



ABINGDON



SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

CONTENTS

Welcome from Head of Sixth Form	2
Entry requirements	3
Curriculum overview	4
The Other Half	5
Enrichment programme	6
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	7
After Abingdon Programme	8
A Level subject combinations	9
What GCSEs are needed to study a particular A Level subject	10-13

Subject information:

Ancient History	14
Art	15
Biology	16
Business Studies	17
Chemistry	18
Computer Science	19
Design & Technology	20
Drama and Theatre	21
Economics	22
English Literature	23
French	24
Geography	25
German	26
Greek	27
History	28
Latin	29
Maths	30
Further Maths	31
Music	32
Philosophy	33
Physics	34
Politics	35
Psychology	36
Religious Studies	37
Spanish	38

WELCOME

Here at Abingdon, we hope that the Sixth Form will be a time full of excitement and possibility for our students. A chance to pursue your passions, discover some new ones, and even redefine yourself if you wish. We view this period as one of transition between being a school pupil and a university student or employee, something which is scaffolded and supported throughout the two years of A Level study.



Ours is a fast-paced academic environment, unashamedly so, but we also pride ourselves on the friendly and welcoming atmosphere which is fostered both between peers, and between staff and students. The support which we offer at a personal level is important to us, this includes our pastoral care, of course, but also extends to the way that students look out for each other. We are also extremely proud of the support which students receive through our comprehensive careers guidance and university application programme which we call *After Abingdon*.

You will no doubt have heard about the “step up” that you’ll face when moving from GCSE to A Level, and we hope that the prospect of stretching yourself academically is one which excites you. This isn’t to denigrate your achievements in navigating the challenges of Year 11 (which are considerable) but to recognise that undeniably there will be a shift in the demands that you will face at A Level. This step up will not only be in terms of the content you’ll be studying, but also in terms of the level of independence expected and the skills you will need to draw upon and develop. Along with where your strengths and weaknesses lie, the skills which you hope to develop should be part of your thinking when making A Level decisions. That’s where this document comes in.

I hope that what follows will be helpful in giving you a further flavour of what studying in Abingdon Sixth Form is all about, as well as making clear our requirements. Above all, I hope that it will be helpful in making good decisions about your future.

Simon James
Head of Sixth Form

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



Abingdon is an academically challenging and selective school. In order to thrive in this environment, we have a minimum set of criteria which you must fulfil before we offer you a place.

An overall average of a grade 6 at GCSE or IGCSE in all subjects is required for entry to our Sixth Form, with a minimum of a grade 7 in the subjects you wish to study at A Level (a minimum of a grade 8 in Further Maths).

In addition, you will be expected to take on greater responsibility for your own independent learning as part of the transition from life at school to university and further career.



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

All our students begin by studying 4 A Level subjects in the Lower Sixth (Year 12), typically equating to 40 lessons a fortnight.

At various points during your time in Sixth Form, you will be given the chance to drop down to 3 subjects. The first opportunity to do so will be after tests in November, towards the end of the Michaelmas term in your Lower Sixth year.

In addition to your academic lessons, there is a weekly tutor period which covers PSHCE topics and our enrichment programme; optional courses which can include language GCSEs or a creative writing qualification; an optional Extended Project Qualification (EPQ); at least 2 sports sessions per week and, in the Lower Sixth, supervised study periods.

THE OTHER HALF



Integrated into the timetable, our enviable Other Half co-curricular programme provides an extensive variety of activities and subjects.

Sixth Formers have the opportunity to become more proficient in an existing interest, learn a new skill, mentor younger peers and lend their support within the wider community. In turn, this will help our young people to develop important life skills including societal awareness, leadership, independence, perseverance, resilience, empathy, patience and kindness.



ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

Our Sixth Form enrichment programme aims to equip our students for life beyond school.

Through tutor programmes, a roundabout of 9 topics and a series of Sixth Form lectures, you will examine a broad range of topics, be challenged to problem solve, be confident about who you are and the direction you wish to take.

The concept of wellbeing runs throughout, so you will have a good understanding of positive wellbeing and how you can look after your own mental fitness throughout your life.

EPQ



The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an A Level standard standalone qualification, designed to extend and develop students' abilities beyond the A Level syllabus, paving the way for life at university and beyond.

The EPQ will allow you to lead your own project, taking inspiration from a topic touched on in class or something entirely personal and unrelated to academic study. This research is then used to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production.

An EPQ can be greatly beneficial and we encourage our students to consider doing one as it:

- is worth up to 28 UCAS points (half an A Level)
- is a formal qualification recognised by universities and employers
- complements subject based A Levels
- enhances UCAS applications
- develops a number of skills including mindset, independent learning, critical thinking, decision making, problem solving, planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation, creativity, initiative and enterprise
- enables a lower grade offer from some universities.

AFTER ABINGDON PROGRAMME

After Abingdon is an integrated programme of expert-led services helping our students prepare for, and make informed decisions about, what they will do after school.

Career Guidance

Our career guidance programme provides lessons in planning and career thinking. These lessons are supported with information resources; career psychometric testing and one-to-one guidance meetings; employability skills workshops; CV, cover letter and interview training and practice; financial education tutorials and seminars; and a wide range of events and activities, including talks with working professionals, an annual careers fair and work experience schemes.

University Admissions

We offer a programme of activity to support students through the entire university admissions process. Guidance includes the UK's Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) application, personal statement writing, university and course research, gap year advice and applying for student finance. This includes whole year group talks, smaller workshop sessions and one-to-one meetings. Additional support is in place for students applying to the most selective universities and courses (e.g. Oxbridge, Medicine and Law) to help prepare for entrance tests and interviews. Support is also given to those applying to international universities.

Alternatives to University

Whilst university is the destination of choice for the vast majority of our students, there are some who prefer to go straight into employment, enrol on a vocational course, or undertake an apprenticeship or school leaver programme. We also provide tailored advice on the full range of options available and the associated application process.

Alumni Association

Upon leaving Abingdon, students are automatically enrolled into our alumni association - the Old Abingdonian (OA) Club. This provides leavers with access to our alumni social media platforms and news media, invitations to social and sporting events, and professional networking opportunities.



A LEVEL SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

We accommodate a wide range of subject combinations, and the timetable is built around the subject choices students make. However, there are a few exceptions: Students may choose Economics as well as Business; and History as well as Ancient History as two of four subjects, but only if continuing with all four of their A Levels.

Very occasionally, if there is very little interest in a particular subject, students may not get their first choice of subject. As not all subject combinations will be possible, we ask pupils to rank their preferred subjects in order of importance to them.

Students must inform the Curriculum Director in the first instance if they wish to alter their A Level subjects - this is to ensure the revised combination of subjects is possible.

Students are encouraged in their decision making to honestly consider where their strengths and weaknesses lie and the range of skills required for their future plans.

Which GCSE subjects will I need to then go on and take that subject at A Level?

Before you choose which subjects you would like to take at A Level, it is important to understand what GCSEs are:

- required (the GCSE must have been studied to access the A Level course),
- recommended (ideally the GCSE would have been taken with a high grade achieved) or
- useful (the GCSE supports the Sixth Form course through transferable skills).

The table below provides general guidance on the link between GCSE and Sixth Form subjects. Subjects without a GCSE equivalent in Abingdon's curriculum are indicated with an asterisk.

A Level Subject	GCSE Subject	Note
Ancient History	Useful: Ancient History, English Language, English Literature, History	
Art	Required: Art Useful: Design and Technology	In very particular circumstances, students who have not taken GCSE Art may be permitted to take A Level Art and should speak to the Head of Department.
Biology	Required: Maths, Biology or Dual Award Science	
Business*	Useful: English Language, English Literature, Maths, History, Geography	The ability to analyse and produce fluent, sustained writing are key skills, coupled with a strong level of numeracy.
Chemistry	Required: Maths, Chemistry or Dual Award Science	
Computer Science	Required: Maths Useful: Computer Science	Students who have not done Computer Science GCSE should speak to the Head of Department as some catch-up programming may be needed.

A Level Subject	GCSE Subject	Note
Design and Technology	<p>Required: Maths</p> <p>Recommended: Design and Technology</p> <p>Useful: Art, Electronics, Computer Science, English Language, English Literature, Geography, Physics</p>	<p>The A Level builds on the GCSE so students who have not done Design and Technology GCSE may be at a disadvantage but can still be successful if they have the right approach.</p>
Drama (taught jointly with SHSK at both schools)	<p>Recommended: Drama</p> <p>Useful: Art, English Language, English Literature, History, Music</p>	
Economics* (taught with SHSK pupils)	<p>Recommended: Maths</p> <p>Useful: English Language, English Literature, Geography, History, Additional Maths</p>	<p>Achievement in certain Maths skills is useful but so is the ability to produce fluent, sustained writing. Geography also covers useful, relevant skills and knowledge.</p>
English Literature	<p>Recommended: English Language, English Literature</p> <p>Useful: Ancient History, Drama, History</p>	
French	<p>Required: French</p> <p>Useful: English Language, English Literature, Any other Modern Foreign Language, Latin</p>	
Geography	<p>Required: Geography (see note)</p> <p>Useful: English Language, English Literature, Biology</p>	<p>In very particular circumstances, students who haven't done the GCSE may be permitted to take the A Level and you should speak to the Head of Department.</p>

A Level Subject	GCSE Subject	Note
German	<p>Required: German</p> <p>Useful: English Language, English Literature, Latin, Any other Modern Foreign Language</p>	
Government and Politics* (taught with SHSK pupils at SHSK)	<p>Useful: English Language, English Literature, History</p>	<p>The ability to analyse and produce lengthy sustained writing are key skills for this subject.</p>
Greek	<p>Required: Greek</p> <p>Useful: Other Ancient or Modern Languages</p>	
History	<p>Required: History</p> <p>Useful: Ancient History, English Language, English Literature, Geography, Religious Studies</p>	<p>In very particular circumstances, students who haven't done the GCSE may be permitted to take the A Level and you should speak to the Head of Department. A strong performance in English would be expected.</p>
Latin	<p>Required: Latin</p> <p>Useful: Other Ancient or Modern Languages</p>	
Maths	<p>Required: Maths</p> <p>Useful: Additional Maths</p>	<p>Students need to be good at algebra as this undermines much of the A Level course. A thorough understanding of all topics at GCSE is helpful.</p>
Further Maths (Taken as a joint A Level with Maths)	<p>Required: Maths at grade 8 or above</p> <p>Recommended: Additional Maths</p>	<p>Students who have not done Additional Maths will be expected to work on Maths over the summer holiday before starting the A Level course. This is a fast paced subject and students need to be particularly strong in algebra.</p>

A Level Subject	GCSE Subject	Note
Music	Required: Music	In very particular circumstances, students who haven't done the GCSE may be permitted to take the A Level and you should speak to the Head of Department.
Philosophy*	Recommended: Either Religious Studies or History Useful: English Language, English Literature, Maths	Philosophy is about thinking in a logical and metaphysical manner. Candidates should have a strong set of GCSE grades in essay based subjects, and be able to tackle logical problems such as those found in Maths.
Physics	Required: Maths, Physics or Dual Award Science Useful: Additional Maths, Design and Technology, Electronics, Computer Science	Whilst possible, it is not recommended that Physics A Level is studied without A Level Maths, as the omission of Maths means students cannot generally go on to study Physics or Engineering at university.
Psychology* (taught jointly with SHSK at both schools)	Recommended: Maths Useful: English Language, English Literature, Biology	The ability to analyse and produce fluent, sustained writing are key skills, coupled with a strong level of numeracy.
Religious Studies	Recommended: Religious Studies Useful: Ancient History, English Language, English Literature, Geography, History	An ability to argue effectively and analyse arguments is required. You should also show competence in structured and extended writing through good GCSE grades in relevant subjects.
Spanish	Required: Spanish Useful: English Language, English Literature, Any other Modern Foreign Language, Latin	

ANCIENT HISTORY

Exam board: OCR Ancient History H407



What will I study?

In the Lower Sixth, there is a detailed study of the wars (and diplomacy) between Greeks and Persians, and the increasingly fraught relations between the Greek states, culminating in the 30 years of the Peloponnesian War. We study the establishment by Augustus of a military dictatorship and its evolution under the other Julio-Claudian emperors. In the Upper Sixth, we focus on Athens in greater detail, studying the workings of the democracy and the development of Athenian culture during the 5th century BC. While, in Rome we study the late Republic, focusing on the causes for its collapse: the violence, corruption and competition between the various military leaders.

What skills will I acquire?

- Constructing a written argument
- Academic discussion skills
- Analysis of text and modern interpretations
- Evaluation of the usefulness and reliability of evidence
- Reading difficult texts (in translation)

Do you offer any extension activities?

- October overseas trip to Classical sites
- Warwick University Greek drama day
- British Museum trip
- Oxbridge preparation classes

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1: Greek History (50%)	2 hour 30 minutes written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Period study (essay + interpretations question): relations between Greek states, and Greek states and non-Greek states from 492-404 BC • Depth study (source criticism + essay): Politics and Culture of Athens
Paper 2: Roman History (50%)	2 hour 30 minutes written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Period study (essay + interpretations question): The Julio-Claudian emperors • Depth study (source criticism + essay): The breakdown of the Late Republic 88-31 BC

ART



Exam board: Edexcel Fine Art 9FAO

What will I study?

The main purpose of the course is to develop your ability to appreciate the visual world, to respond in a personal and creative way and to express your thoughts, ideas and feelings. You will develop your imaginative and creative powers and your experimental, analytical and documenting skills. You will also develop a specialist vocabulary and the knowledge and understanding of the place of art, craft and design in history and contemporary society. You will develop professional skills that will equip you for work in the field of art and design.

What skills will I acquire?

- Painting and drawing
- Printmaking
- Sculpture
- Lens-based image making

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Gallery trips to London
- Access to workshops and clubs to build your knowledge and skills
- Lectures, and speakers from visiting industry professionals
- Working with artists in residence and visiting practitioners

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Coursework (60%)	There is no coursework examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A personal project and portfolio of work around a theme of your choice. • This will include a 3000-word essay that investigates a question related to your theme/project.
Exam (40%)	15 hour exam at the end of the course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exam project aims to create a new set of creative work. You will showcase your best skills, referring to the exam board theme. At the end of this project, you will produce a skilful and exciting outcome/s in your timed test.

BIOLOGY



Exam board: AQA Biology 7402

What will I study?

Students will gain an understanding of how the natural world works and how our interactions can affect it. The course is academically challenging bridging the gap between GCSE Biology and the start of a degree. The course has a strong experimental base. Topics range from Biochemistry and Molecular Biology through to Ecology and Conservation.

What skills will I acquire?

- Problem solving techniques
- Data analysis
- Practical and experimental skills
- Research skills

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Biology Field Trip in U6
- PCR lab day
- External competitions including International Biology Olympiads, Cambridge Biology Challenge and Imperial College Research prize
- Writing for local and national student journals

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 (35%)	2 hour written exam	Biological Molecules, Cells and Microscopy, Immunology, Transport and Exchange, Genetic, Information and Variation, Speciation and Biodiversity
Paper 2 (35%)	2 hour written exam	Respiration and Photosynthesis, Receptors, Nerves and Homeostasis, including Diabetes, Genetics, Population dynamics, Control of Gene Regulation, Modern Biochemical techniques
Paper 3 (30%)	2 hour written exam	Synoptic questions covering any content, Conceptual and theoretical understanding of experimental methods
Practical endorsement	This is internally assessed via the completion of core practical activities and is certified separately, alongside the A Level grade.	

BUSINESS STUDIES

Exam board: Edexcel Business 9BS0



What will I study?

Business is a dynamic subject. You will learn about the diverse nature of business enterprise and the interdependence of the various parts of the business world. You will explore business success and business failure, investigate local, national and global business markets, and understand how businesses need to adapt and respond strategically to the changing environment in which they operate to survive and grow. This constant evolutionary process makes business a fascinating subject.

What skills will I acquire?

- Communicating and explaining your ideas exploring and presenting alternative courses of action
- Thinking strategically and making decisions working with numbers to solve business problems
- Keeping up to date with national and international business news
- Learning about the world of business through research and investigation

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Griffenomics - Business and Economics magazine with SHSK students.
- Abingdon Investment and Trading Club
- BMW Mini trip
- Marketing challenge with local community centre
- Guest speakers - founder of Jack Wills, range of OA entrepreneurs sharing top tips.

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 (35%)	2 hours	Data response and essay questions on marketing, people and global businesses.
Paper 2 (35%)	2 hours	Data response and essay questions will assess business finance and operations, business decisions and strategy.
Paper 3 (30%)	2 hours	Questions will be drawn from local, national and global contexts across the whole course. A new pre-released context is released each year. The questions in the exam – data response and essay questions – are linked to the context researched.

CHEMISTRY



Exam board: Edexcel Chemistry 9Ch0

What will I study?

We cover the essential aspects of inorganic, organic and physical chemistry to provide an intellectually stimulating course, building on knowledge acquired at GCSE. The factual base of the subject is supported by practical work, and by experimental evidence. There is an element of mathematical content and a strong mathematical background would be desirable for students wanting to take this course.

What skills will I acquire?

- Practical skills and problem-solving techniques
- Mathematical modelling
- Visualisation of chemical and physical processes
- Creating logical explanations

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Extension programme including lectures
- RSC Olympiad, Cambridge C3L6 Chemistry Challenge and other competitions
- Practical projects and masterclasses

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 (30%)	1 hour 45 minutes written exam	Advanced Inorganic and Physical Chemistry: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atomic Structure, Inorganic Chemistry and the Periodic Table, Bonding and Structure. Redox, Formulae, Equations and Amounts of Substance, Energetics, Equilibrium, Acid-base Equilibria, Transition Metals
Paper 2 (30%)	1 hour 45 minutes written exam	Advanced Organic and Physical Chemistry: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bonding and Structure, Redox, Formulae, Equations and Amounts of Substance, Organic Chemistry (Alkanes, Alkenes, Alcohols, Haloalkanes, Carbonyls & Carboxyls, Amines, Organic Synthesis), Modern Analytical Techniques, Kinetics
Paper 3 (40%)	2 hours 30 minutes written exam	General and Practical Principles in Chemistry <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Synoptic questions covering any content, conceptual and theoretical understanding of experimental methods.
Practical endorsement	This is internally assessed via the completion of core practical activities and is certified separately, alongside the A Level grade.	

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Exam board: AQA Computer Science 7517



What will I study?

Whatever your academic direction, you use computers to look at information or to solve a problem. Computer Science gives you those skills and helps you appreciate the thinking behind the tools and the ability to design and craft new ones. A grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent is needed and students will need their own laptop computer (Windows/Mac/Linux i.e. not a Chromebook).

What skills will I acquire?

- Python programming
- Problem solving skills
- Mathematical skills (set theory, vectors, number systems etc)

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Student Robotics
- RoboCon
- Programming extension

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 (40%)	2 hour 30 minutes on screen exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming • Fundamentals of programming, data structures and algorithms • Theory of computation
Paper 2 (40%)	2 hour 30 minutes written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentals of data representation, computer systems, computer organisation and architecture, communication and networking, databases and functional programming • Consequences of uses of computing • Big Data
Non-examination assessment (NEA) (20%)	50 hours of class time in the U6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem • The options are many - from a business management solution to programming hardware.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Exam board: AQA Design & Technology - Product Design 7552



What will I study?

Students will gain insight into the role of a commercial designer and practical experience and understanding about material properties, technical principles and manufacturing processes. Students will be required to research and investigate a design opportunity of their choice, design and develop a range of proposals and produce a high quality practical prototype. The course will provide a good background to all those interested in engineering or designing in its widest sense.

What skills will I acquire?

- Problem solving techniques
- Project management skills
- Practical and CAD skills
- Research, analysis and evaluation skills

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Design Insights lectures
- Visiting designer workshops
- Success in external design competitions.

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 (30%) Technical Principles	2 hour 30 minutes written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Properties of materials • Performance characteristics of material • Commercial manufacturing techniques • Digital design and manufacture • Marketing and the development of commercial products • 15% Maths in a D&T context
Paper 2 (20%) Designing Principles	1 hour 30 minutes written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design methods and processes • Design theory • Major developments in technology • Accuracy in design and manufacture • Responsible design • 15% Maths in a D&T context
Non-examination assessment (NEA) (50%)	Non examined assessment unit completed from Feb (L6) - Feb (U6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student identified design opportunity • Research and investigation • Development of design proposals • Manufacture of 3D prototype • Analysis and evaluation

DRAMA AND THEATRE



Exam board: Edexcel Drama and Theatre 9Dr0

What will I study?

You will study in depth how to create, perform and respond to a range of theatrical styles and contexts. You will cover a range of play texts and practitioners, and learn how to create, direct and design theatre. You will also learn analytical and evaluative skills around performance.

What skills will I acquire?

- Creative skills in making theatre
- Skills in writing about drama and theatre from the perspective of different theatre makers
- Analytical and evaluative skills about performance
- Performance skills across a range of theatrical styles and genres

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Theatre trips to various pieces of theatre
- Masterclass workshops with theatre practitioners
- Live Theatre streamings

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Devising (40%)	Devised practical piece, portfolio. Internally assessed, externally moderated	Devising – In groups of 3 – 6, Centre choice of a key extract (10 mins playing time) from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli. A 3000-word portfolio
Group piece and monologue (20%)	Practical exam, externally assessed	A group performance from one key extract from a text (3 – 6 people, 20 – 45 minutes) and a monologue (2 – 3 minutes) performance.
Written paper (40%)	2 hours 30 minutes written exam, externally assessed	Section A - Live Theatre Evaluation (20 marks) Section B – Realising a Performance text – Contemporary text from List A (36 marks) Section C – Interpreting a performance text – Study and interpretation of a text from List B and a second practitioner.

ECONOMICS



Exam board: Edexcel Economics 9ECO

What will I study?

Economics is about choice and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. An economic way of thinking can help you make better choices.

What skills will I acquire?

- Debating economic issues such as inequality, immigration and how we should pay for healthcare
- Using and interpreting data to analyse economic problems
- Discussing alternative courses of action
- Keeping up to date with national and international trends

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Griffenomics - Business and Economics magazine with SHSK students
- Abingdon Investment and Trading Club
- Guest speakers - economists, authors and recently a former government minister for business and trade.

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 (35%)	2 hours	Microeconomics: Short-answer, data response and essay questions on markets and business behaviour. This includes how markets work and why they fail. As well as exploring how businesses grow and compete, the labour market and how the government intervenes to make markets work better.
Paper 2 (35%)	2 hours	Macroeconomics: Short-answer, data response and essay questions on the national and global economy. This includes considering the role of government and the UK economy. As well as exploring international trade, inequality within and between countries, emerging and developing economies, public finances and the role and impact of the financial sector.
Paper 3 (30%)	2 hours	The questions in the exam – data response and essay questions – cover concepts and theory from the whole course.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam board: OCR English Literature H472



What will I study?

We study a range of poetry and prose texts, some belonging to the English literary canon, such as *Hamlet* and *Paradise Lost*, and other more modern texts including American literature from 1880-1940 and coursework texts that bring us right up to the present day. We are mainly concerned with the ideas in the texts, including how they are conveyed through the writers' decisions, how they relate to aspects of social, historical and literary context, and how literary critics and theatrical productions have interpreted these ideas over the years.

What skills will I acquire?

- Reading and interpreting
- Analytical skills
- Discussing and debating ideas
- Articulating complex and persuasive arguments
- Evaluation skills

Do you offer any extension activities?

- The Literary Society Dinner, a joint event with SHSK
- Theatre trips and screenings and selected plays for non-examined assessment
- English at University group for students looking to take the subject at degree level

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1: Pre-1900 Drama & Poetry (40%)	2 hours 30 minutes written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two essay questions on <i>Hamlet</i> • One essay question from a choice of six comparing <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> and <i>Paradise Lost Books IX & X</i>
Paper 2: Comparative & Contextual Study - American Literature 1880-1940 (40%)	2 hours 30 minutes written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One essay question on an unseen extract from an American novel or short story • One essay question from a choice of three comparing <i>The Great Gatsby</i>, <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> and any wider reading
Non-examined Assessment (NEA) (20%)	Two coursework essays, internally assessed and externally moderated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1000-word essay analysing the poetry of Yeats • 2000-word essay comparing two post-1900 texts (one drama and one prose), one of which will be post-2000

FRENCH



Exam board: AQA French 7652

What will I study?

This is an exciting and dynamic course for those wishing to develop their language skills. A significant departure from GCSE, the syllabus offers the opportunity to learn about French history and culture and to keep abreast of contemporary social and cultural developments in French-speaking countries. One-to-one weekly lessons ensure students have the necessary oral skills to communicate meaningfully with native speakers. Students will hone translation skills alongside short essay writing, and listening and reading.

What skills will I acquire?

- Receptive skills (listening and reading)
- Summarising short passages of written text
- Translation into and out of French
- Analysis of current Francophone issues
- Greater spontaneity when speaking French
- Research skills

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Study trip to Paris (February half term)
- Translation workshop
- Alliance Française seminars
- French film evenings
- Cheltenham College debating competition

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 (50%)	2 hour 30 minutes written exam	Listening, reading and translation covering a range of topics
Paper 2 (20%)	2 hours written exam	One essay (400 words) on the film and one essay (400 words) on the text
Paper 3 (30%)	21-23 minutes (incl. 5 mins preparation time) oral exam	Conversation on a card related to a topic (5-6 mins) Conversation on pupil's chosen Research topic (9-10 mins)

GEOGRAPHY



Exam board: OCR Geography H481

What will I study?

This dynamic subject constantly evolves with academic research and global change. We stay abreast of contemporary geographies and have high expectations of students in covering a rigorous programme of study. The course examines a range of world issues and fundamental geographical concepts in order to understand the world we live in today. This includes managing our key environmental issues, the social and economic challenges influencing certain areas of the world, and how glaciated landscapes and hazardous environments are crucial in shaping our planet.

What skills will I acquire?

- Geo-spatial mapping skills
- Data manipulation and statistical skills
- Evaluative writing skills
- Geographical fieldwork skills

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Geographical Association lecture series
- Royal Geographical Society lecture series
- Iceland residential trip
- Oxbright Essay Competition

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 - Physical Systems (22%)	1 hour 30 minutes written exam (66 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Systems (Glaciated Landscapes) • Earth's Life Support Systems
Paper 2 - Human Interactions (22%)	1 hour 30 minutes written exam (66 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing Spaces; Making Places • Global Connections (Trade in the Contemporary World, Power and Borders)
Paper 3 - Geographical Debates (36%)	2 hours 30 minutes written exam (108 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synoptic questions covering any content. • Disease Dilemmas • Hazardous Earth
Independent Investigation (20%)	Non-examination assessment (NEA) (60 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title chosen from any topic studied

GERMAN



Exam board: AQA German 7662

What will I study?

This is a rich, stimulating programme which aims to develop confidence and cultural knowledge beyond GCSE. Students will cover a variety of cultural, social and historical topics including (but not limited to) German traditions, art and architecture in the German-speaking world, the importance of Berlin as a cultural capital, as well as German politics and the consequences of reunification. You will conduct a research project on a topic of your choice related to a German-speaking country and, as well as regular translations into and out of German, all students study the film *Das Leben der Anderen* and the famous play *Der Besuch der Alten Dame*.

What skills will I acquire?

- Receptive skills (listening and reading)
- Summarising short passages of written text
- Translation into and out of German
- Analysis of current issues in Germany
- Greater spontaneity when speaking German
- Research skills

Do you offer any extension activities?

- German trip to Berlin
- Lectures / seminars from OAs on topics related to the A Level syllabus
- German Filmabend
- Day trips to hear talks and lectures on topics on the syllabus

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 (50%)	2 hour 30 minutes written exam	Listening, reading and translation covering a range of topics
Paper 2 (20%)	2 hours written exam	One essay (400 words) on the film and one essay (400 words) on the text
Paper 3 (30%)	21-23 minutes (incl. 5 mins preparation time) oral exam	Conversation on a card related to a topic (5-6 mins) Conversation on pupil's chosen Research topic (9-10 mins)

GREEK



Exam board: OCR Classical Greek H444

What will I study?

The language element expects students to build on their GCSE skills so they can tackle the translation of Greek passages. There is greater focus on understanding the way in which the languages work and plenty of opportunity to read beyond the syllabus. Literature on the syllabus includes Sophocles, Euripides, Herodotus and Thucydides.

What skills will I acquire?

- Manipulation of vocabulary/grammar/constructions in another language
- Precision of thought in multi-step process
- Judgement and evaluation of the most appropriate translation
- Analysis of text and appreciation of literary effects and rhetoric

Do you offer any extension activities?

- October overseas trip to Classical sites
- Classical set-texts lecture days
- Oxbridge preparation classes
- Classical Reading Competition
- Warwick University Greek drama day

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Unseen translation (01) (33%)	1 hour 45 minutes written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (compulsory) unseen from set prose author• (compulsory) unseen from set verse author
Prose Composition or comprehension (02) (17%)	1 hour 15 minutes written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (either) comprehension with grammatical questions on a passage• (or) prose composition from English into Greek
Prose Literature (03) (25%)	2 hours written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions on group 1 prose set-text• Questions on group 2 prose set-text• Essay question on either group 1 or 2 prose set-text
Verse Literature (04) (25%)	2 hours written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section A: Selection of questions on group 1 verse set-text• Section B: Selection of questions on group 2 verse set-text• Section C: essay question on either group 1 or group 2 verse set-text

HISTORY



Exam board: OCR History H505

What will I study?

In an age of information and misinformation, history being claimed and reclaimed by political leaders, journalists, armchair historians and populists, the study of History is as important as it has always been.

What skills will I acquire?

- Critically evaluating sources and sophisticated essay writing
- Debate based on knowledge and evidence rich research
- Historiographical interpretations

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Weekly extension sessions
- Overseas trips
- Contribution to the Timeline Magazine
- Visiting lectures
- University style quiz

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Unit 1 (25%)	1 hour 30 minutes paper (50 marks)	British period study and enquiry: students will study either The early Tudors, encompassing the reigns of Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward and Mary Tudor or The early Stuarts: James I, Charles I and the English Civil War, Oliver Cromwell and the restoration of Charles II.
Unit 2 (15%)	1 hour paper (30 marks)	Non-British period study: students will study either The French Revolution, French Revolutionary Wars and the Napoleonic Wars or The Seven Years War and its legacy, the causes of the American Revolution and Wars of Independence, key battles and the final American constitution.
Unit 3 (40%)	2 hour 30 minutes paper (80 marks)	China under the Qing dynasty, The Opium Wars and their legacy, the decline of the Qing, the 1911 Revolution, the rise and fall of the Nationalists and the rise and rise of the Chinese Communist Party, first under Mao Zedong and then under Deng Xiaoping.
Unit 4 (20%)	Non exam assessment (40 marks)	4000-word essay on a chosen topic, which may arise out of course content.

LATIN



Exam board: OCR Latin H443

What will I study?

The language element expects students to build on their GCSE skills so they can tackle the translation of Latin passages. There is greater focus on understanding the way in which the languages work and plenty of opportunity to read beyond the syllabus. Authors on the syllabus include Vergil, Ovid, Cicero and Tacitus.

What skills will I acquire?

- Manipulation of vocabulary/grammar/constructions in another language
- Precision of thought in multi-step process
- Judgement and evaluation of the most appropriate translation
- Analysis of text
- Appreciation of literary effects and rhetoric

Do you offer any extension activities?

- October overseas trip to Classical sites
- Classical set-texts lecture days
- Oxbridge preparation classes
- Classical Reading Competition

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Unseen translation (01) (33%)	1 hour 45 minutes written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (compulsory) unseen from set prose author• (compulsory) unseen from set verse author
Prose Composition or comprehension (02) (17%)	1 hour 15 minutes written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (either) comprehension with grammatical questions on a passage• (or) prose composition from English to Latin
Prose Literature (03) (25%)	2 hours written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions on group 1 prose set-text• Questions on group 2 prose set-text• Essay question on either group 1 or group 2 prose set-text
Verse Literature (04) (25%)	2 hours written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions on group 1 verse set-text• Questions on group 2 verse set-text• Essay question on either group 1 or group 2 verse set-text

MATHS



Exam board: Edexcel Maths 9MA0

What will I study?

Lessons are a mixture of learning new ideas and techniques and an opportunity to develop applying this new knowledge to problem solving and modelling real world situations. You will learn to extend your GCSE knowledge of algebra, trigonometry and vectors whilst applying this to mechanics and statistics scenarios.

What skills will I acquire?

- Problem solving techniques
- Mathematical modelling
- Communicate mathematical thoughts clearly and concisely
- Fluency in algebra
- Perseverance

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Sixth Form Maths Enrichment club
- Pre-university entrance exam preparation for a variety of courses involving Maths

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 (33%)	2 hour written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proof• Algebra• Trigonometry• Calculus• Vectors
Paper 2 (33%)	2 hour written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proof• Algebra• Trigonometry• Calculus• Vectors
Paper 3 (33%)	2 hour written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statistics - statistical sampling, data representation and probability• Mechanics - modelling the motion of objects and forces acting on them

FURTHER MATHS

Exam board: Edexcel Further Maths 9FM0



What will I study?

Further Maths is designed to stretch and challenge able mathematicians and prepare them for university courses in Mathematics and related quantitative and scientific subjects. You will need a grade 8 or above at GCSE to select this A Level in which Maths and Further Maths are studied alongside each other as a single A Level choice.* The course is fast paced enabling students to gain deeper insight into how seemingly unrelated areas of Maths are linked.

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Sixth Form Maths Enrichment club
- Pre-university entrance exam preparation for a variety of courses involving Maths
- Senior Maths Challenge, Ritangle and Naboj competitions

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 and Paper 2 (25% each)	1 hour 30 minutes written exam each	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex numbers • Matrices • Further Algebra • Further Calculus • Vectors • Proof • Hyperbolic Functions
Paper 3 and Paper 4 (25% each)	1 hour 30 minutes written exam each	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Mechanics 1 - Collisions, Work, Energy and Power, Hooke's Law. • Further Mechanics 2 - Circular motion, Centres of mass, Further Kinematics. • Further Statistics 1 - Further discrete distributions, Hypothesis testing and Quality of tests, Chi-squared tests, Probability Generating Functions. • Further Decision Maths 1 - Algorithms, Graphs and network problems, Linear Programming.

* Maths and Further Maths are studied together as a single A Level choice. Students will be expected to choose an additional three subjects in their Lower Sixth year.

MUSIC



Exam board: OCR Music H543

What will I study?

The course focuses on three areas: Performance, Composition and Appraising. Through regular performance opportunities, students are able to progress their technical skill and musical interpretation. Within the composition element, students explore areas of individual interest, creating two works, one of which is in response to a brief set by the board. Students study a range of musical topics in preparation for the appraising exam. Compulsory topics include Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven alongside Popular Music: Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band. Choices are then made on a range of genres including Developments in Jazz from 1910, Religious Music of the Baroque Period, Programme Music from 1820 and Innovations in Music from 1900 to the Present Day. Throughout all of this, emphasis is placed on exploring a wide range of musical works, composers and genres, analysing musical features, improving listening and aural skills alongside building synoptic ability in essay writing.

What skills will I acquire?

- Performance and presentation skills
- Expressing individual emotion and creativity in composition
- Analysis of musical works, with specific attention to detail on set works
- Ability to articulate clearly in written form through synoptic essay writing

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Frequent concert performances
- Masterclasses with instrumentalists and composers
- Performances with professional musicians and singers
- Tours planned with most recent to France in 2023
- Oxbridge preparation classes

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Performance (35% / 25%)	10 or 6 minutes minimum	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Solo pieces on one or more instruments or voice• Externally assessed by video recording
Composition (25% / 35%)	4 or 8 minutes minimum	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Compositions to be written with one to a brief written by the board• Externally assessed via submitted score and audio recordings
Listening and Appraising (40%)	2 hour 30 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written Exam with aural extracts

PHILOSOPHY



Exam board: AQA Philosophy 7172

What will I study?

Philosophy has three main aspects: *Metaphysics* - the study of what exists, *Moral Philosophy* - the study of ethics; and *Epistemology* - the study of knowledge. The syllabus deals with Epistemology and Moral Philosophy in the first year, and the Metaphysics of Mind and the Metaphysics of God in the second year. In Epistemology we consider how to identify knowledge, by what possible routes it might be obtained and whether anything can truly be called knowledge at all. Moral Philosophy looks at the three main approaches in British and continental philosophy to ethical decision-making and asks whether any of them is satisfactory. Metaphysics of Mind centres on the single question of the relation between the mind and the body (including the brain), whether the mind is physical or non-physical. Metaphysics of God is more diverse, considering arguments for and against the existence of a God, and asking whether traditional language about God is philosophically consistent or meaningful.

What skills will I acquire?

- Evaluate and produce clear rational arguments
- Standard form logic skills
- An ability to read in-depth philosophical texts
- How to argue clearly and precisely with intent
- The ability to think analytically

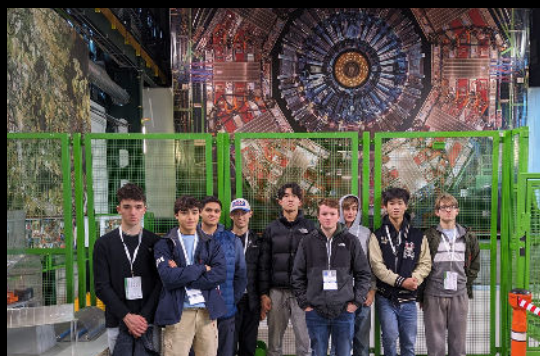
Do you offer any extension activities?

- Lectures in Oxford
- Istanbul, Jordan and India residential trips
- John Locke Essay competition
- Edmund Society lectures (in school)
- Extension sessions to help with university applications
- Axiom magazine

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 (50%)	3 hour written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Epistemology• Moral Philosophy
Paper 2 (50%)	3 hour written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Metaphysics of Mind• Metaphysics of God

PHYSICS



Exam board: Edexcel Physics 9Ph0

What will I study?

From quarks and the strong nuclear force through to galaxies and gravity, you will learn to apply the laws of nature, build mathematical models, think creatively and solve problems. Experimentation is at the heart of the course with both demos and longer investigations used to introduce and develop key concepts. In a time of rapid technological development, we aim to bring the subject alive and showcase its importance in society whilst providing a strong base of skills for further scientific study.

What skills will I acquire?

- Problem solving techniques
- Mathematical modelling
- Practical skills

Do you offer any extension activities?

- CERN lecture series
- Geneva residential trip
- British Physics Olympiad Competition
- Special relativity taster course

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 (30%)	1 hour 45 minutes written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mechanics• Electric Circuits• Further Mechanics• Electric and Magnetic Fields• Nuclear and Particle Physics
Paper 2 (30%)	1 hour 45 minutes written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Materials• Waves and Particle Nature of Light• Thermodynamics• Space• Nuclear Radiation• Gravitational Fields• Oscillations
Paper 3 (40%)	2 hours 30 minutes written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Synoptic questions covering any content• Conceptual and theoretical understanding of experimental methods
Practical endorsement	Internally assessed via the completion of core practical activities and certified separately, alongside the A Level grade.	

POLITICS

Exam board: AQA Politics 7152



What will I study?

You will develop critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes. The course looks in depth at the government and politics of the UK and USA and the core political ideologies of socialism, liberalism and conservatism.

What skills will I acquire?

- Debating
- Research
- Presentation skills
- Extended writing

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Trip to Washington and New York
- Trip to Parliament and the Supreme Court
- Publication of Politics Magazine "Coalition"

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 (33%)	2 hours written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Elections • UK Parties • UK Pressure groups • UK Constitution • UK Parliament • UK Judiciary
Paper 2 (33%)	2 hours written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Elections • US Parties • US Pressure groups • US Constitution • US Congress • US Judiciary • Comparative theories
Paper 3 (33%)	2 hours written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberalism • Socialism • Conservatism • Anarchism

PSYCHOLOGY



Exam board: AQA Psychology 7182

What will I study?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour, with key scientific elements such as hypothesis testing but then also allows a deeper level of philosophical debate, such as questioning whether humans ever actually have free will. The course is intellectually challenging and promotes discussions within the course such as 'is deceit ever justifiable?' or 'how reliable is the diagnosis of mental illness?' The transferable skills gained from studying psychology are excellent preparation for university and work as the topics encourage topical debate; for example the effect of psychology on the economy, ethical considerations of research and real life application to the treatment of mental health.

What skills will I acquire?

- Critical thinking
- Scientific essay writing
- Problem solving techniques
- Mathematical skills
- Scientific reporting

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Psychology Expert Lectures (beyond the curriculum)
- Online seminars (university level)

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1- Introductory Topics in Psychology (33%)	2 hour written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social influence • Memory • Attachment • Psychopathology (including OCD, depression & phobias)
Paper 2 - Psychology in Context (33%)	2 hour written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approaches in psychology • Biopsychology • Research methods
Paper 3 - Issues & Options in Psychology (33%)	2 hour written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues and debates in psychology • Gender • Schizophrenia • Addiction

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Exam board: OCR Religious Studies H172



What will I study?

Religious Studies is thought-provoking and challenges you to think beyond the ordinary. It is an opportunity to think through the big questions of life such as whether or not God exists, how we make moral decisions, questions about gender and justice, the meaning (if there is one) of life itself. The course consists of three areas of study, philosophy, ethics and Christian thought.

What skills will I acquire?

- The ability to construct strong logical arguments
- Analytical and critical thinking skills
- The ability to engage with complex philosophical issues
- The ability to evaluate the views of key thinkers and philosophers
- Communication and literacy skills
- Debating skills

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Lectures in Oxford
- Istanbul residential trip
- Jordan residential trip
- India residential trip
- John Locke Essay competition (amongst many others)
- Edmund Society lectures (in school)
- Extension sessions to help with university applications
- Axiom magazine

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 (33%)	2 hour written exam	Philosophy of religion
Paper 2 (33%)	2 hour written exam	Ethics
Paper 3 (33%)	2 hours 30 minutes written exam	Development in Christian Thought

SPANISH



Exam board: AQA Spanish 7692

What will I study?

A step up from GCSE, students learn to comprehend written and spoken news items, to summarise and translate effectively, and to write short pieces in high-level authentic Spanish. Language is taught through social and cultural topics, all rooted in the Hispanic world, with current trends and the historical background of issues ranging from cyber technology, equality and immigration. Students have an introduction to Hispanic film and theatre, through the study of two short works. One-to-one weekly lessons ensure good fluency; and students also research a topic of their choice, related to the Hispanic world, for their oral.

What skills will I acquire?

- Receptive skills (listening and reading)
- Summarising short passages of written text
- Translation into and out of Spanish
- Knowledge and understanding of current Hispanic issues
- Very good spoken Spanish skills
- Research skills

Do you offer any extension activities?

- Study trip to Seville (October half term)
- Spanish film evenings
- Debates and presentations with other schools
- Spanish theatre and tapas trip

How will I be examined?

Component	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 (50%)	2 hour 30 minutes written exam	Listening, reading and translation covering a range of topics
Paper 2 (20%)	2 hours written exam	One essay (400 words) on the film and one essay (400 words) on the text.
Paper 3 (30%)	21-23 minutes (incl. 5 mins preparation time) Oral exam	Conversation on a card related to a topic (5-6 mins) Conversation on pupil's chosen Research topic (9-10 mins)



ABINGDON