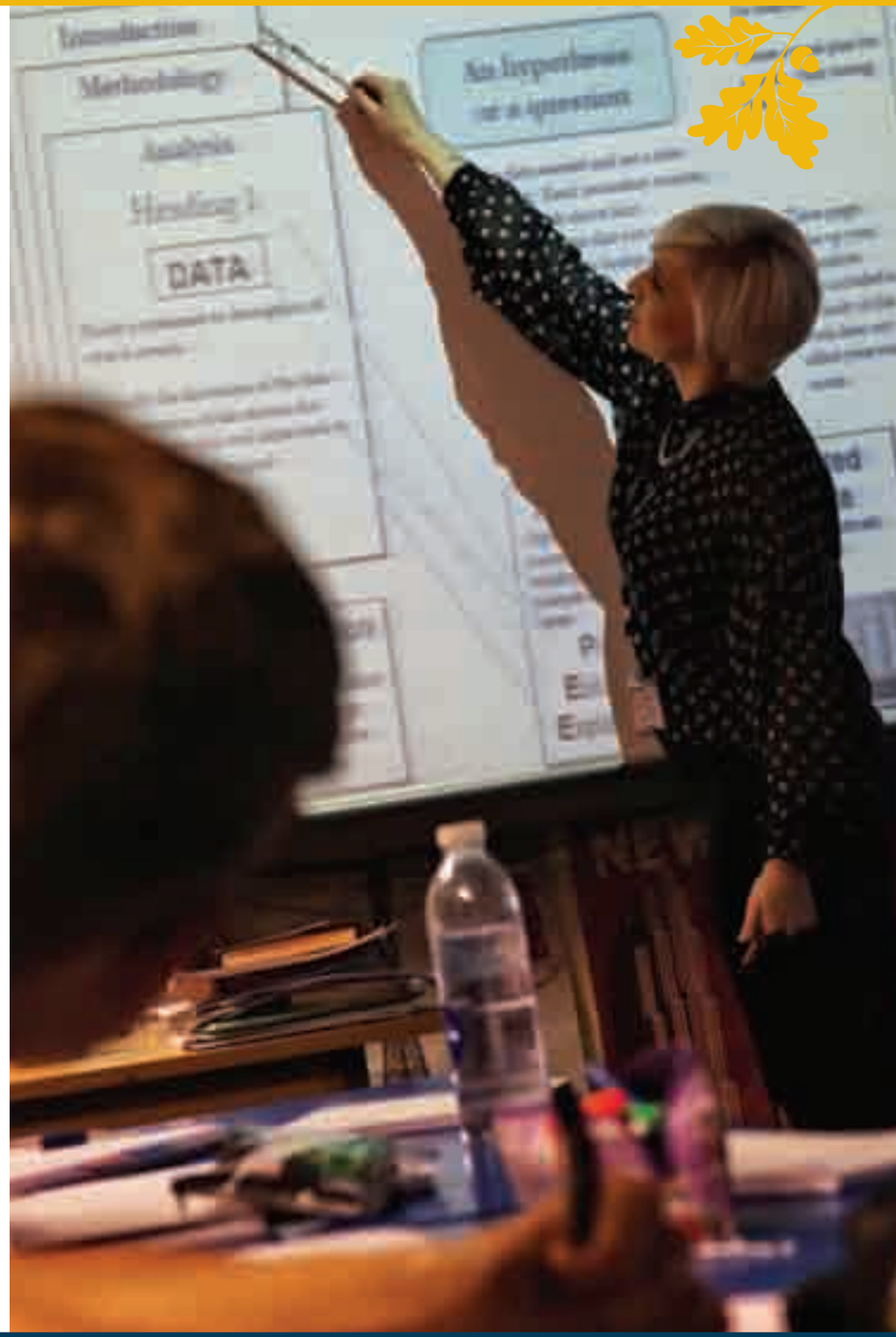
Students who want to understand and enjoy the English language in all of its forms and styles will enjoy this course. If you love to write then this subject is for you. Students who enjoy focusing more on shorter non-literary texts from a wide range of areas, both spoken and written, plus students who enjoy writing for a range of audiences and purposes will thrive on this course.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

Students will be required to analyse and interpret a range of texts and apply theoretical perspectives as well as linguistic terminology to them. Writing is a key component and students will develop these skills throughout the two years. Being methodical and being able to investigate language in action are key skills which will support your studies. You will become data gatherers and will see how language affects and influences every aspect of our life.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Many of our students pursue their studies in English Language further at university; courses include Linguistics, Speech Therapy, Creative writing, Marketing and Journalism. A range of careers stem from these courses such as a number of options within the media, teaching and speech therapy. Language enables us to communicate persuasively, articulately and confidently - in our writing and in our speech; these are essential skills in any field and will be welcomed by any employer.



English Literature

Timms: "Most of the stuff poetry's about hasn't happened to us yet."
Hector: "But it will Timms. It will. And then you will have the antidote ready! Grief. Happiness. Even when you're dying. We're making your deathbeds here, boys."

- Alan Bennett, The History Boys

An overview of English Literature at A-level

Studying English Literature gives you the opportunity to read and analyse a range of novels, poetry and plays from throughout the ages. Passionate about Shakespeare? Interested in Orwell's '1984'? Want to find out more about 'The Great Gatsby'? English Literature provides students with the chance to explore the universal human experience whilst honing critical thinking and debating skills across a range of diverse and stirring texts.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

English Literature is the choice for students who love reading, thinking, analysing, discussing, writing, arguing and debating. Students need to be passionate about reading and exploring texts and enjoy the opportunities for debate. Ideally for students who will achieve at least a B grade in GCSE English Literature.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

Over the course, students will be required to demonstrate the ability to analyse and interpret using textual evidence as well as exploring the social, historical and political context of a text. Furthermore, they should have the ability to investigate and apply a range of critical interpretations to the texts they read.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Some of our previous students have gone on to read a range of subjects at university including English Literature, American Studies and Creative Writing. Students who excel at English go on to take up careers doing a wide range of jobs that include Journalists and Broadcasters, Solicitors, Barristers and Politicians, Teachers and Lecturers, Editors, Researchers and Writers, Film-makers, Actors and Directors, Copy-writers, Publicists and Marketing Managers and Civil Servants.

French / German / Spanish

***"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way."* - Frank Smith**

***"Those who know many languages, live as many lives as the languages they know."* - Czech Proverb**

An overview of French / German / Spanish at A-level

Are you passionate about the language you are learning? Do you want to explore the culture and traditions of the countries where that language is spoken? Do you love grammar? The A-level MFL courses focus on improving communication in your foreign language in a variety of situations, exploring the diversity of different cultures and developing key analytical skills. Most importantly, they encourage you to develop a love for learning languages.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

This course would appeal to students who enjoy their GCSE language studies and want the opportunity to learn about the culture, history, literature, film and lifestyle of the countries where that language is spoken. This is a subject for students who want to consider and express their opinions on a range of topics and who have a sound understanding of grammatical structures. Ideally, these students will achieve at least a B grade in their GCSE Modern Foreign Language.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

Over the course, students will be required to demonstrate the ability to respond to a variety of written and spoken sources covering different contexts, styles and genres. They will have to use language appropriately for different purposes and speak and write accurately to express facts and ideas and to present explanations, opinions and information. They will have to demonstrate an understanding of grammatical systems and different structures.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

A language complements a whole variety of A-level subjects and you may need languages for all sorts of career destinations. Language qualifications can lead to jobs in Translating, Interpreting, Finance, Sales and Marketing, Teaching and working for International Organisations (such as the UN and the EU).

Geography

An overview of Geography at A-level

Geography at Key Stage 5 investigates the rapidly changing world in which we live. We examine the core principles of Geography through investigating numerous different places around the world. We aim to show students that every action has a consequence not only locally but also globally.

Geography is important, because it opens our eyes; Local is no longer local, but a collision point for the interaction of many 'locals' drawn from a global stage. With technology increasingly drawing the world closer together, it is important that the role of Geography in helping the public in understanding this complex and unpredictable world is championed!

All units focus on the most up to date case-study content, with topics including: Global Warming; migration; Global hazards; coasts; rebranding; superpowers; bridging the development; tectonic hazards; energy and water security, building upon the skills and content studied at GCSE.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

Geography would be an excellent subject choice if you have an interest in current world issues and a genuine interest in the unpredictable world in which we live. It will also interest you if have an interest in: geo-politics, sustainability, future world scenarios, effective management of resources and an interest in what is going on in the world around you now and in the future.

It will improve your analytical skills as well as being able to look at topics from several different perspectives, whilst greatly improving your essay and report writing skills. Ideally you will have achieved a grade B at GCSE. However, we do have students who successfully complete the course who have not taken Geography at GCSE.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

Discussion and analysis; problem solving; handling data; teamwork; presentations; debating skills; practical fieldwork skills; primary and secondary data collection along with evaluation; essay and report writing skills. All of these are life skills and skills that employers would be looking for and you will get the chance to develop these skills through studying a contemporary subject. You will also develop the skills of becoming an independent learner through studying an enquiry based subject utilising the most up to date information available.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Recent Geography students have gone onto study Geography degrees or combined degrees as well as Masters Level study. Geography opens the door to numerous careers due to the excellent skills that you will develop together with the up to date knowledge of world issues. What employers like is the fact that Geography graduates are able to see an issue from several viewpoints, analyse data effectively and reach sensible valid conclusions. 'According to the Higher Education Careers Services Unit (HECSU) survey, Geography graduates had a better than average chance of getting work.' (BBC news website)

History

"He who forgets the past is doomed to repeat it" **- George Santayana**

An overview of History Language at A-level

History is a fascinating and challenging discipline. At A-level you can study the past in much more depth and truly understand the key events and people that shaped our world.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

We are looking for students with a passion for learning about the past. History requires students that have an enquiring mind and are ready to question the world they live in. To opt for History A-level you will need to achieve a B grade at GCSE level. Students can apply without GCSE History but they will require excellent results in English.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

In History you will develop an understanding of new and complex concepts and ideas. You will need to enjoy reading and be able to interpret and analyse historical evidence. History lessons will be designed to encourage you to think independently and to ask questions about the topics we are studying. If you enjoy a good argument, then History is the subject for you.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Students have gone on to study History at university and many have specialised in particular areas such as European Political History or International Relations. History is a popular degree subject and is highly regarded by many blue-chip companies. Careers that would be suitable for students with a History degree are law, teaching, journalism, heritage and museum work, marketing and advertising.

ICT

An overview of ICT at A-level

Studying ICT gives you the knowledge and understanding to use a variety of software packages which are commonly used in all lines of business, education, retail and industry. In addition you will gain an understanding of how the recent advances in technology, affect you and the world around us. By using and learning about industry standard software you can ensure that you have a solid grounding to use any software package to a high level. Studying ICT supports creativity, logical thinking and project planning, to help support your wider learning.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

ICT is the choice for students who like to demonstrate their creativity, understand how to present information effectively in the 21st century and want to develop skills in research and presentation. Students should be confident at trying and exploring new IT tools.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

Students will be required to show that they can effectively research and find data and sources of information to solve problems, interpret data and present it in a suitable format appropriate to the audience and purpose specified. Students will also learn skills of project planning. Students need to be able to be critical reflectors as well as self-motivated to meet project deadlines.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

You may choose to study ICT further at university, or you may use the skills you have learned to support your study of other subjects. ICT careers are dynamic and fast moving, offering incredible opportunities for students to make a start in building their careers. If you decide to enter the world of work, the skills learned will support you in almost every job you can think of!

Mathematics

An overview of Mathematics at A-level

It is said that Maths is the King of Arts and the Queen of Sciences as there is little in life that is untouched by the subject. Mathematics gives students a powerful tool to explore why things work and understand how applications of mathematical ideas have transformed our lives. Concepts become clearer and more beautiful with practise, this in turn makes it easier to see the relationships between different areas of study. Mathematics has an aura of certainty about it, yet students will acquire skills to explain why there is uncertainty.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

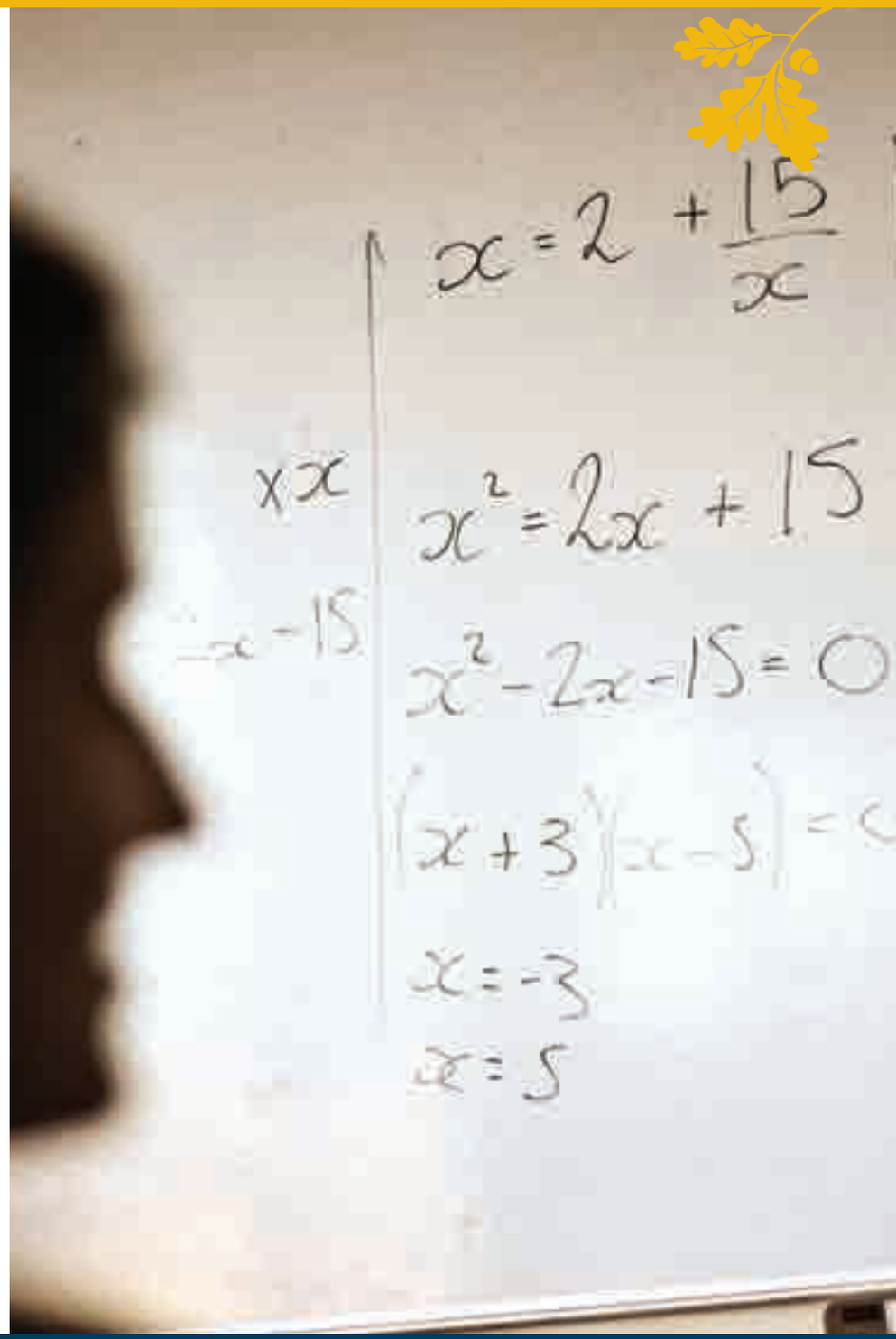
Students who enjoy their mathematics, get excited by solving complex problems and thrive on challenge are well suited to Mathematics. Students need to be independent learners and curious about how maths relates to everyday life, eager to ask questions and gain deep understanding. They will be creative and able to think critically, with an ability to apply knowledge in different contexts. A-level Maths is ideally for students who are expected to get at least a grade B at GCSE, preferably a grade A.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

A strength in traditional mathematics skills such as algebra, graphs and trigonometry are crucial for success at A-level as the four core modules build on this knowledge substantially. The Probability and Statistics module develops statistical techniques and probability rules that students have started to learn at GCSE, whilst the Mechanics module builds on the Laws of Mechanics, forces and motion met in GCSE Physics. Students need to be well organised, tenacious and have ability to analyse and interpret questions.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Many students who achieve A-level Maths will go onto university and are usually very appealing to admissions tutors. Mathematics is sought after in many types of career such as Accountancy, Computing, Engineering, Medicine, Management, Science, Pharmacy, Teaching, Veterinary Science and many more.



Further Mathematics

***"Go down deep enough into anything and you will find mathematics"* - Dean Schlicter**

***"There are four great sciences ... Of these sciences the gate and key is mathematics"* - Roger Bacon.**

An overview of Further Mathematics at A-level

Mathematics gives students a powerful tool to explore why things work and understand how applications of mathematical ideas have transformed our lives. Concepts become clearer and more beautiful with practise, this in turn makes it easier to see the relationships between different areas of study. Mathematics has an aura of certainty about it, yet students will acquire skills to explain why there is uncertainty.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

A Further Maths qualification is for students who are dedicated and enthusiastic about their mathematics and feel a genuine 'buzz' from solving complex problems correctly. They will thrive on challenge, being competent and independent learners, curious about how maths relates to everyday life. It is vital students have clear communication skills and are able to ask questions to gain deep understanding. They will be creative and able to think critically, applying knowledge in different contexts. A-level maths is ideally for students who are expected to get at least a grade A at GCSE, preferably a grade A*.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

As this subject is run in conjunction with A-level Maths a strength in traditional mathematics skills such as algebra, graphs and trigonometry are crucial for success with the core modules building on this knowledge substantially. The Probability and Statistics module develops statistical techniques and probability rules that students have started to learn at GCSE, whilst the Mechanics module builds on the Laws of Mechanics, forces and motion met in GCSE Physics. The Further Maths qualification taken in year 13 develops this knowledge still further exploring some more demanding aspects of mathematics. Students need to be well organised, tenacious and have ability to analyse and interpret questions.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Most students who achieve A-level Further Maths will go onto read Mathematics or Engineering at university. Students who excel in Mathematics can pursue many types of career such as Accountancy, Computing, Engineering, Medicine, Management Science, Pharmacy, Teaching, Veterinary Science and many more.

Media Studies

***"The media's the most powerful entity on earth. It has the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, because the media controls the minds of the masses."* - Malcolm X**

An overview of Media Studies at A-level

Studying Media Studies furthers your creativity, your critical understanding of the world around you and builds excellent technical skills. You will create original and inventive new texts – from film trailers to magazine covers and you will learn to analyse and interpret the media texts which influence every aspect of our lives. Many new media terms and theoretical concepts will allow you to form your own views and give technical interpretations. You will study key concepts such as genre, narrative and representation: representation is the way the media represent individuals, groups, events and issues. Media representation is the portrayal of reality for the audience but that reality may not be a mirror of the world around us. You become sophisticated analysts, able to decode media texts and see how they have been constructed for a specific purpose and target audience.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

Students who want to understand and enjoy the Media in all of its forms and styles will enjoy this course. We look at any aspect of the media – from film, advertising, music videos and magazines to comic books, anime, computer games and CGI animation. If you love to create original texts which look authentic and would engage real audiences, and if you love keeping up with popular culture and social attitudes then this course is for you. You become expert at analysing and deconstructing media texts and will never look at a film or piece of drama again without considering its use of camera shots, lighting or codes and conventions!

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

An artistic eye, good technical skills and good English skills are essential. Students will be required to create new media artefacts or products, analyse and interpret a range of texts and apply theoretical perspectives. You will need to be aware of what is happening in the media, in terms of new media products, the impact of digital technology, or simply knowing what issues are considered newsworthy, topical or controversial. To understand the media you need to use it, watch it, read it, analyse it, be aware of its impact.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Many of our students pursue Media Studies further at university; courses include Practical Production and Film-Making, Animation, Advertising and Journalism. A range of careers stem from these courses such as a number of options within the media, marketing and teaching.

Music

An overview of Music at A-level

Studying Music offers you the opportunity to become a well-rounded, confident and creative individual. These are all characteristics that modern day employers covet, and will stand you apart from the crowd. Through Performance, Composition and Listening, students will develop self-confidence, communication and teamwork skills, as well as high level analytical, technological and evaluation skills.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

Music is the choice for students who want to take their current study of music to the next stage. Students must be passionate about performance, and be ready to perform on their own and with others. The course suits competent musicians, who are not afraid to tackle composition. Ideally for students who will achieve at least a grade B in Music GCSE, or students who can perform at approximately grade 6 on an instrument or voice.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

Students extend their skills, knowledge and understanding of music and take part in creating their own. Students will engage in and extend their appreciation of the diverse and dynamic heritage of music, promoting spiritual and cultural development. Throughout the course many key skills outside the traditional music umbrella will be developed, through the use of ICT and media facilities, presentation work and workshops.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Music students can go wherever they want to in life; the confidence gained through two years of creative work will be a valuable characteristic that will interest top universities and employers. An A-level in music will allow students to take part in a multi-billion pound music industry that is thriving in times when more traditional industries are floundering.

Photography

"What I like about photographs is that they capture a moment that's gone forever, impossible to reproduce." **- Karl Lagerfeld**

"You don't take a photograph, you make it." **- Ansel Adams**

An overview of Photography at A-level

Are you an imaginative, independent young mind? Do you see the world from a range of perspectives? Are you not averse to taking risks? Are you dedicated and passionate about Photography? Are you a self-motivated worker? If you answered YES to these questions then A-level Photography is the course for you.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

Photography is the choice for individuals who are passionate about creativity and are keen to take risks, be bold and learn new skills. Students need to have the confidence to pursue personal lines of enquiry independently and with dedication using free time to develop their ideas. It is beneficial for students to have pursued Art and Media based courses at GCSE securing a minimum of a grade B.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

Throughout the course, students will be required to demonstrate an ability to research ideas in depth, both through an exploration of photographers and artists and their work to other contextual sources such as museum visits with an ability to analyse and offer personal judgements. Furthermore students will need to have an ability to draw and record ideas; this will provide them with the fundamental skills required to develop and extend practical and theoretical skills; experimenting with a wide range of media and processes from personally selected starting points. High fluency and accessibility to ICT programmes such as Photoshop are beneficial. Students may have the opportunity to experience visits to local and national galleries and practical workshops.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Our creative industries are a real success story. They are worth more than £36 billion a year; they generate £70,000 every minute for the UK economy; and they employ 1.5 million people in the UK. According to industry figures, the creative industries account for around £1 in every £10 of the UK's exports. Photography plays a fundamental role in this industry and can lead to a range of careers in the media and arts industry.

PE

***"Gold medals aren't really made of gold. They're made of sweat, determination, and a hard-to-find alloy called guts."* - Dan Gable**

***"If winning isn't everything, why do they keep score?"* - Vince Lombardi**

An overview of PE at A-level

Studying Physical Education gives you the opportunity to study a wide array of theoretical areas, such as Physiology, Psychology and Socio-cultural issues which allow you to build on your knowledge of factors that optimise performance.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

Students who have a passion for sport and have a desire to gain a deeper understanding of how the body works. Students need to be involved in one or more sports at a high level and will have achieved a grade B or more at GCSE PE – although students who have not studied GCSE PE have also been successful on the course in the past. Students who have an interest in following a career in sport would benefit from this course.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

A good understanding of Human Biology is beneficial, as well as a good understanding of training principles and some social and psychological concepts will also facilitate your understanding. Involvement as a coach, official or performer in more than one sport is preferred or two of these roles within one sport.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

In choosing Physical Education, this will equip you for undergraduate study in Sports Science, Physiology, Bio-Mechanics, Psychology or Nutrition. This can eventually lead directly into careers in Physiotherapy, Teaching, and high level Training and Coaching.

Physics

An overview of Physics at A-level

Studying Physics gives you the opportunity to read and analyse laws that have been developed over time and applying ideas from the greatest minds that have lived, including Einstein, Planck, Newton, Thompson and Curie. Physics provides students with the chance to explore how the universe appears and why and how it may change in the future.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

Physics is the choice for students who will enjoy reading, thinking, analysing and discussing how the world we inhabit follows basic rules and laws, which can be described using language and Mathematics. Students need to be inquisitive and open to new ideas about how the world appears to work and be prepared to work through ideas until they are ingrained in their being. Students should be achieving at least a B grade in GCSE Physics and at least a B grade in GCSE Mathematics and ideally studying Mathematics at A-level, as work is built upon the skills developed at GCSE.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

Over the course, students will be required to demonstrate the ability to use appropriate terms correctly and develop their mathematical abilities in a range of areas. In addition, they should have the ability to undertake research and apply a range of practical techniques to collect accurate data, analyse data using mathematical techniques, using language to explain concepts and using mathematics to solve high order numerical problems.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Some of our previous students have gone on to read a range of subjects at university including Physics, Astrophysics, Engineering, (all types) Law, Chinese, Mathematics and Economics. Students who shine at Physics go on to take up careers doing a wide range of jobs that include Engineers, Teachers, Research Fellows, Finance and Project Development.

Product Design

An overview of Product Design at A-level

Studying Product Design gives you the knowledge and skills you need to make a real impact on the world. Not only will you make your own products to an extremely high standard, you will also gain a greater understanding of how the objects in our environment have evolved and how they need to change to retain a place in contemporary society. Product design gives you the opportunity to bring your ideas and your imagination to life, to really understand what people want and need.

Are you enthusiastic about making? Do you have an interest in style? Do you want to change the world? Product Design provides you with the chance to explore your creativity whilst at the same time producing practical outcomes. It will help you develop a true understanding of how technology, as a force, has altered the path of human history. How it influences society and most importantly of all, the choices we make about the way we live our lives surrounded by technology itself.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

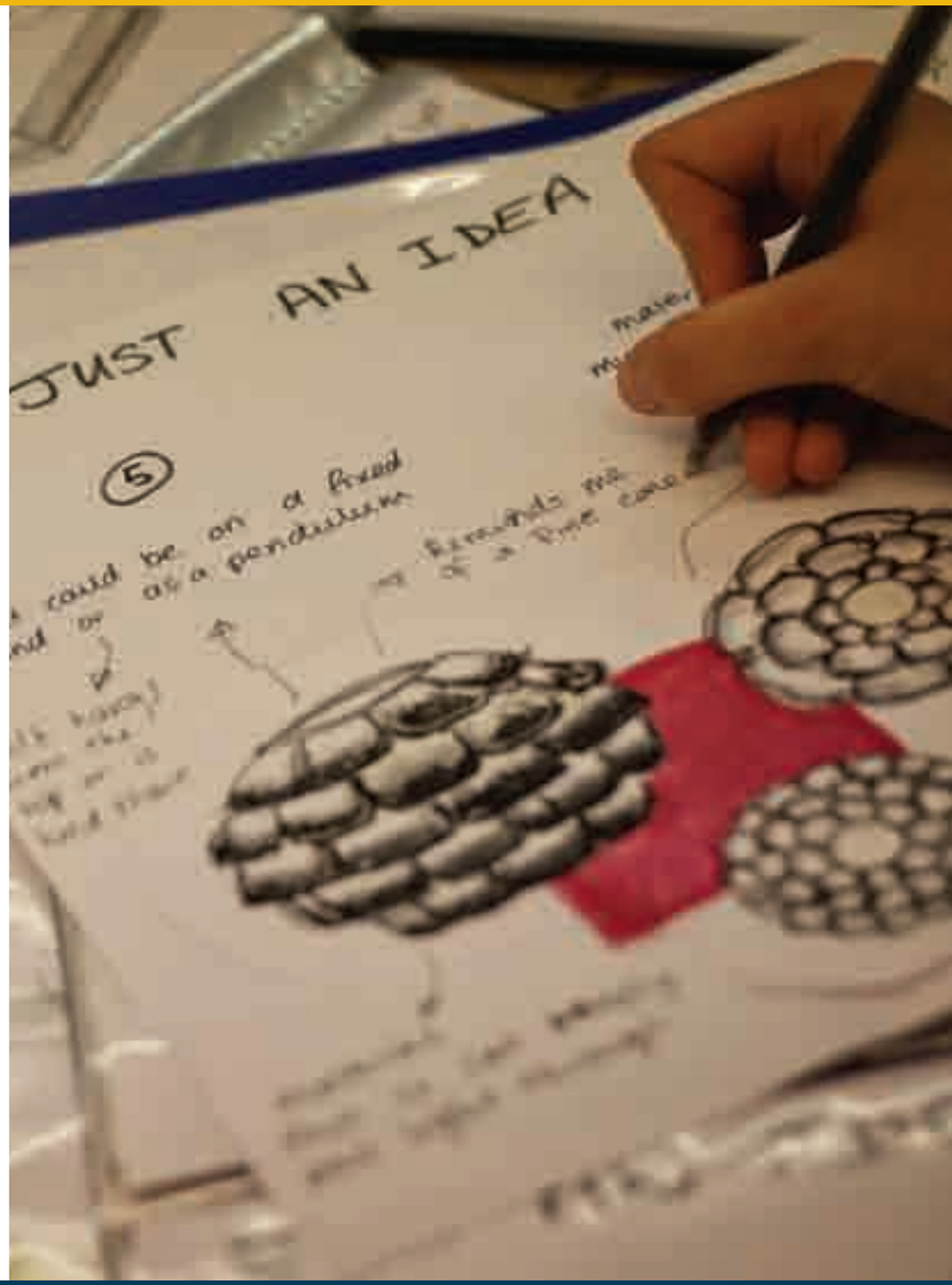
Product Design is the choice for anyone who loves to make, draw, invent and dream about an improved future. You may consider yourself an 'ideas person'. We can help you with the making. You may be a craftsperson, then we can help you progress with our great facilities and construction experience. Product Design is for anyone who thinks in terms of positive change and is aware of the importance of quality products and systems.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

It is not so much the skills you have; it is about the skills you want to develop. It is our job to help you make progress in drawing, making, thinking skills and planning. If you have any level of skill in these areas and can back it up with the enthusiasm for the subject then you should consider yourself an ideal candidate. It is how we harness the variety of skills and talent that make it such an enjoyable subject to work in.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

In its most direct form this subject can lead to a range of alternatives including Mechanical, Technical and Automotive Engineering, Industrial Design, Furniture Design, Modern Apprenticeships and Building Studies. Even if your course does not specify technology as a requirement, it is still essential that you gain the project management expertise and practical, physical skills that this subject brings. Coping with the theory at university is one thing, but knowing how materials respond is best learned through practical experience. Other areas in which this subject plays a part are Graphic Design, Architecture, Project and Business Management, Health and Safety and careers where the sciences are applied in a real world situation.



Psychology

An overview of Psychology at A-level

When you have an opinion of something or whenever you experience an emotion, Psychology is the subject that helps us to understand why we think, feel or behave as we do. Psychologists observe and measure human behaviour and their therapies are based on scientific study. Often studies in Psychology are controversial in nature which can initiate some interesting discussions. Psychology has links with many disciplines including Biological, Computer and Forensic Science as well as Humanities such as Sociology, Philosophy, Anthropology and even Literature. It involves study of theory, empirical evidence and practical applications. This mix of disciplines helps to make Psychology such a fascinating subject.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

Individuals who have a keen interest in understanding the human mind and behaviour by studying and evaluating psychological research will thrive on this course. With this in mind, students studying literacy based subjects like English and History do very well in Psychology because the demands of essays in the exams are similar, and there is a lot of reading around the subject.

English GCSE is necessary as there are a lot of essays and analysis of research which requires evaluation and in-depth critical thinking. Psychology is a Science so the research methods component is more mathematical. Therefore, it would be important to have a good grasp of basic statistics in Maths due to the importance placed on the ability to analyse data. A subject such as Biology also complements Psychology well, to meet the demands of the scientific elements of the course.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

The ability to outline and apply knowledge and evaluate research and theories are the key skills in Psychology. Students will formulate arguments, work independently and in groups and engage in wider reading and independent research to be successful.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

Psychology is a very popular subject at university level; however, it is an equally useful subject for studying other subjects at higher education, for example: Law or Nursing. Careers relating to Psychology include: Policing, Nursing, Teaching, Counselling, Human Resources and Personnel. University study in Psychology can lead to careers in areas of Applied Psychology, including: Clinical, Educational, Sports, Criminal, Forensic, Counselling, Environmental and Organisational Psychology.

Religious Studies

An overview of Religious Studies at A-level

In essence, Religious Studies is concerned with thinking about the 'big' questions in life, such as: who am I? (what is the nature of humanity?); where am I? (what is the meaning and nature of the world around me?); how should I live? (is there right and wrong?); and what happens when I die? You will explore these issues through the study of the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics at AS and A-level, rather than through the study of specific religions or scriptures. The aims of the course are to encourage interest in and intelligent understanding of the issues raised by religion and to train you to think knowledgeably and logically about them. The course is equally suitable for those who have a religious commitment and those who have none – fair and rational consideration and evaluation of a range of perspectives is expected.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

Religious Studies (RS) is a subject that covers a very wide range of issues and skills. Most people do not study RS because they want to become theologians or to work in the church (although if these are possible future vocations, you probably should be studying RS at A-level). Nor do you have to have any strong religious views yourself (RS involves exploring and challenging religious convictions).

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

You will enjoy RS if you are interested in the type of issues it covers; you will be good at it if you can train yourself to think logically and accurately, to understand a range of theories and to evaluate them critically, to study primary source material carefully and to represent the ideas of others fairly, and to write clear, well-organised essays. RS is principally a subject that involves reading and essay writing, so your ability in subjects such as English and History at GCSE may indicate your likely suitability for the subject at A-level. You do not need to have studied RS at GCSE.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

RS is a fascinating subject, which will train you in skills of analysis, logical thought, empathy and literacy. These are quite clearly skills which will prepare you well for both university and beyond. It directly provides a foundation for courses in Philosophy, Religious Studies and Theology. However, the skills and challenges involved in studying RS at A Level are highly relevant to a wide range of courses in the humanities and social sciences.

Textiles

An overview of Textiles at A-level

A-level Textiles gives you a greater understanding of the world of fashion and how textiles affect our society in a variety of ways. Not only in what we wear, but how we perceive each other, generate our wealth and express ourselves creatively. You will make your own garments to a professional standard. You will gain a greater understanding of how clothing and soft furnishings have evolved and how they need to change to retain a place in contemporary society. Above all, Textiles gives you the opportunity to bring your ideas to life and to really understand what people want to wear and how it enriches their lives.

Do you have an interest in fashion and style? Do you want to have an impact on the world? Textiles provides you with the chance to explore your creativity, whilst at the same time producing practical outcomes. It will help you develop a true understanding of how Textiles has influenced and altered popular culture, how it influences society and most importantly of all, the choices we can make regarding what we wear and their impact on the world.

Who would suit or enjoy the course?

Textiles is the choice for anyone who loves to sew, design, draw and dream about an improved stylistic future. You may consider yourself an 'ideas person'. We can help you with the making. You may be a craftsperson, then we can help you progress with our great facilities. Textiles is for anyone who thinks in terms of positive change and is aware of the importance of quality products and systems.

What skills are needed and involved in the course?

In Textiles it is not so much the skills you have; it is about the skills you want to develop. Creativity and enthusiasm, however, are essential. If this applies to you then you could be an ideal candidate. We will harness your skills and talent to ensure you reach your full potential.

Where can this subject lead me to in the future?

In its most direct form, this subject can lead to a career in the fashion industry as a designer. It is also very relevant to interior design and interior architecture. It is also essential for designers of soft furnishings, hat manufacture and shoe design. It can support careers in retail such as a fashion buyer for large chains, retail and project management, store display and personnel management. There are also more scientific areas such as design of the fabrics themselves at fibre level and surface pattern. As a subject, it complements Art and many fine artists use textiles in their work.

Subject Notes:

The Sixth Form college is an outstanding setting with wonderful staff that actually care about individual needs.

Parent of Sixth Form Student

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"Working together to develop confident and independent learners"