Croydon High School

Sixth Form Course Guide

2024-2025

Croydon High School

for girls aged 3-18

Welcome to the Sixth Form at Croydon High

I am delighted that you are taking a closer look at the Sixth Form at Croydon High School. This is a very exciting time for you as you prepare to make choices that help determine your future education and working life. You will be thinking hard about your own aspirations and will have a number of questions I am sure, and that is why we offer lots of support to ensure you make the right choices for you and your future. We are here to support you in your unique journey.

Our Sixth Formers are confident and aspirational young women who have a desire to achieve their best and who want to make a difference to others. They show leadership, ambition and compassion and are role models for our younger pupils. We nurture and grow them throughout their two years with us so that they can go out into the world with strong academic outcomes and essential life skills that will set them apart from others. The world is ever-changing and we are committed to supporting our Sixth Formers to be able to thrive in it. I am incredibly proud when I see how our Sixth Formers conduct themselves around the school. They have high academic aspirations, they grasp the many opportunities the school has to offer and, crucially, they demonstrate integrity in all that they do.

At the heart of their sixth form experience lies a strong mentoring philosophy exemplified by the attitude and commitment of our teaching staff. This is the foundation of our Pathways Mentoring Programme; an innovative approach to careers' education which we launched in September 2017. We believe each individual girl should be in the driving seat of her own sixth form experience. Through careful mentoring and guidance, each of our girls gain maximum benefit from the excellent opportunities available to her in the Sixth Form at Croydon High. Exceptional expertise and experience is channelled and readily available for each girl as and when she needs it. You can read more about this in the Progression & Futures Guide included in your information pack.

My very best wishes.

Annabel Davies
Head

The Sixth Form at Croydon High School is an exceptional and intellectually rigorous place to study. At its core is an academic curriculum characterised by an interactive and exciting approach to teaching and learning. The goal is to inspire aspiration without limits, through tailoring our approach to suit 'every girl, every day'.

In Lower Sixth the majority of our pupils choose three A levels, and an independent research project. Some pupils may increase their A Level offering to four - if this is appropriate for their ambitions. While all pupils will carry out an independent research project within their Lower Sixth year; some will extend this to AS certificate for the Extended Project Qualification. On top of the academic approach we offer leadership and community care opportunities within the Sixth Form. These choices are explained in more detail on page 6 of this Course Guide, but, in summary, they provide every pupil with a bespoke programme of study designed to optimise her performance in her A levels and also allow her to continue with subjects that interest her and which may also enhance her future study and career aspirations.

Striking a balance between academic excellence and first-rate pastoral support, we seek to nurture the individual so she can be a confident, engaged, compassionate and ambitious future leader of society. Through the Sixth Form years they will learn who they are as individuals and who they want to be in the adult world. We place an importance on giving pupils the tools and self-awareness they need to develop their own personal style and drive. Through careful monitoring and guidance, our innovative Pathways and Progression & Futures programmes (outlined in separate booklets), in tandem with the ability to draw on our extensive alumnae network for advice and work experience, ensures that every pupil makes informed choices about their future and leaves us confident and real-world ready.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our open events and I would be delighted to meet with you, and your parents, to discuss your future plans in more detail.

Anna Gilmour
Assistant Head (Sixth Form)

Aspire without Limits, our Class of 2023 reach for the stars!

Following the national trend where grades have returned this year to pre-pandemic levels, Croydon High is very proud to report an overall uplift in A Level grades from those achieved in 2019. This is in keeping with the school's on-going upward academic trajectory. 74% all grades awarded at A level were A and A* making this a record year for Croydon High pupils.

> "Almost 50% of all A Level grades awarded an outstanding A* or A"

> "80% of all grades awarded are A*- B"

> "77% heading to first choice of university - 95% accepting either firm or insurance offers"

> "Art, Computer Science, PE and REP (Religion, Ethics and Philosophy) pupils all achieving straight A*/A Grades"

> "A quarter of all pupils achieved straight A* A grades"

> "One third of all pupils taking Physics A Level achieved an A* grade"

Croydon High's Head, Annabel Davies was clearly thrilled to have the opportunity to recognise what she describes as a 'truly inspirational year group'. "This cohort missed out on the experience of formally sitting for their GCSEs in 2021, but have gone on to achieve some truly fantastic exam outcomes at A Level.

Deputy Head (Academic) Ben Rew agreed, saying " What is particularly pleasing this year is seeing so many individual pupils achieve their goals across a range of subjects, confidently securing the next steps to wherever it is they want to go."

Pupils who excelled in these subjects are going on to study Medicine, Biological Science and Biochemistry, with others opting for more specialist degree subjects such as Neuroscience. Amongst many notable achievements...

Straight A Grades for Head Girl, Yasmin Idiculla who studied Theatre Studies, History and Religion Ethics and Philosophy (REP) with an EPQ and has secured her place to read History at Southampton.

Deputy Head Girl, Varjitha Kunalan also has straight A Grades in Biology, Chemistry, Religion Ethics and Philosophy (REP) and an EPQ, which secures her place at Queen Mary's London to read Medicine.

Anjali Patel aspired without limits but also (literally) achieved the highest possible outcomes – A* grades in Computer Science, Maths and Physics and the top grade A in Further Maths at AS Level, plus an A* EPQ. Anjali could simply not have done any better. Her passion and expertise in Computer Science secures her place at Manchester, on their very highly regarded (and male dominated) Computer Science course. No doubt Anjali will excel here, continuing to role model the very real opportunities for women in what is no longer a man's world.

Head Girl, Eleanor Quenault has always led and inspired by example. With A* Grades in Politics and REP (Religion, Ethics and Philosophy) an A in Art and a B in Latin, Eleanor's diversity of talent and interest is the perfect platform for her place at Bristol, reading Politics and International Relations.

Kirsty Martin's unwavering passion for all things Aeronautical and her outstanding achievement of A* grades in Maths and Physics, A in Chemistry and Further Maths AS Level and an A* EPQ has simply 'rocketed' her on her way to the sought after Aeronautics and Astronautics course at Southampton. The sky is clearly NOT the limit for Kirsty!

Max Cascarini has always demonstrated a level of natural and emotional intelligence that makes the dream to study Medicine a perfect choice. A* Grades in Biology, Chemistry and REP (Religion, Ethics and Philosophy) with an A Grade EPQ makes that dream a reality and Max takes up a place at King's College London where more success will no doubt follow.

Entry requirements

There is a minimum requirement of 40 points accrued across the six highest GCSE grades to enter the Sixth Form at Croydon High.

SUBJECT	SUBJECT CRITERIA FOR A-LEVEL STUDY
Art	Grade 7 GCSE Art if taken, or personal portfolio approval by the Head of Art
Biology*	Grade 8 in Biology GCSE
Business	Grade 6 in English GCSE and Grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE
Chemistry*	Grade 8 in Chemistry GCSE and Grade 7 at GCSE Mathematics
Classical Civilisation	Grade 6 in English Literature GCSE
Computer Science	Grade 7 in Mathematics and at least Grade 6 in Computer Science
Drama & Theatre Studies	Grade 6 in Drama GCSE where taken, or Grade 6 in English Literature where Drama was not taken, with an audition piece
Economics	Grade 7 in Mathematics GCSE, grade 7 in English GCSE
English Language	Grade 6 in English Language GCSE
English Literature	Grade 6 in English Literature GCSE
French	Grade 7 in French GCSE
Geography	Grade 6 in Geography GCSE plus grade 7 in Mathematics or a Science
German	Grade 7 in German GCSE
Greek	Grade 7 in GCSE Greek
History	Grade 7 in GCSE History
Latin	Grade 7 in GCSE Latin
Mathematics*	Grade 8 in Mathematics GCSE
Further Mathematics*	Grade 8 in Mathematics at GCSE and minimum Grade 7 in L2 Further Mathematics
Music	Grade 7 in Music GCSE (where taken) or a sufficiently high level of musicianship determined by the Director of Music
Music Technology	Grade 7 in Music GCSE (where taken) or a sufficiently high level of musicianship determined by the Director of Music
PE	Grade 7 in P.E. GCSE where taken, or a Grade 6 in GCSE Biology and English where PE was not taken
Physics*	Grade 8 in Physics GCSE and Grade 7 at GCSE Mathematics
Politics	Grade 6 in English or one of the humanities
Psychology	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and English
Religion, Ethics & Philosophy	Grade 6 in R.S. GCSE
Sociology	Grade 6 in English
Spanish	Grade 7 in Spanish GCSE
Three Dimensional Design	Grade 7 in GCSE 3D Design if taken, or personal portfolio approval by the Head of Art

Most pupils opt to take 3 A level subjects and will be offered clear advice regarding which combination of subjects best suits their aspirations for University or future careers. Girls are fully supported to help them transfer smoothly from Lower Sixth to Upper Sixth, with regular feedback to parents and an open door policy from the Head of Sixth Form to enable early resolution of any concerns.

* The Grade 8 requirement is as stated, however, the new linear A levels are more challenging in terms of content and skills and GCSE is seen to be a poor predictor of success at A level in these subjects. In particular, any weaknesses identified at GCSE will be magnified at A level and so pupils should always discuss suitability for these subjects with their Head of Department/teacher.

Sixth Form Programme of Study

At Croydon High Sixth Form, most pupils choose three A levels. All pupils will carry out a research-based project on a topic of the pupils' choice. Where appropriate, we advise that pupils choose a topic which reflects their future career ambitions. As such, it provides an excellent way to expand on their interests and demonstrate sustained interest in a topic within their personal statement or at an interview for a university course. It also affords pupils the opportunity to hone the important research, writing and critical thinking skills they will need for undergraduate study. While all pupils will get the opportunity to carry out a research-based project most will extend it to an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which is certificated and worth an AS Level in terms of UCAS grades. The final product can take the form of a five-thousand-word report or an artefact (such as a film, piece of theatre or artwork). Covering topics as varied as bitcoin, fear and architecture, to mention just a few, pupils at Croydon High score impressively, with the majority of projects achieving A or A*.

For a small number of pupils, we might advise taking a fourth A level. In most cases, this is likely to be Further Maths. For those considering reading Maths or a related subject at university, taking two Maths A levels can be advantageous in proving their academic ability and laying firm foundations for undergraduate study.

The A Levels and independent research project are supported by our Extend and Enrich opportunities. These are open to all pupils to increase their understanding and experiences outside the classroom.

EXTENSION AND ENRICHMENT	
Complete MOOCS in relevant field	Lead the student body as a prefect
Subject related competition submission	Lead a co-curricular activity
Provide academic support to younger pupil	Volunteer in school or community

This bespoke programme of study allows pupils to make achieving three top grades their priority while simultaneously exploring interests which are unique to them. Our Sixth Form programme is based on the elective module system used at Cambridge, Durham and York, among other world leading research-led universities. Our opportunities allows pupils to:

- **further individualise their studies;**
- **better prepare themselves for university or their chosen career; develop skills not required for their chosen A-level subjects;**
- **deepen their understanding in an existing subject, or study a contrasting subject;**
- **develop leadership and interpersonal skills;**
- **further develop as confident and compassionate individuals.**

Making the right choices for you

When choosing your A levels, we encourage you to consider the following questions:

1. **Which subjects do you enjoy and are good at?**
2. **Which subjects would you need to support your future ambitions?**
3. **Which subjects would play best to your academic strengths?**

It is important to remember that ambitions can, do and should change. For this reason, we would always advocate choosing a subject profile which gives you the highest likelihood of achieving the very highest grades.

For some of you, choosing just three A levels will be a straightforward decision. You will be looking forward to focusing exclusively on your true passions and strengths, and excited for the new opportunities that our elective programme offers. For others, you may be disappointed to be ending your studies in certain disciplines. For those of you in that position, you will find the breadth of our elective programme particularly appealing.

A powerful Network

OUR NETWORK IS OUR SUPERPOWER

They say "it is not what you know, it is who you know," but when it comes to making the best choices for life after school, we think it is probably both! When girls leave Croydon High they automatically become part of the Ivy Link Network, a fantastic, vibrant organisation which links alumnae, former staff and friends of this school. For some, this is purely a means of keeping in touch with their school friends and teachers, hearing school news and attending reunions. For others it is a powerful network of like-minded women, all at different stages of their lives and careers, who share the common bond that is Croydon High School. The support these women can offer each other is invaluable; this 'old girls' network is really powerful and really working. That is the real strength of our Ivy Link Network. We are connected to girls like you, who after school are willing to talk, advise and meet you at school careers events to give you a real insight in to their pupil and working lives. The wider GDST Alumnae Network gives even more opportunities for Croydon High Sixth Formers to access wide and willing support, with over 70,000 former pupils forming a totally unique web of experience for girls to tap in to.

MAKING CONNECTIONS WITH GDST RUNGWAY AND GDST LIFE

What is GDST Rungway?

The GDST Rungway specialised mentoring app gives Croydon High Sixth Form the ability to connect with a closed community of GDST sixth formers, alumnae and staff. At the touch of a button, you will be able to ask any burning questions about study and life after school. You may choose to ask questions about university courses and choices, insights into career options, different routes into the workplace or internships and work experience. Ask about CV presentation or interview skills, gain confidence tips, make general industry enquiries or even bigger life questions.

All questions posted will be anonymous: and all responses are named (which holds our mentors accountable for their advice). Your mentor(s) can choose to reply privately to you (one-to-one), or they can share their reply for the benefit of all. Private conversations will be visible to you and your mentor only.

Chantal Henderson 1994
Head of Financial Planning for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Audit & Risk Assurance Committee Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

What is GDST Life?

GDST Life is a new online community for the GDST: there for you from the start of Sixth from to connect with your fellow GDST Sixth Formers. And afterwards, for all GDST alumnae, to find and connect with each other, share experiences, join groups, find mentors and more. In effect, our own 'social network'. Being part of a GDST sixth form, means being part of a family of 25 schools. GDST Life gives you the opportunity to meet girls from across the GDST and sign up to Trust wide opportunities. In short, it's a great way to get answers to your questions such as:

- **Where can I find out about events at GDST schools?**
- **I'm a pupil at Croydon and I am applying for a course in Newcastle, can I find out if girls from any other GDST schools are interested in the same course?**

Dr Fionna Moore MBE 1968
Medical Director South East Ambulance Service.

Baroness Gabrielle Bertin 1996
Member House of Lords.

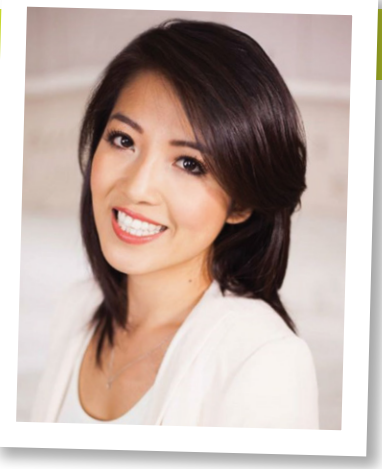
Alison Maguire 1994
Research Director for the Lily Foundation (committed to finding a cure for mitochondiral disease) and GDST Alumna of the Year 2015.

- **I'm passionate about the environment and want to set up a trust-wide eco-society.**

As a sixth form user of GDST Life you can:

- Connect with pupils from across the GDST who share your interests.
- Get involved with new groups and societies
- Join GDST-wide events
- Learn new things on topics that matter to you, like wellbeing, university applications and the world of work

Our network is our superpower - a family of 25 schools collaborating and sharing expertise to help girls learn without limits, and after school, a 70,000-strong alumnae network.



Susie Ma 2007
Founder & CEO of Tropic Skincare. Business partner with Lord Alan Sugar The Apprentice runner up 2011. Alumna of the Year Finalist 2022.

Sheena Morjaria 2000
Film & Theatre Producer CEO & Founder – Stress Point Health.

"What career paths are available to me with a degree in International Relations?"

Farrah Jaufuraully 1996
TV Producer & Director - producing a wide range of television programmes for the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 & 5 and the Discovery Channel.

Chloe Potter 2000
Presenter & Reporter Five News
Former Director and Presenter Sky News, Magic FM, Sky Arts Cofounder Middle Table Productions.

Anita Panchmatia 2000
JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs. Tutored at Harvard. Now COO, Global Equities at Bank of America, Merrill Lynch. 2010's "35 Under 35" prize for high flying woman.

Su-Lin Garbett Shiels 1994
Head of Crisis Management Department, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

Sarah Nelson Smith 1998
Global Head of Corporate & Commercial, Legal at Booking.com. Winner of UK In-House Lawyer of the Year 2014.

Lily Rogers 2010
Selected to play for England at the Indoor World Netball Championship.

Fine Art

WHY CHOOSE FINE ART?

The study of Fine Art at this level aims to develop an understanding of the nature of visual thinking and its appropriate language, a capacity for creative thought and action as well as to cultivate skills in drawing, painting, photography, printing, sculpture and ceramics.

GCSE REQUIREMENTS

Fine Art is the sixth form is a natural progression from GCSE Fine Art; sixth formers embarking on the course have little trouble in the transition from GCSE if they achieved a good grade. The requirements to start the A level linear Fine Art is a grade 7 or above at GCSE in Fine Art.

COURSE DETAIL

The EDEXCEL Linear A level course comprises two major projects; one being coursework worth 60% of the overall mark and one being set under 15 hour practical examination worth 40% of the overall mark. Both projects will build upon each other, during each project sketchbook work, research and experimentation lead to a final piece or series of work.

Coursework Project 1 & 2: 60% of overall mark, in year 1 you record, refine and develop ideas in workshop based lessons with one 10 hour mock. In year 2 you will follow your practical journey with ideas, research and final outcomes resulting in one 15 hour mock. As well as the practical work you will be expected to write a minimum of 1000 words of continuous prose integrating critical analysis and contextual research with own ideas and practical investigation.

Externally set assignment: 40% of overall mark including eight week preparatory studies and a 15 hour practical examination.

The core elements of the course provide opportunities to explore drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, mixed and digital media. The first half term of the course is usually spent establishing an essential work ethic and building foundations for the understanding and realisation of a visual language, the subsequent terms are spent on personal development and investigation of materials & ideas.

The Art department has extensive facilities including two ceramic kilns, a glass kiln, and photographic dark room, painting studios, printing press, heat press, textile printing table, sewing machines and an embellisher. Pupils are encouraged to utilise the facilities on offer. Activities include visits to exhibitions at the main London galleries as well as an option to go on study visits abroad to exciting places such as New York, Florence, Venice and Rome.

These visits enable candidates to relate their work to that of other artists and designers, both from the present and past. We offer life drawing classes taught by tutors from the Royal Academy of Arts and 'Master Class Workshops' will fine tune your skills and understanding to even higher levels.

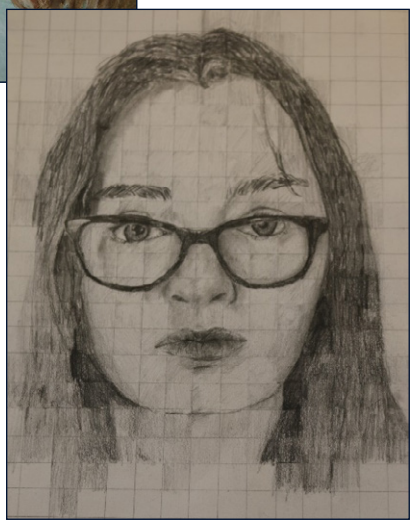
Workshops arranged with professional tutors over the years have included Carolyn Genders, Caroline Kirton. Rosie James and Adele Wagstaff including textile and oil painting techniques.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The study of Fine Art at A level is looked upon favourably by admissions tutors for most university courses. For some girls it may lead to a future career in the Art and Design fields including Graphics, Fashion, Theatre, Textiles, 3D, Jewellery Design, Interior Design, Product Design, Photography, Architecture, Advertising or Illustration. In the last few years, we have had pupils go on to study Veterinary, Industrial Design, Art History Fashion, Fashion Textiles and Art, Engineering, Product Design, Interior Design as well as post graduate courses in Sustainable Design.

Whatever your choice of future direction, Art will encourage you in approaches to study and thinking not always available in other subjects at this level. Fine Art promotes creative and independent thinking, reflective learning and self- managing; it fosters flexible approaches that are highly valued in today's fast changing world.

All A level work is exhibited in the summer exhibition held in the school hall, all pupils and parents are invited, and it is a highlight of the year.



Three-Dimensional Design

WHY CHOOSE 3D DESIGN?

By studying the A level Linear course you will understand the circular nature of the design process from concept, research, experimentation, formulation and analysis of a brief through to realisation of your finished piece.

A CROYDON HIGH 3D DESIGN PUPIL SHOULD BE

- Passionate about Design
- A keen observer, recorder and gatherer: making quick designs, taking photographs, making notes and diary notes, noting thoughts and drawing diagrams
- A risk taker! Experimenting, taking controlled risks, evaluating and trying again...and again...

GCSE REQUIREMENTS

Three-Dimensional Design in the Sixth Form is a natural progression from GCSE Three-Dimensional Design; sixth formers embarking on the course have little trouble in the transition from GCSE if they achieved a good grade. The requirement to start the A level Linear Three-Dimensional Design is a grade 7 or above in GCSE Three-Dimensional Design, if taken, or portfolio approval by the Head of Art.

COURSE DETAIL

The EDEXCEL Linear A level course comprises of two major projects; one being coursework worth 60% of the overall mark and one being set under 15 hour practical examination worth 40% of the overall mark. Both projects will build upon each other, during each project sketchbook work, research and experimentation lead to a final piece or series of work.

Coursework Project 1 & 2: 60% of overall mark. As well as the practical work you will be expected to write a minimum of 1000 words of continuous prose integrating critical analysis and contextual research with own ideas and practical investigations.

Externally set assignment: 40% of overall mark includes eight weeks of preparatory study working towards a 15 hour practical examination.

The Three-Dimensional Design course is primarily concerned with designing a product that meets a need in a functional and aesthetic manner. The course allows for more creativity and a broader spectrum of outcomes which include furniture design, interior design, CAD CAM, architecture, scenic design, lighting and jewellery.

Activities include visits to Design museums at the main London galleries as well as an option to go on study visits abroad to exciting places such as Florence, Venice and Rome. These visits enable candidates to relate their work to that of other artists and designers, both from the present and past. Additionally, 'Master Class Workshops' will fine tune your skills and understanding to even higher levels.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The study of Three-Dimensional Design at A level is looked upon favourably by admissions tutors for most university courses. For some girls it may lead to a future career in the Art and Design fields including Graphics, Fashion, Theatre, Jewellery Design, Interior Design, Product Design, Photography, Architecture, Advertising or Illustration. In the last few years, we have had pupils go on to study Veterinary, Industrial Design, Engineering, Product Design, Interior Design as well as post graduate courses in Sustainable Design. In addition many people working in Film, Television, Fashion Management, Engineering, Technology, Mathematics, Physics and Journalism were also pupils of Three-Dimensional Design. Whatever your choice of future direction, Three-Dimensional Design will encourage you in your approaches to study and thinking not always available in other subjects at this level.

THE POWER OF 3D DESIGN

Through teaching young people to design and create, we are able to empower them to see the world not as it is, but as it could be. The modern world presents young people with the opportunity to make a difference, and through creativity 3D Design aims to help girls realise their unique human ability to envisage what might be, not simply accepting what is.

Biology

WHY CHOOSE BIOLOGY?

Biological Sciences are now at the forefront of human achievement and the 21st Century is set to see a continuing explosion of biological knowledge. Many complex issues are reported in the press such as the controversy over GM foods and cloning. Research is continuing into many issues that affect millions of people around the world for example malaria, reprogramming adult cells to become stem cells. These issues are all discussed in the A level specification.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE COURSE? WHAT SKILLS DO YOU NEED?

Taking Biology at A level will equip you to discuss such material with insight. Your studies will enable you to learn about topics drawn from modern Biology, including Biodiversity, Forensics and Gene Technology, as well as from more traditional areas such as Biochemistry, Physiology and Immunology. In addition you will develop your skills in data handling, laboratory experimentation, application of biological principles and information retrieval. If you are curious about the world around you and how it works from a cellular level to whole organisms then Biology is for you whether you intend to study it beyond A level or not.

Past pupils have said

"The syllabus is really varied so you get an overview of many different biological processes"

"It's challenging yet fascinating. It helps you understand the environment around you, as well as your own body" "It's fascinating to learn about the science behind what makes us human and the complex processes which keep us alive

GCSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 8 in Biology

COURSE DETAIL

In the Lower Sixth the OCR course incorporates topics such as cell structure, biochemistry, biodiversity, transport systems and DNA. These important biological ideas are used to consider practical applications in modern society, particularly in regard to health and disease.

In the Upper Sixth, topics for study include further studies in physiology including nervous and hormonal communication, and excretion, biochemistry including photosynthesis and respiration, and genetics and gene technology.

Biology is a practical science and there will be plenty of opportunities for pupils to engage in experimental work. This aspect of the course will be teacher assessed. Pupils also undertake ecological investigations both in the school grounds and under normal circumstances, 2 day trips to the FSC at Juniper Hall. Records of pupil's practical work will be submitted towards the Practical Endorsement.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Biology combines well with the other Sciences and Mathematics. It can also be taken as a supporting science with any other subject combination.

A good qualification in Biology is highly desirable in many fields and is an essential component of an application for entry to degree courses including Veterinary Science, Medicine, Physiotherapy and other Biomedical courses, Dentistry, Marine Biology, Nursing, Optometry, Pharmacy and Teaching.

Studying Biology does not restrict future employment to scientific disciplines; it equips you with transferable skills, increasing your career option to encompass many spheres of employment.

Business

WHY CHOOSE BUSINESS?

Business is an ideal subject for pupils interested in the practical realities of everyday business life. While watching *The Apprentice* or *Dragon's Den* is not required, if you are interested in how to start, grow and manage a business and especially in how to make a profit, this will be the subject for you! There is a surprisingly large number of individual models and concepts throughout the course although, unlike the related subject of Economics, there are no unifying theories. Rather these models can be applied to individual areas such as deciding overall market positioning, how to market and brand a product and how to set price. Pupils will develop their skills of analysis, to be able to explain cause and effect and identify how and why outcomes arise, and also of evaluation (to assess the positives and negatives of a given course of action, to arrive at a reasoned judgement). As a social science, Business combines well with a wide range of other subjects, such as Psychology or Geography, but can also provide a contrast for those with interests in Maths and sciences.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE COURSE? WHAT SKILLS DO YOU NEED?

You need to have a strong interest in the business world, in terms both of ongoing experience as a customer and news-flow of national and international developments. The course will arm you with the tools to analyse a range of corporate actions, and to evaluate them, to identify the building blocks of corporate success and about business leadership. In parallel with the course our pupils are strongly encouraged to take part in the Young Enterprise scheme that runs outside of lessons. Forming their own compnay, the pupils gain practical experience as producers through which to make connections to their business theories, as well as developing their problem-solving and teamwork skills.

The course exposes pupils to a wide range of business situations, and in the final exam pupils need to extract important information about a given context to link back to their theories to answer a range of questions up to and including longer written responses. The Business specification has a mathematical component, but does not require complex skills (it is mostly the application of theory in a numerical context).

GCSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in Maths

Grade 6 in English

COURSE DETAIL – EDEXCEL BUSINESS 2015

Themes covered in Year 1:

Theme 1: Marketing and people

Theme 2: Managing business activities

Themes covered in Year 2:

Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy

Theme 4: Global business

Exam components:

Paper 1: Marketing, people and global business (drawing on Themes 1 and 4). 2 hours

Paper 2: Business activities, decisions and strategy (drawing on Themes 2 and 3). 2 hours

Paper 3: Investigating business in a competitive environment (data response drawing on pre-release materials published in November and unseen materials, covering all Themes). 2 hours

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Business is a good preparation both for a business career immediately after school, or after further education, and can also serve as a strong and broad grounding in commercial reality for those planning on careers in a wide-range of customer facing areas such as medicine, engineering, design, technology, accountancy, marketing, human resources management and finance. Many pupils will want to study business at university level, after completing this A level.

Chemistry

WHY CHOOSE CHEMISTRY?

A level Chemistry is an enjoyable multi-faceted course in which pupils explore chemical behaviour building on their GCSE experience. We want our A level pupils to gain an understanding of general chemical principles based on ideas of atomic structure, bonding theory and chemical energy. These ideas are then extended into other areas such as organic chemistry, rates of chemical reactions and equilibria. Practical work is an integral part of the course and we expect our pupils to enjoy the opportunity to develop their skills in the laboratory. These include manual dexterity and use of precision instruments as well as planning and data analysis.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A level Chemistry is necessary for pupils considering careers in the health and clinical professions, including medicine, veterinary science, nursing, dentistry and forensic science.

Studying Chemistry will prepare pupils for careers within the pharmaceutical or petrochemical sectors. It is appreciated by admissions tutors in many other subjects, including Law, due to its logical discipline. It is useful if you want to go on and study subjects such as Geology, Physical Geography, Engineering, or Material Science.

Due to the analytical skills needed to study Chemistry many graduates are being recruited by the financial companies in the City of London.

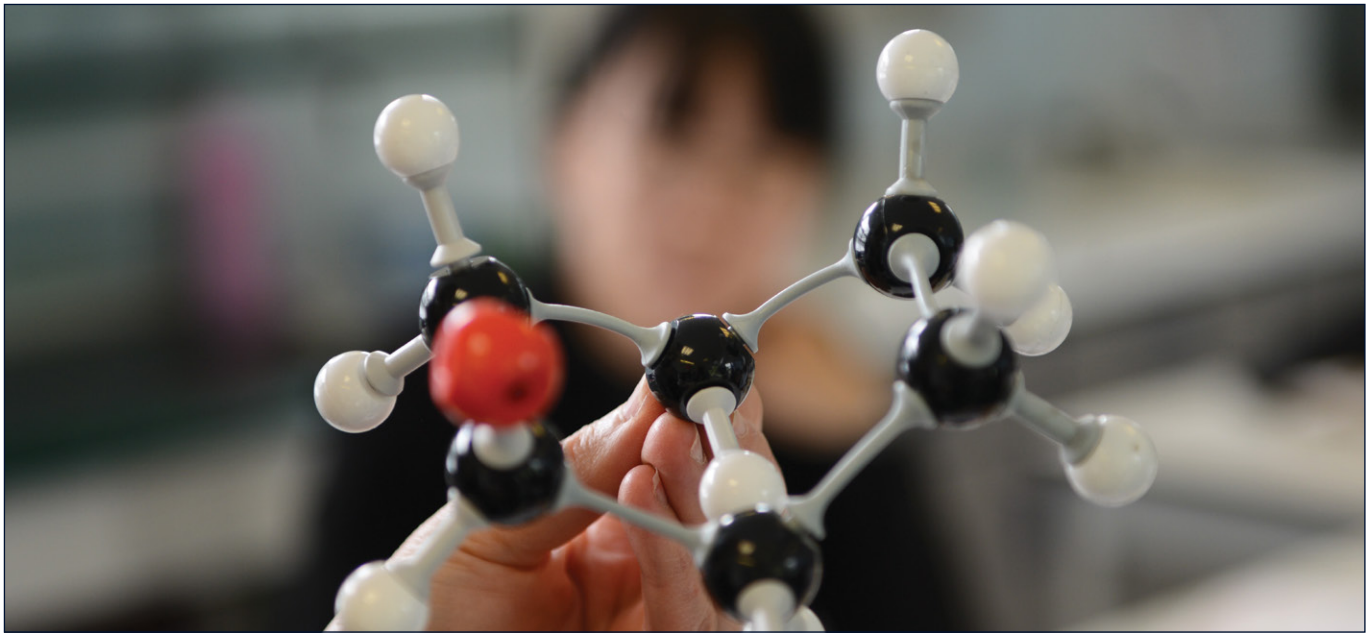
IGCSE REQUIREMENTS

The qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed in IGCSE Chemistry. Therefore, pupils should ideally have at least the equivalent of an IGCSE grade 8 in Chemistry, and a GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics. At A level, pupils should demonstrate effective communication skills, be able to carry out research, work independently and think critically about problems.

COURSE DETAILS

We follow the AQA specification for A level Chemistry which is a linear course. The girls will be taught topics covering Organic, Physical and Inorganic Chemistry building upon their GCSE knowledge. Practicals will be completed throughout the course, to support learning and twelve of these will count towards a separate practical certificate qualification.

The girls will be provided with a lab folder to keep a record of these practical tasks. They will also be given question sheets, support material and extension material where required. Regular examination style testing will take place at the end of each topic. The Chemistry department is very experienced and keen to work alongside pupils, to enable them to reach their highest academic potential.



At the end of the two years the girls will sit three papers:

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Physical Chemistry + Inorganic Chemistry + relevant practical skills	Physical Chemistry + Organic Chemistry + relevant practical skills	Any content and any practical skills
2 hour examination	2 hour examination	2 hour examination
35% of the A-level	35% of the A-level	30% of the A-level

Classical Civilisation

WHY CHOOSE CLASSICAL CIVILISATION?

This subject is unique in the sense that it allows you the opportunity to study history, literature, philosophy and art history all in one course. Not only will this enhance your appreciation of other humanities subjects but the content is highly topical and thought-provoking in its own right.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE COURSE?

You will develop your critical faculties and ability to construct arguments, as well as crucially nurturing a keen sense of cultural empathy. The Greeks (and the Romans) laid down the markers for much of what we label 'civilisation', this course takes you right to the heart of being human.

GCSE REQUIREMENTS

At least a Grade 6 in English Literature

COURSE DETAIL

- OCR A level Classical Civilisation
- **Component 1:** The world of the Hero
- **Component 2:** Greek Theatre/Art
- **Component 3:** Love and Relationships

The course will also include trips and visits to museums, theatres, lectures and events.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Classics is highly valued by universities and employers. The subject is intellectually rigorous and will prepare you well for the demands of undergraduate research and essay-writing. It complements many popular humanities subjects and provides excellent preparation for new subjects like anthropology. Classics pupils go on to a wide range of careers in areas such as the media, publishing, the Foreign Office and Advertising.

Latin

WHY CHOOSE LATIN?

This subject has an unparalleled academic cachet and is highly valued by universities and employers not only for its analytical and evaluative rigour but also as a facilitating subject for whatever degree or employment pathway you might embark upon.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE COURSE?

You will acquire the confidence to approach language sensitively and critically. You will be intellectually challenged by studying linguistics, philosophy and history. You will read and appreciate some of the finest literature ever created.

GCSE REQUIREMENTS

At least a Grade 7 in Latin

COURSE DETAIL

- OCR A level Latin

Components 1 and 2:

- Translation and Comprehension

Component 3 and 4:

- Verse and Prose Literature: Virgil, Ovid, Cicero and Seneca
- The course will also include trips and visits to museums, theatres, lectures and events.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Classics is highly valued by universities and employers. The subject is intellectually rigorous and will prepare you well for the demands of undergraduate research and essay-writing. It complements many popular humanities subjects and provides excellent preparation for new subjects like anthropology. Classics pupils go on to a wide range of careers in areas such as the media, publishing, the foreign office and advertising.

Computer Science

WHY CHOOSE COMPUTER SCIENCE?

Computer Science is a practical subject, where invention and resourcefulness are encouraged. Pupils are expected to apply the academic principles they have learned to the understanding of real-world systems, and to the creation of purposeful artefacts. This combination of principles, practice, and invention makes it an extraordinarily useful and an intensely creative subject, suffused with excitement, both visceral ("it works!") and intellectual ("that is so beautiful").

Computer Science is deeply concerned with how computers and computer systems work, and how they are designed and programmed. Studying computer science offers insight into all computational systems, whether or not they include computers.

Computational thinking is at the heart of Computer Science. Computational thinking is a problem solving process that involves decomposition (breaking down problems into smaller parts), pattern recognition, abstraction (simplifying and modelling a problem) and algorithm design (solving the problem). Computational thinking is essential to the development of computer applications, but it can also be used to support problem solving across all disciplines, including the humanities, mathematics and science.

THE AIMS OF THE COURSE ARE

- To develop computational thinking.
- To develop an understanding of the main principles of solving problems with computers.
- To develop an understanding that every computer system is made up of subsystems, which in turn consist of further subsystems.
- To develop an understanding of the component parts of computer systems and how they interrelate, including software, data, hardware, communications and people.
- To acquire the skills necessary to apply this understanding to develop computer-based solutions to problems.

The syllabus aims to encourage the development of computational thinking, that is thinking about what can be computed and how. Learning computational thinking involves learning to program, by writing code, because this is the means by which computational thinking is expressed.

COURSE STRUCTURE

You will study the Cambridge International A level Computer Science (9618) course. The course is subject to linear assessment with all examinations taking place at the end of the second year.

Unit 1: Theory Fundamentals – 25% Written Exam

Unit 2: Fundamental Problem-solving & Programming Skills – 25% Written Exam

Unit 3: Advanced Theory – 25% Written Exam

Unit 4: Further Problem-solving & Programming Skills – 25%

Computer Based Programming Exam

GCSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in Computer Science and grade 7 in Mathematics. Pupils who are beginning an A level course are likely to have followed a Key Stage 4 programme of study in Computer Science. Pupils should be familiar with programming concepts and have some practical experience in programming in a text based language, for example Python or Javascript.

FURTHER STUDY AND BEYOND

This course will enable pupils to progress to higher study or to progress directly to employment. This qualification is suitable for those intending to pursue any career in which an understanding of technology is needed. The qualification is also suitable for any further study as part of a course of general education. It will provide pupils with a range of transferable skills which will facilitate personal growth and foster cross curriculum links in areas such as mathematics, science and design and technology.

Computer Science can be studied further at university as a stand-alone degree or combined with many other subjects like Philosophy and Mathematics.

You could also study more specialist areas such as networking, games design, robotics engineering and artificial intelligence to name a few related subjects.

Computer Science is currently a sought after career with an abundance of amazing employment opportunities.

Economics

WHY CHOOSE ECONOMICS?

Economics is an entry-point for pupils into the adult world. It offers an opportunity to discover the meaning of mysterious terms such as inflation, quantitative easing and money supply, to acquire the tools to understand events such as the Global Financial Crisis and Brexit and to start to form your own opinions about government policy in key areas of the economy. Along the way you will develop the skills of analysis, to be able to explain cause and effect between variables, and evaluation where judgements are reached about the advantages and disadvantages of courses of policy action.

You will see clear links to areas you have covered in your GCSE courses in other subjects. From studying twentieth century German history, you will have an understanding of some of the problems associated with inflation. From Geography, you will understand the consequences for countries that specialise in the production of primary products such as gold or copper.

A member of the social science family, Economics combines well with a wide range of other subjects. It can offer a framework to understand the business and financial context of the world around us for those planning a very different and specific career path, such as medicine, engineering or science as well as preparing pupils for economics, management, business and finance courses at university level.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE COURSE? WHAT SKILLS DO YOU NEED?

You need to have a passion for current affairs and a strong interest in following the daily news on national and international events, such a data releases and policy decisions and proposals. It is an exciting subject in that events unfold in real time, but circumstances can change rapidly.

The course aims to provide a conceptual understanding of both how markets and firms behave, and how the overall economic system functions at the national level, and in cross-border linkages. This is achieve through encountering economic models, simplified versions of reality, and by conducting comparative statics – comparing an initial situation, to a changed situation after one variable has been altered in the model. This usually involves drawing graphs, around which to build explanations. The contribution of great thinkers such as Smith, Keynes, Marx and Hayek to this body of knowledge, and more generally the evolution of economic thought, is also a feature of the course.

The Economics specification has a mathematical component, but does not require complex skills (it is mostly the application of theory in a numerical context).

The final papers combine a range of short and longer answers. The ability to construct a longer essay is an essential requirement for success, but this is eminently coachable.

GCSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 in Maths

Grade 7 in English

COURSE DETAIL – EDEXCEL ECONOMICS 'A' 2015

Themes covered in Year 1:

Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure (Micro)
Theme 2: The UK economy – performance and policies (Macro, domestic)

Themes covered in Year 2:

Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market (Micro)

Theme 4: A global perspective (Macro, international) Exam components:

Paper 1: Markets and business behaviour (drawing on Themes 1 and 3). 2 hours

Paper 2: The national and global economy (drawing on Themes 2 and 4). 2 hours

Paper 3: Microeconomics and Macroeconomics (data response drawing on all Themes). 2 hours

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Economics is a useful qualification for many careers, including law, the civil service and management. It is relevant to any career which requires an understanding of decision-making processes and the ability to reach judgements, including accountancy, insurance and banking. European studies, politics and international relations also have strong links to economics.

English Literature

WHY CHOOSE ENGLISH?

English is a vital subject in today's rapidly changing world. It empowers young people to become confident, critical and creative communicators and discerning readers – particularly important skills in our media-driven society. English Literature, besides its academic value, also offers a uniquely rewarding and enjoyable experience, which pupils take with them for life. For avid readers of fiction, the course offers the opportunity to explore a range of influential literature from across the ages, and to develop critical analysis skills in approaching this from a variety of perspectives. Through prose, poetry and drama pupils will learn to understand more about the cultural framework of the world they in live today, and the way in which writers through the ages have sought to explore social issues via their work.

WHAT STUDY SKILLS DO YOU NEED?

- A genuine interest in reading, exploring and analysing a range of literary texts and critical perspectives, both within and beyond the course
- Essays skills: writing critically and analytically and sustaining an argument
- A desire to explore texts in depth through discussion and to undertake significant independent study to examine texts and their contexts

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE COURSES?

You will develop your powers of expression, critical analysis and imaginative creativity through reading, writing and discussion. You will be able to communicate confidently in both speech and writing and develop as a sensitive and intuitive listener.

You will appreciate great writing and its context, and explore issues relevant to your own life and experience by undertaking independent, as well as guided research, to prepare you for tertiary study.

The English department offers two distinct courses at A level, either of which will be stimulating and enjoyable for those choosing predominantly Arts subjects, while providing interesting breadth and enhancement of written and oral communication, for those studying mainly science subjects.

GCSE REQUIREMENTS

At least Grade 6 English Literature GCSE.

COURSE CONTENT

- Across the course you will study two thematic units culminating in two examinations: 'Love Through the Ages' and 'Modern Times'. You will also produce a piece of comparative coursework on two texts of your choice, linked thematically (word count 2500 / 20% of total marks).

Set texts include:

- One Shakespeare play (Othello)
- Pre-1900 poetry and prose (e.g. Tess of the D'Urbervilles)
- Three post-1945 texts including prose, drama and poetry (e.g. The Handmaid's Tale; A Streetcar Named Desire)

Theatre visits and study of filmed versions of the texts form part of our course; opportunities to attend related academic lectures and educational trips are also offered.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

English at A level, highly regarded by universities and employers, provides a valuable foundation for degree courses and a plethora of professions. An English degree traditionally leads to careers in Law, Journalism, Teaching, Media, Advertising and Publishing, but in reality there are few career options where English will not be an asset. The analytical and communication skills that an English qualification provides are fully 'transferable' and useful in almost any occupation.

What universities and future employers want most from their applicants is that they demonstrate motivation, intelligence and a proven ability to work and think independently and interdependently.

Studying English will give you the opportunity to develop and use these skills within a stimulating and creative environment.

English Language

WHY CHOOSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

English is a vital subject in today's rapidly changing world. It empowers young people to become confident, critical and creative communicators and discerning readers – particularly important skills in our media-driven society. English Language differs significantly from the text-based course in English Literature; instead of studying whole literary texts, pupils will explore a wide range of (primarily non-fiction) written and spoken texts. The course encourages pupils to develop their interest in and enjoyment of English through learning about its structures and its functions (including grammar), its development and its variations. Pupils study the full scope of English in all its spoken and written forms, and are introduced to new methods of studying the language from a socio-linguistic perspective.

GCSE Requirements: Grade 6 minimum in English Language.

WHAT STUDY SKILLS DO YOU NEED?

- A genuine fascination for how the English language works, not just grammatically but also socially and culturally
- An independent work ethic and commitment to learning many new concepts, and exploring challenging ideas in depth and researching contextual factors affecting texts
- Strong skills in reading and writing, including analytical and evaluative writing.

COURSE CONTENT

Two examinations (40% each)

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society.

This area of study introduces pupils to methods of language analysis to explore concepts of audience, purpose, genre, mode and representation. It also introduces pupils to the study of children's language development, exploring how children learn language and how they are able to understand and express themselves through language.

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change.

Pupils will study the key concepts of audience, purpose, genre and mode and will explore language in its wider social, geographical and temporal contexts. They will explore processes of language change. This part of the subject content also requires pupils to study social attitudes to, and debates about, language diversity and change.

Non-exam assessment (20%): Language in Action. Pupils produce an extended language investigation on a topic of their choice. They also produce one creative piece and an accompanying commentary.

PROGRESSION

This subject is ideal preparation for higher education. It is also useful if pupils are interested in any career that values communication and analytical skills, including Journalism, Media, Public Relations, Law and Advertising. It is a creative and stimulating course of great relevance in the modern world.

Geography

WHY CHOOSE GEOGRAPHY?

Why do malaria rates vary so much in Ethiopia?

What is the role of architects in urban regeneration?

How will sea level rise affect our coastlines?

How will the growth of oil and gas exploration in the Arctic impact the landscape?

Which organisations have the greatest role in tackling human rights issues in areas of conflict?

As you can see from these questions, tackled within the A Level Geography course, Geography is a broad subject that brings together the natural and human processes which shape every aspect of our lives and our planet. Today's world is very different from the one we lived in even a few years ago, and the issues facing our world are inherently geographical. Geography has never been more relevant and important.

By studying Geography at A Level you will develop a range of essential skills to support a wide range of courses at University and in the world of work. Through exciting topics, ranging from Migration to Natural Hazards, you will unpick the debates surrounding contemporary challenges facing the world today. You will be critical and reflective learners, able to articulate opinions, suggest relevant new ideas and provide evidenced argument in a range of situations.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in Geography GCSE plus Grade 6 in Mathmatics

COURSE DETAIL

You will be studying the OCR course which builds on your GCSE studies.

Unit 1: Physical Systems (Coasts & Earth Life Support Systems)

Unit 2: Human Interactions (Changing Places, Migration & Human Rights)

Unit 3: Geographical Debates (Natural Hazards & Disease Dilemmas)

Unit 4: Independent Investigation (Non Examined Assessment)

The course includes four separate day trips for fieldwork, which will strengthen your data collection techniques and help build case study knowledge for the Changing Places topic. The trips will also help prepare you for the Non Examined Assessment, which accounts for 20% of the A Level. The NEA provides you with a great opportunity to investigate an area of the specification that particularly interests you. You will complete a literature review, utilise primary and secondary data collection techniques and apply your analytical and evaluative skills during the investigation. These are all skills that are highly regarded by most University courses and in the workplace.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Geography combines well with every other A Level subject, due to the breadth of the subject. Whether Geography is your favourite subject or you are considering studying it alongside subjects ranging from Art/Design, Physics, MFL, Politics, Economics to Psychology, the subjects will support each other.

Many pupils go on to study Geography at University and use their skills in a variety of careers, including finance, advertising, marketing, conservation, civil service, town planning, law, energy and environmental consultancy. Employers are looking for bright, committed, inquisitive individuals with a range of skills and the ability to draw on what is happening elsewhere in the world. Consequently, graduates of Geography have one of the highest employment rates of any discipline. Geography can be studied as a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, depending on your main interests, or combined with other subjects, most commonly Economics and languages.

History

WHY CHOOSE HISTORY?

Why is Mao one of the most influential and controversial political figures of the 20th Century?

How did African American women play an important and influential role in the Black Power Movement?

If you are interested in these questions; in the history of Britain, Europe and the World – History is for you. If you are interested in why people and nations change, fight, revolt and make up – history is for you. History is more than just an academic subject, you will learn about different cultures, peoples, races and responsibilities. If this interests you - history should be your choice. History at CHS is not a subject stuck in the past. Far from it, we will show you how historical events are what have shaped our society – History is your route to the future!

Our History course is demanding and exciting, aiming to provide you with an insight into British, Russian and American history. You will develop in the process, important transferable skills such as analysis, evaluating information, summarising and organising ideas, and constructing clear, logical arguments both verbally and in writing. These are vital skills for a range of careers, from areas of obvious relevance such as teaching, journalism, law and politics, to fields such a medicine, banking and business leadership.

History is ideal for pupils who have an interest in the way the world has developed through the ages and who enjoy investigation and discovery. We want pupils who wish to develop their skills of analysis and investigation and who enjoy debating and putting forward a well-argued case. You will need to be prepared to utilise evidence in order to make up your own mind and be able to work on your own or as part of a research team on an historical investigative project.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A GCSE Grade 7 or above in History.

COURSE DETAILS

Our GCE History course from AQA is linear with all examinations completed at the end of Upper Sixth. In addition to the two examination modules the AQA GCE in History also comprises a Non-Examined Assessment accounting for 20% of the A level.

Paper 1 and Paper 2 A-Level History combine as a thematic study into Communist states in the twentieth century. Paper 1 covers Russia 1917–91. It is a breadth study with interpretations, structured into four themes. Paper 2 is a depth study with sources on Mao's China 1949–76. It is also structured into four key topics and laid out in a more chronological fashion and in more depth than Paper 1.

Paper 3 follows Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928 and meets the subject criteria requirement for pupils to show understanding of change over at least 100 years.

The Non Examined Assessment is worth 20%. You have a free choice of topic, but the History department will guide you through the topics of the Russian Revolutions of 1917, and the Black Power Movement of 1960s and 1970s America.

Our Non Examined Assessment will provide you with a broad sweep of African American history, from the death of slavery during the Civil War (1861-65) through to the re-election of Barack Obama as 44th President of the USA. You will write a 3,500 word essay examining either why this change happened or the extent of the change taken place.

LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS AND CAREERS

Studying A level History gives you access to a wide range of career and higher education opportunities. It is a subject that is well regarded by both universities and employers alike. History combines well with Mathematics and Science subjects to create an attractive portfolio of qualifications, enabling you to move on to a university science-based course. Combined with English and a modern foreign language it would provide a good basis for an arts or language-based degree.

History provides an excellent foundation for a number of popular careers including journalism, law and business. In fact, the multi-disciplinary nature of History means that it offers a range of transferable skills useful for any job in the future.

Any job requiring research and analysis to generate an informed judgement (which includes all of the top jobs you can think of) will need a History qualification.

Mathematics and Further Mathematics

WHY CHOOSE MATHEMATICS?

A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics develop your knowledge and understanding of the subject. You will gain great analytical and problem-solving skills that are transferable across many subjects, and to other areas of your life. Many subjects are complemented by the study of A Level Mathematics, including Physics, Chemistry, Economics, Psychology, Computer Science and Geography. You may choose to study Mathematics because of a great passion for or interest in the subject or you might choose to study it to support your studies elsewhere. If you are considering taking any sort of mathematical degree, we would highly recommend you study Further Mathematics too.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE COURSE?

The A Level course aims to build on your prior knowledge. You will gain a greater depth of knowledge across all areas of the subject, as well as a greater breadth of knowledge with the applied content making up a sixth of the course. The course requires an advanced understanding of mathematical concepts, skills, and their applications. You will learn to model situations in the world around you and make decisions and assumptions to simplify the model.

GCSE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics A Level: Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics

Further Mathematics A Level: Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics and a grade 7 or above in L2 Further Mathematics or equivalent.

COURSE DETAIL

In Edexcel A Level Mathematics, you will take three exams. They are all 2-hour calculator papers and are equally weighted. The first two papers cover the pure mathematics content and the third covers the applied content. This is split equally between mechanics and statistics.

In Edexcel Further Mathematics, there are four 90-minute exams. The first two cover the compulsory pure content of further maths and the final two are option papers that can be selected from Further Pure, Further Statistics, Further Mechanics, and Decision Mathematics. The options will be decided during the Lower Sixth so that the options are most suitable to the candidates that we have taking Further Mathematics.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Pupils who study Mathematics A Level will go on to a vast array of further education options and careers. These will include Mathematics, Medicine, Engineering, Sciences, Finance, Economics, Computing and Accountancy.

Regardless of the career that you wish to pursue, an A Level in Mathematics shows an ability to succeed at a challenging subject. You will have developed many life skills, such as logical thinking, tenacity, a great work ethic, and the ability to absorb, condense and present vast amounts of information quickly. These skills will transfer to any facet of life.

Modern Foreign Languages: French, German and Spanish

WHY CHOOSE A-LEVEL LANGUAGES?

The A level language courses build on and develop many of the skills learnt at GCSE. The girls may choose to study one or two languages in combination with other disciplines. This last option is becoming increasingly popular as universities offer more courses in which the study of a Modern Foreign Language is one component: Sciences, Medicine, Law, Business, Management Studies are examples. There is a huge demand for languages in the work place; an A level in a Modern Foreign Language provides you with the opportunity to work or study in Europe and world-wide.

REQUIREMENTS

In order to study a language at A level, we expect our pupils to be highly motivated and interested in the language and culture, as well as have a desire to develop their linguistic abilities. A minimum of a grade 7 at GCSE is required to be accepted onto the A level course.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

Each language course comprises Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking components. During the course, the girls will be stimulated by discussions on current issues, learning more about the culture and literature of the target country and acquiring a deeper knowledge of the language itself. They will also further develop these skills by engaging in a more detailed study of various cultural aspects of the country (for example a piece of literary work, aspects of contemporary society or a film) Pupils will have 10 hours of teaching time a fortnight and be taught by two different teachers. In addition to this, they will have an individual 30-minute conversation session with our highly experienced language assistant. These sessions reinforce classroom learning but also provide the pupils with high-level debating skills and a wide range of specialist vocabulary.

Our small class sizes offer a high level of individualised support with tailored and personalised learning, so that girls can reach their full potential here at Croydon High and beyond. We expect all of our pupils to undertake a certain amount of independent work and to do so, they will be equipped with the most up-to-date language learning technology and applications to support this. The pupils will have access to the language laboratory and the various online learning resources to which the school subscribes. They will also be encouraged to watch television news, films, and TV programmes in the target language, as well as to read books and make use of departmental monthly subscriptions to magazines such as Die Freundin, Phosphore and Muy Interesante.

The girls will have the opportunity to attend theatre performances and engage in GDST and national competitions. There is also a wide variety of foreign trips on offer, in order to further broaden their horizons and give them a taste of day-to-day life in the country of their language of study. These trips have always proved incredibly popular with our 6th formers, with many non-linguists also taking part ('Historical Berlin', 'Unknown Paris', 'Winter in Madrid')

WHERE CAN YOU GO WITH MFL?

By studying a language in the Sixth Form, girls will become confident speakers and communicators, will be able to discuss the issues of the day and current affairs and importantly, work independently - all of which are invaluable transferable skills highly sought-after at top universities and in the work place.

The skills acquired by Modern Language graduates are extremely desirable in today's global markets, with linguists going on to careers in law, business and fundraising – for example in the charitable sector of international organisations - as well as interesting careers in management, marketing, medicine and the Civil Service.

Girls who are interested in taking a Modern Foreign Language as an AS level should speak to the relevant Head of Department.

Music

WHY STUDY MUSIC?

Music A level is both a creative and academically rigorous course that teaches you core musical skills whilst equipping you academically for entry to a wide-range of Russell Group Universities or Conservatoires. It is a highly enjoyable course which combines extremely well with all other subjects. Music A level Pupils from Croydon High School have gone on to study a variety of disciplines at University, as well as continuing their musical studies, and our A level results are of a consistently high standard.

You will have the opportunity to polish your performing to a professional level, compose your own music and have it performed in public, as well as studying music in a broad range of popular and classical styles.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- A minimum of Grade 7 in Music GCSE, or a similar qualification, is expected although pupils with extensive performing experience in either an instrument or voice will also be considered. Grade 5 theory is an advantage although not essential.
- A performing standard of Grade 6 or above is expected.
- All pupils are expected to take lessons on a minimum of one instrument and / or voice, and are encouraged to participate in the flourishing extra-curricular music programme at Croydon High (Senior and Chamber Choirs, Ensembles, Musicals, Chamber Groups, rock bands etc.)
- Pupils in Year 11 may apply for the prestigious 'Du Pré' Scholarship'.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

Music is a practical, intellectual and creative subject, which involves skills in both performing and writing music as well as understanding and appreciating music of different historical periods and ethnic backgrounds.

This course develops practical skills by adopting specialist pathways in Performing and Composing. It also recognises that we live in an age of cultural diversity and the areas of study therefore cover a wide range of music: Western Classical Music, Music from the 20th century, Popular Music, Musicals and Jazz.

Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Performing: Option A Option B	10-12 minute recital 6-8 minute recital	35% 25%
Composing: Option A Option B	2 compositions (4-6 minutes) 3 compositions (8-10 minutes)	25% 35%
Listening and Appraising	2 hour examination	40%

WHERE CAN YOU GO WITH MUSIC?

The arts and entertainment sector is currently the UK's largest export industry, and Music A level can lead to a career as a performer, composer, publicist, arts manager, radio broadcaster, live promoter, teacher or academic and much more.

Recent pupils have gone on to work with the BBC, in the recording industry, Arts Council, performing, teaching, music publishing, retail and librarianship.

However, Music A level equips you for other careers too – with a rigorous intellectual base, it's no surprise that many Music graduates win places on Medical Postgraduate courses.

There are also opportunities in music administration, managing orchestras and in music therapy.

Music Tech

WHY STUDY MUSIC TECHNOLOGY?

Music Technology is the art and science of using technology to create, manipulate, record, and produce music. It's a multifaceted discipline that embraces a wide array of tools and techniques, from digital audio workstations (DAWs) and synthesisers to recording equipment and sound processing software. This field enables pupils to explore the entire music production process, from composing and arranging to mixing and mastering.

To excel in Music Technology, pupils need a passion for music, a keen ear for sound, and a curiosity about technology. They'll develop technical skills in using DAWs, MIDI controllers, and various audio gear. A-level qualifications in Music Technology, alongside a strong foundation in music theory, provide an excellent starting point for further study and work in music and theatre (and related) industries.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- A minimum of Grade 7 in Music GCSE, or a similar qualification, is expected although pupils with extensive performing experience in either an instrument or voice will also be considered. Grade 5 theory is an advantage although not essential.
- A performing standard of Grade 5 or above is generally expected.
- All pupils are expected to take lessons on a minimum of one instrument and / or voice, and are encouraged to participate in the flourishing extra-curricular music programme at Croydon High (Senior and Chamber Choirs, Jazz Bands, Wind Band, Musicals, Chamber Groups, rock bands etc.)
- Pupils who do not possess conventional musical qualifications may be asked to demonstrate their musical and aural skills in person.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

Pupils in Music Technology will have the opportunity to create diverse and captivating musical projects. They can compose original music, remix tracks, design soundscapes for film and video games, and even experiment with cutting-edge electronic music. These projects allow pupils to apply their knowledge and creativity to produce music that resonates with them personally and potentially with a broader audience.

WHERE CAN YOU GO WITH MUSIC TECHNOLOGY?

Studying Music Technology opens doors to a wide range of exciting careers in the music and entertainment industry. Graduates can become sound engineers, music producers, composers for media, audio technicians, or even start their own music production companies. With the increasing demand for multimedia content, skills in Music Technology are highly sought after in film, television, radio / podcasting, advertising, and video game industries. Moreover, the skills developed in this field are transferable, allowing pupils to explore avenues beyond music, such as audio technology research or audio software development.

Music Technology is a captivating field that blends the best of music and technology. It empowers pupils to unleash their creativity, master cutting-edge tools, and pursue rewarding careers in the ever-evolving music and media landscape.

It's an exciting and appealing subject for anyone who is passionate about music and the magic that happens behind the scenes to bring it to life.

Physical Education

WHY CHOOSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

This A level course covers the elements that contribute to sports performance including aspects relating to physiology, psychology, skill acquisition and socio-cultural aspects. Personal sporting expertise is an essential requirement to complete the practical component of the course which involves performing one chosen activity.

With the leisure industry rapidly growing A level Physical Education can be useful for those wishing to follow a career in sport and recreation but will be just as stimulating and testing for those who have no desire to take it any further or who want to use it to develop their personal sports involvement.

Physical activity is essential when trying to lead a healthy active lifestyle. By the end of this course you should have increased your physical competence, developed your involvement in physical activity and become better at making informed decisions on your own and others' involvement in physical activity

GCSE REQUIREMENTS

You will need to achieve a minimum of Grade 7 at GCSE and actively train and compete in your chosen sport outside of school in regular competitions. Your chosen sport must be one on the OCR list of activities.

COURSE DETAIL

OCR – PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This A level course offers you a broad curriculum covering aspects relating to physiology, psychology, skill acquisition and sociocultural aspects.

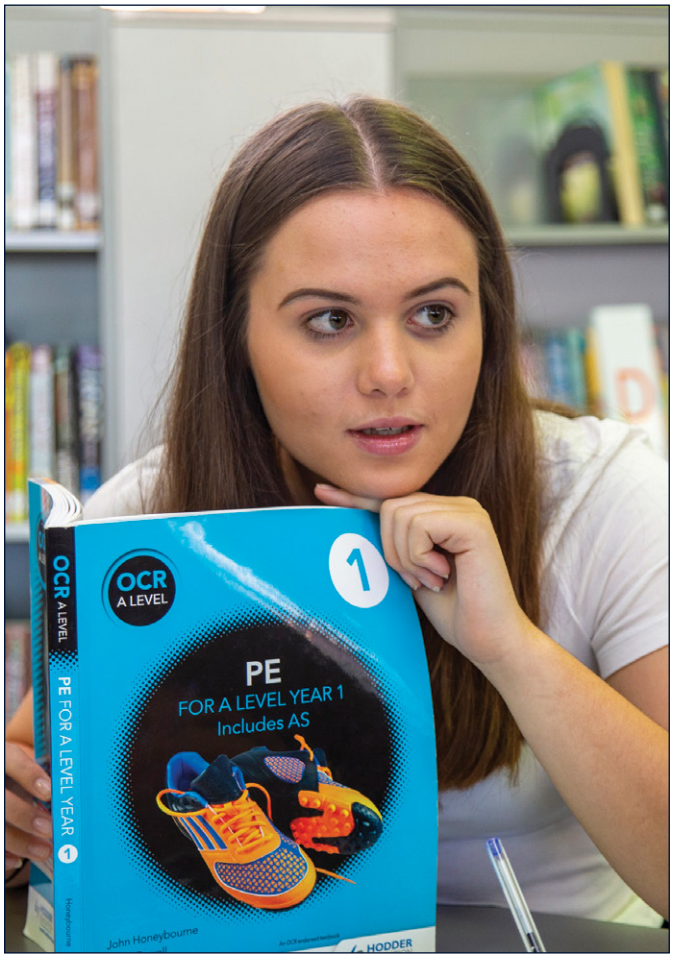
Much of the academic rigour is achieved by the breadth of skills required. Pupils will study anatomy, physiology, biomechanics, the history of sport and recreation, the sociology of sport, sport organisation, skill acquisition, theories of learning and sports psychology.

You will be required to demonstrate proficiency in one sport as a performer. The essence of the course is that theoretical aspects are studied with direct reference to actual sporting situations, with the expectation that pupils will spend time improving their own performances. This can be enhanced by the coaching and observation of peer pupils, improving understanding and giving relevance to the theory.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A level PE can lead to University courses in:

Sports Science, Sports Studies, Leisure Management, Physiotherapy, Teaching, Osteopathy and Medicin. Future career options include:
Sports Psychology, Teaching, Sports Management or Marketing, Physical Trainer, Physiotherapist / Osteopath / Chiropractor, Biomechanics, Nutritionist / Dietician, Performance Analyst, School Sport Coordinator, Sports Development Officer, Professional Athlete.



Physics

WHY CHOOSE PHYSICS?

If you have an inquisitive mind and want to understand HOW the world works, the study of Physics will provide many of the answers. This course will develop your essential scientific knowledge and understanding, as well as establish links between theory and experiment.

Some pupils may choose Physics simply because they enjoy it or because they know that it is highly regarded by universities as a test of problem-solving ability and logical thought. The ability to work in groups as well as independently is paramount in your development during the course.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE COURSE?

Physics A level gives pupils a seamless transition from GCSE to university courses in Physics and Physics-related disciplines. It maintains pupils' enthusiasm for Physics and develops their interest in the subject. The course offers practical and investigative experience throughout the two years of study and many context-based applications.

GCSE REQUIREMENTS

To take Physics A level you will be expected to achieve a minimum of a grade 7 at Mathematics and grade 8 at GCSE Physics. It is highly desirable to study A level Mathematics as 40% of the marks available within written exams will involve the use of A level Maths content.

COURSE DETAIL

We follow the OCR A level course. The content is split into six modules:

- Development of practical skills in physics
- Foundations in physics
- Forces and motion
- Electrons, waves and photons
- Newtonian world and astrophysics
- Particles and medical physics

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A level Physics, especially combined with Mathematics, is an important qualification for many degree courses and future careers. A level Physicists go on to work in Astrophysics, Engineering, Astronomy and Meteorology, to name but a few areas.

The subject also complements careers in Medicine, Veterinary Science, Mathematics, Computing, Finance, Law, Accountancy, Geology. Combined with an Arts subject, Physics is useful for those considering Architecture, Broadcasting, Journalism or Surveying.

Politics

WHY CHOOSE POLITICS?

'BREXIT', the state of the NHS, Trump and North Korea...politics has never been out of the news, but now the problems it confronts (and gives rise to) seem more pressing than ever.

Politics A level gives pupils the opportunity to understand how far the political system is able to respond to these challenges, and why it seems to fail as often as it does.

The subject is fascinating, relevant and contemporary and allows you to develop valuable transferable skills. If you enjoy are interested in the challenges of the 21st century, enjoy a debate and like to form your own opinions, Politics is an excellent choice at A level.

The bi-annual trip to the US is a fantastic opportunity to put your studies into context, whilst there are also visits to the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court.

GCSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in English or one of the Humanities

COURSE DETAIL

In outline the course covers:

- the UK political system e.g. political parties, election systems, the functions of Parliament and Cabinet;
- the US political system e.g. the Republican and Democratic Parties, the presidency, Congress and the Supreme Court;
- ideologies – the core ideologies of conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

The course is assessed solely through three examinations at the end of the second year and there is no coursework element.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Politics combines well with many A level subjects and is particularly relevant for those considering Arts degrees.

The skills and knowledge acquired lead to a range of opportunities, both in higher education and professionally; many girls go on to study politics at university, either on its own or in combination, and it gives an invaluable background for careers in law and the media to name just two.

Psychology

WHY CHOSE PSYCHOLOGY?

Why are 65% of the population willing to give what they think are lethal electric shocks to innocent people when told to do so? Why is somebody in a room with a mirror less likely to pick up and pocket a £20 note lying on the floor than somebody in a room without a mirror?

Why, if four people stand on the pavement and look skywards, do others join them and also look upwards, but if only one person does then no one else joins in? Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour, it helps us explain why people act the way they do. Many of the primary modern applications for psychology revolve around protecting people from emotional and physical harm. It is an exciting and dynamic subject which stimulates discussion and debate. It will introduce you to many ground-breaking research studies which have provided us with insight into areas such as the diagnosis of schizophrenia (Rosenhan) and explanations for conditioned human behaviour (Pavlov's dogs).

A level Psychology is a stimulating subject, that will help you to understand not only why we all behave differently but also why so often we behave so predictably.

SKILLS YOU WILL GAIN

Psychology is a practical, research based subject, grounded in scientific method. You will develop skills of literacy, numeracy, application, analysis, evaluation & critical thinking. You will learn quantitative and qualitative research skills and develop a practical and applied understanding of descriptive and inferential statistics.

ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed through three 2-hour examination papers in year 13. Each paper, of roughly equal weighting, contains a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

The course offers a grounding in classical and contemporary theories and studies, with interesting practicals and statistical analysis throughout.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE grade 6 in English and Maths

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

Social Influence

Memory

Attachment

Psychopathology

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

Key Approaches in Psychology

Biopsychology

Research Methods

Paper 3: Issues & Options in Psychology

Schizophrenia • Relationships

Forensic Psyhcology

Issues & Debates

CAREER PATHS

Psychology is a useful qualification for many careers including Law, medicine, criminology, forensic science, counselling, teaching, medicine, business management, HR and marketing.

PLEASE NOTE

Psychology is a Science subject and lends itself to other STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) subjects. In addition, Psychology supports other Social Science subjects such as Sociology, Economics, Business Studies and Government & Politics as well as the creative subjections of Art and Drama.

Religion, Ethics and Philosophy

WHY CHOOSE RELIGION, ETHICS & PHILOSOPHY?

The Greek philosopher, Socrates, once said "the unexamined life is not worth living." A level Religion, Ethics and Philosophy explores selected topics providing pupils with the tools they need to critically examine their own lives as well as the world in which they live.

It is one of the fastest growing academic subjects at A level nationally; it complements many other A level courses as it analyses issues that relate to all subjects, as well as teaching pupils not what to think, but how to think.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE COURSE? WHAT SKILLS DO YOU NEED?

In studying this subject, pupils will acquire a range of skills such as analysis, interpretation, critical thinking and the ability to critique an argument as well as formulate an effective response to an argument. These are skills that will prepare pupils well for a range of courses in higher education, and employment.

GCSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in RS, where taken, or a grade 6 in an alternative humanities subject, and a 6 in English. The GCSE grade is not necessarily a good indicator of aptitude at A level. The emphasis at A level is on the pupil's ability to assess, evaluate and apply different arguments and theories.

COURSE DETAILS

The Religion, Ethics and Philosophy course is an exam based linear course and consists of three elements: The study of Religion, Ethics and Philosophy. Each component of the course is worth 33.3%. Pupils will sit three exams at the end of Upper Sixth.

For the Religion aspect of the course, pupils will be able to decide as a group which of the six major world religions they would like to study; Philosophy topics include arguments for the existence of God, challenges to religious belief and Religious Language; and Ethics topics include Ethical Language and Thought, a variety of ethical theories and their application to issues such as euthanasia, sex and business.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

There is a wide range of University courses that offer Philosophy/ Religion degrees such as:

- Religious Studies
- Religion, Philosophy and Ethics
- Theology
- Philosophy

There are also many joint course options such as Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Philosophy and Film, Philosophy and Languages, Philosophy and Art, Philosophy and English, Computer Science and Philosophy, Mathematics and Philosophy, Philosophy and History, Psychology and Philosophy etc.

The Medical Ethics elements within the Ethics module also make it an excellent preparation for a Medical degree.

The breadth of professions into which pupils can gain entry is perhaps demonstrated by the range of people who have studied this subject, which includes such diverse characters as Martin Luther King Jr., Bruce Lee, Aung San Suu Kyi, Harrison Ford, T S Eliot, Angela Davis, Woody Allen and Bill Clinton. Perhaps martial artist, acclaimed film director, or a historic president are rather wide-ranging careers, but they highlight the potential of a RS, Philosophy/Ethics graduate. More commonly, though, you'll find graduates working as journalists, lawyers, teachers, civil servants, diplomats, in the media or for NGOs.

Success in these vocations can be attributed to the ability to judge between a sound and an unsound argument, and draw reasoned views from difficult situations, enhanced by the exposure to the challenging arguments pupils experience in the course of their studies.

Depending upon the religion chosen, an appropriate Religious Studies A level trip will also be offered.

Sociology

WHY CHOSE SOCIOLOGY?

How are relationships, bullying, and 'screen time' associated with children's well-being? Is the 'dark web' responsible for increases in crime? Why do most of the top jobs in society go to pupils who have been educated at private schools and Oxbridge?

Sociology is the systematic study of society and human behaviour, providing a genuine insight into the workings of our society today, confronting difficult issues of systemic inequality. Posing questions such as 'Is Britain really broken?' 'What is fake news?' and 'Is there still a glass ceiling for women in the work place?' Sociology is an exciting and lively subject. It encourages you to question some of the ways in which society is organised and to realise that things are not always what they seem.

ASSESSMENT

What you will study

The course is assessed through three 2-hour examination papers in year 13. Each paper is of equal weighting and contains a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE grade 6 in English and in another humanities subject.

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods

Education: educational policy, differences in educational achievement by social group, role of an educational system.

Methods in Context: applying research methods to different education topic areas

Theory and Methods: theories, research methods, debates, social policy

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology

Families and Households: childhood, family diversity, divorce and marriage, domestic roles & violence, the role of family in society

Beliefs in Society: fundamentalism, secularisation, new religious movements, science, the role of religion in society

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Crime and Deviance: types, causes, control& prevention, crimes of the powerful and powerless, media & crime, victims of crime

Theory and Methods: theories, research methods, debates, social policy

SKILLS YOU WILL GAIN

Sociology is a research based subject, grounded in scientific and non-scientific method. You will develop skills of literacy, numeracy, application, analysis, evaluation & critical thinking. You will learn quantitative and qualitative research skills. By considering the complex relationships between human action and reaction, you will be forced to engage with current affairs as an informed customer.

CAREER PATHS

Sociology is a useful qualification for many careers including, Journalism, management, HR, marketing, criminology, law and law enforcement, social work, nursing, teaching, and the civil service including social policy work with Think Tanks.

PLEASE NOTE

Sociology supports other Social Science subjects such as Psychology, Economics, Business Studies, Politics, Geography, as well as the more creative subjects of Art and Drama.

Theatre Studies

WHY CHOOSE THEATRE STUDIES?

This is an A level for those who enjoy Theatre and Drama and who want to be challenged. We work essentially through practical experience and experimentation applying ideas, performance theories and techniques.

We welcome pupils with a range of talents and interests. You should have a love of performing, a commitment to experimenting with the power of theatre and a lively interest in the world around you – as well as a desire to articulate what you see through drama.

Girls who take Theatre Studies know that there is nothing 'easy' about the subject and that there is no bigger "buzz" than performing for an audience!

This course is exciting and offers an enormous scope for you to develop and explore the medium of dramatic performance. Theatre Studies is so much more than a folder full of notes!

GCSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimum grade 6 in GCSE Drama, or at least a 6 in English Literature if you haven't taken GCSE Drama

COURSE DETAIL

AQA DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

1. Drama and Theatre – this assesses your knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre. You will study two set plays as well as analysing and evaluation the work of live theatre makers. A 3-hour open book exam, 40% of A level.
2. Creating Original Drama – this assesses the process of creating devised drama. You may contribute as a performer, designer or director and your piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner. You will produce a working notebook as well as being marked on your final performance, 30% of A level.
3. Making Theatre – this assesses a practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts each taken from a different play and explores the methodology of a prescribed practitioner. Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (pupils may contribute as performer, designer or director), 30% of A level.

You also get the unique opportunity to take part in workshops and performances by theatre companies visiting the school as well as the department 5-day residential trip to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This subject is not just for those who are thinking about a career in the theatre. You will gain excellent communication and group work skills which will be useful in all areas of your working life. You will undoubtedly grow in self-confidence and create pieces of drama you will never forget.

Employers will know that in you they are getting an employee who is able to work with others, approach tasks fearlessly with a 'can do' attitude and who can articulate views and present information creatively. Girls who take Theatre Studies A level go on to pursue careers in the law, the media, teaching and many other spheres.

And yes, some of them become professional actors too!

What makes our Sixth Form special?

When we ask our pupils what makes the Sixth Form special they tell us time and again it's the family-like community. Because we invest considerable time and energy in getting to know each Sixth Former individually, we are sensitive to, and celebrate their diversity.

At lunch times and break times, especially, the Sixth Form Common Room reverberates with the sound of shared laughter, the celebration of the latest success and even raucous renditions of 'Happy Birthday.' Staff support girls, and crucially, they support each other through the twists and turns of an A level programme which is notoriously pressurised. But the sense of community and support here does make things manageable and enjoyable and we find that personal happiness leads to academic success.

Indeed, our Sixth Form is also characterised by a collective academic endeavour which pushes girls to do their very best. Small class sizes allow for an unrivalled level of personalisation and increased contact time. Outside timetabled lessons, staff can frequently be found with pupils working together to consolidate learning and to go beyond the bounds of the A level curriculum, such is the shared sense of purpose and ambition.

'The family-like feel in the Sixth Form means that it has become my home.'

Upper Sixth pupil

'Coming to Croydon High as a "new girl" I was apprehensive as to how I would fit in. However, a year on I can honestly say is that coming here is the best decision I have ever made. My peers made me feel welcome from day one and my teachers have been incredibly supportive.'

Upper Sixth pupil

Our inspirational enrichment programme seeks to provide opportunities for all. Whether they are performing in one of our numerous choirs, orchestras or ensembles, competing in one of our many sports teams, or debating with confidence and assertion, these leaders of our school community inspire with their talents and their determination whether it's for fun or elite competition.

Finally, the expertise and energy of our Futures and Progression means that they leave our Sixth Form armed with the information and skills they need to succeed at university and in their chosen career.

Why not come and see for yourself what makes us so special?

Frequently asked questions

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions we receive from Year 11 girls...

Q How many A level subjects can I take?

A The message from most top universities is clear; three excellent A levels are what they are looking for. For a small number of STEM pupils, particularly those aiming for Oxbridge, four is achievable without sacrificing top grades. In the Sixth Form at Croydon High, we offer a bespoke programme of study which allows pupils to focus on achieving three top grades as their priority, while simultaneously exploring interests which are unique to them. For more details see page 6 of this course guide.

My experience at 6th form has been fabulous – the small class sizes have given me such a close relationship with my teachers and means that the teaching is much more tailored to all of us and the family-like feel in the Sixth Form Centre means it has become my home.
(Upper Sixth pupil)

Q What sort of universities do Croydon High girls go on to?

A All of the Russell Group universities, including Oxbridge, as well as a wide range of well-respected colleges for those who want to go on to artistic, musical or vocational courses. We have also supported pupils into competitive apprenticeships, conservatoires and to top international universities.

For us, the most important factors were excellent teaching and the strong advice and support Sixth Form teachers provided in the university application process. Croydon High School encouraged our daughter to aim high and fully supported her in every way it could.
(Parent of former sudent)

Q Can I apply for a scholarship?

A Yes. Academic Scholarships are open to both internal and external Year 11 applicants. Performance scholarships in Music, Drama, Art and PE are also available to girls studying these subjects at A level. Full details of all scholarships, bursaries and other awards are explained in our Scholarships leaflet included in your Open Evening pack.

Q What is the dress code in Sixth Form?

A Smart and business-like on Monday to Thursday – with an opportunity to show your individuality within that. Clothes don't need to cost a fortune – the girls recommend Vinted for the best range! Girls dress as they would for work with an emphasis on professional rather than smart. Like many companies, we have a dress down Friday.

Croydon High taught me that being a girl does not stop me from being whatever I want to be in the future, and to appreciate that this is a privilege. And finally, I learnt that despite my protests, floral leggings are not, and will never be appropriate attire for Sixth Form. (Leaver: Class of 2014)

Q What kind of support will I get when applying for University?

A You will get outstanding, personal support from an extremely dedicated and experienced team. UCAS applications happen early in Upper Sixth, but the support will start in Lower Sixth as we explore initial interests, complete your personal statement and produce draft applications by the end of the summer term. This is so your tutors can spend their time over the summer holiday collating all the information and writing your all-important reference. This is just one example of the level of support you can expect from our sixth form staff.

The support and guidance I am getting is second to none and makes me feel confident that not only will I achieve the best results but will also go on to achieve my ambitions. (Lower Sixth pupil)

Q Isn't Sixth Form just like being at school – I think I might need a change?

A You do need a change at Sixth Form and you will find things to be very different from what you are used to in school. This includes the social spaces, the academic lessons, the relationships with staff and the level of independence and stretch given to you. You are no longer children, but intelligent and informed young women and you will be treated as such. You will be given responsibilities and privileges in equal measure in an atmosphere where you are supported fully by staff and your peers.

I have been at Croydon High since Junior School, but my first few weeks in sixth form have been the best yet. The relationships built with teachers are great and extremely beneficial towards the type of learning that we take on. (Lower Sixth pupil)

Q I am considering joining from another school. Will I fit in?

A We are fortunate to have a Sixth Form that is big enough for all girls to find their 'niche' and yet small enough to feel like a family. Girls joining us in Lower Sixth always comment on the friendly atmosphere and on how quickly they settle in – just ask them!

Coming to Croydon High as a "new girl", I was apprehensive as to how I would fit in. However, a year on I can honestly say that coming here is the best decision I've ever made. My peers made me feel welcome from day one, while my teachers have also been incredibly supportive.
(Upper Sixth pupil)

Making the right choices for your future

DEGREE	ESSENTIAL A-LEVELS	USEFUL A-LEVELS
Accountancy (also Banking/ Finance/Insurance)	Usually none, although one or two universities require Mathematics.	Mathematics, Business (AGCE, National and Diploma), and Economics.
Actuarial Science/Studies	Mathematics	Further Mathematics, Economics, Business (AGCE, National and Diploma).
Aeronautical Engineering	Mathematics and Physics	Further Mathematics, Design Technology, Computing/Computer Science
American Studies	Requirements vary but English and/or History are often asked for	Politics
Anthropology	None	A small number of courses like a science AS-level such as Biology. Sociology is also very relevant. Classics/Latin.
Archaeology	None	Geography, History or science subjects can all be useful. Classics/Latin.
Architecture	Some courses say they want an arts/science mix. Some may require Art	Art, Mathematics, Design Technology and Physics. AGCE or National Art and Design may also be useful at some universities. Do note that a portfolio of drawings and ideas may be asked for.
Art and Design	Art or Design Technology including AGCE/National (to give you the portfolio to get onto an Art Foundation Course, though sometimes AGCE/National Art and Design applicants go straight onto a degree).	Design Technology, Art & Design. Do note that most entrants onto Art and Design degrees will have done a one-year Art Foundation Course after completing Year 13.
Biochemistry	Always Chemistry and some universities will say you must have Biology as well, while some will say Chemistry plus one from Mathematics/Physics/ Biology. Doing Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics or Physics will keep all Biochemistry courses open to you	Biology, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Computing/ Computer Science.
Biology	Biology, usually Chemistry. A few universities specify two sciences	Mathematics or Physics, Computing/Computer Science.
Biomedical Sciences (including Medical Science)	Normally two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics. Chemistry is essential for some courses	Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics.
Business Management	None	Mathematics, Business (AGCE, National and Diploma) and Economics.
Chemical Engineering	Chemistry and Mathematics and sometimes Physics as well	Physics, Biology, Further Mathematics, Computing/Computer Science.
Computer Science	For some courses, Mathematics. For some courses Computer Science	Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Computing/Computer Science, Physics, Philosophy, ICT.
Chemistry	Chemistry and occasionally Mathematics. Most courses require Chemistry and would like Mathematics and one other science subject (for example, wPhysics or Biology)	Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Computing/ Computer Science.
Childhood Studies	None	CACHE, Psychology, Sociology, AGCE/National/Diploma Health and Social Care.
Civil Engineering	Mathematics, in many cases Physics. Sometimes one of Physics or Chemistry	Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Computing/Computer Science, Design Technology, Geography.
Classical Studies	For Classics courses Latin or Ancient Greek are required. For Classical Studies and Classical Civilisation courses most subjects will be considered	Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Classical Civilisation. Do note that there are some Classics courses which will allow you to start Latin and/or Classical Greek from scratch.
Dentistry	Chemistry and Biology for most courses, but some require Mathematics or Physics as well	Mathematics, Physics, Further Mathematics.
Dietetics	Chemistry, Biology	Mathematics
Drama	Some courses require English Literature and for a few courses English and/or Theatre Studies	English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies, Classics/Latin.
Economics	Usually Mathematics. For Economics joint honours degrees, Mathematics may not be required	Economics, Computing/Computer Science, History, Business Studies.
Electrical/Electronic Engineering	Mathematics, usually Physics	Further Mathematics, ICT, Design Technology, Computing/ Computer Science.
Engineering (General)	Mathematics and Physics.	Further Mathematics, Design Technology, Computing/ Computer Science.
English	English Literature or combined English Language & Literature (some courses will accept English Language).	History, Religious Studies, a foreign language, Classics/Latin.
Environmental Science/Studies	Many courses will ask for two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Geography	Another facilitating subject, particularly a science.
European Studies	A Modern Foreign Language	Another Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Politics.
French	French	Another Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Politics, Classics/Latin.
Geography	Most degrees require Geography	Some Geography BSc (science) degrees prefer one from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics.
Geology/Earth Sciences	Usually two from Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology	Geography, Geology, Computing/Computer Science.
German	German (a handful of universities offer the opportunity to study German from scratch, without German A-level)	Another Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Politics, Classics/Latin.
History	Most degrees require History.	Economics, English Literature, Philosophy, Politics, Sociology, Theology/ Religious Studies, a modern or classical language, Classics/Latin.

DEGREE	ESSENTIAL A-LEVELS	USEFUL A-LEVELS
History of Art	None	Art, English Literature, History, Theology/Religious Studies, History of Art, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Classics/Latin.
Italian	Italian or another language such as French, German or Spanish.	Another Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Politics, Classics/Latin.
Law	Usually none, although a few universities require English.	History; other facilitating subjects. There really are no essential subjects for Law. Maybe one choice should involve essay or report writing. History gives you good relevant skills for Law but is not essential.
Management Studies	Sometimes Mathematics.	Mathematics, Economics, Business Studies (AGCE, National and Diploma).
Materials Science (including Biomedical Materials Science)	Normally two from Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Biology (also Design Technology for some universities).	Chemistry, Design and Technology, Further Mathematics, Computing/ Computer Science.
Mathematics	Mathematics and sometimes Further Mathematics	Further Mathematics, Physics, Computing/Computer Science.
Mechanical Engineering	Mathematics, usually Physics	Further Mathematics, Design Technology, Computing/Computer Science. Mechanical Engineering departments may have a preference for Mathematics A-levels with a strong mechanics component.
Media Studies (including Communication Studies)	A few courses ask for English or Media Studies.	English, Media Studies, Sociology, Psychology.
Medicine	If you do Chemistry, Biology and one from Mathematics or Physics you will keep all the medical schools open to you. If you do Chemistry and Biology you will keep open the vast majority. If you do Chemistry and one from Mathematics and Physics you will limit your range of choices much more.	Further Mathematics or a contrasting (non-science) subject, Computing/ Computer Science.
Music	For most traditional courses, Music and Grade VII/VIII, although some universities will consider candidates without A-level Music.	Some universities have a preference for at least one essay-based subject.
Nursing and Midwifery	Usually Biology or another science.	Biology, CACHE, Sociology, Psychology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics.
Occupational Therapy	Some courses ask for Biology.	Psychology, Physical Education, Sociology or another science.
Optometry (Opthalmic Optics)	Two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics (some courses prefer Biology as one of the choices).	Further Mathematics, Computing/Computer Science.
Orthoptics	Biology	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Computing/Computer Science.
Pharmacy	Chemistry and one from Biology, Mathematics and Physics keeps the vast majority of courses open to you. Some courses like to see Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics. Doing Chemistry and Biology keeps most courses open.	Mathematics, Physics, Computing/Computer Science.
Philosophy	None	Mathematics, Classical Civilisations, Philosophy and Religious Studies/Theology.
Photography	Photography or Art with a foundation	Art, 3D Design.
Physics	Mathematics, Physics.	Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Computing/Computer Science.
Physiotherapy	Most courses will consider you with just Biology. However, some also require a second science from Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics.	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology
Planning	Sometimes Geography	Geography, Mathematics, Economics.
Politics	Usually none	Politics, History, Philosophy, Law, Sociology, Economics, English Literature, Religious Studies, Business, Classics/Latin.
Psychology	A few courses ask for one from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics.	Biology, Mathematics, Psychology, Sociology, Computing/ Computer Science.
Religious Studies/Theology	None	Religious Studies/Theology, Philosophy, English Literature, History, Classics/Latin.
Sociology	None	Sociology, Psychology, Geography, Computing/Computer Science.
Spanish	Spanish (some degrees will also consider French, German or Italian).	Another Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Politics, Classics/Latin.
Speech Therapy	Some universities want a science such as Biology, Chemistry or Physics. Some specify Biology, but some degrees will consider candidates with none of these.	A modern foreign language (for example, French, German, Spanish, Italian), English Language (and Literature), Psychology.
Sports Science/Physical Education	Many courses want to see one from Biology/Chemistry/Mathematics/ Physics (some courses will treat Physical Education as a science equivalent).	Physical Education, Psychology.
Surveying	None	For some types of Surveying e.g. Building Surveying, Mathematics and Physics could be helpful. For Estate Management (General Practice Surveying) most A-level combinations will be considered.
Teacher Training (Primary and/or Secondary)	At least one from Art, Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Design and Technology, Drama (Theatre Studies), English , French, Geography , German, History, ICT, Italian, Mathematics , Music , Physics , Physical Education , Religious Studies (Theology), Spanish.	Another of the subjects listed as essential.
Veterinary Science	You should do Chemistry and Biology and one from Mathematics/Physics so that you have all universities open to you.	Further Mathematics.

Destinations

This chart shows the wide range of subjects and destinations reached by Croydon High leavers in recent years. It is of course a fantastic resource made up of girls who may have taken the same path you are considering, or may be at (or have recently left) a university you wish to apply to. They are ready to help!

(Russell Group universities in bold type)

DESTINATION	COURSE
Aberdeen University	Neuroscience with Psychology
Aberystwyth University	Film and Television Studies
Anglia Ruskin University	Biomedical Science
Aston University	Engineering, Marketing, Economics, Medicine
Bangor University	Finance & Accounting, Psychology
Bath Spa University	Early Years Education, Graphic Communication
Bath University	Int. Management & Modern Languages, Spanish, Sport and Exercise Science, Physics with Research Placement, Computer Science, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence with Placement Year, Economics (3), Psychology (with placement) (2)
Birkberk, University of London	Law
Birmingham University	Business Management, Geography, Dentistry, English Literature & History (2), History,Geography & Economics (Joint Honours), Maths (4) Medicine (2), Archaeology & Ancient History, History & Philosophy, Political Economy, Philosophy, Chemistry with Industrial Experience, History (2), Pharmacy, Policy, Politics & Economics, Political Science, History of Art, Philosophy & Sociology, Liberal Arts & Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Dentistry
Brighton University	Biomedical Sciences, Business with Economics,Civil Engineering, Pharmaceutical & Chemical Sciences, Physiotherapy, Law with Business, Product Development, Marketing Management, Business, Interior Architecture, Economics, Anthropology and History, History
Bristol University	Law (2), Law & German LLB, Medicine, Dentistry, Maths, Economics (2), Politics and International Relations, Chemistry, Veterinary Science, History, Virology & Immunology
Bristol, University of West England	Paramedic Science
Brunel University	Finance & Accounting, International Business, Maths, Marketing Management BSc with Placement, Psychology with Placement
Bournemouth University	Buisness Studies
Cambridge University	German & Russian, English (2), Medicine, Engineering, Philosophy, Architecture, Theology, Religion & Ethics, Modern & Medieval Languages
Canterbury Christ Church University	Paramedic Science
Cardiff University	Medicine (2), Biochemistry with a Professional Training Year
Central St Martins (1 year), then Newcastle University	Foundation Art & Design then English Language & Literature
Charles University, Prague	Medicine
Chelsea Independent College	English Literature
Chester University	Hazard Management & Geography
City University	Accounting & Finance, Speech and Language Therapy, Civil Engineering, Introduction to Optometry
City & Guilds of London Art School	Art Foundation
Courtauld Institute of Art	History of Art
Coventry University	French & Spanish, Midwifrey
Croydon College	Art Foundation
De Montfort University	Advertising & Marketing
Derby University	Media Production
Durham University	Biological Sciences, Economics, Chemistry, Modern Languages and Culture, History, Education Studies (Mathematics), Politics, Theology, Anthropology and Archaeology, Natural Sciences (3), Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Classics, Geography, Combined Honours in Social Sciences, Sociology
East Anglia University	English & American Literature, English Literature & Drama, Physiotherapy, Politics & Economics, History, Chemistry, Biological Sciecnes (with a foundation year), Chemistry (with a foundation year), Biochemistry
Edinburgh University	Economics, Software Engineering, Chemistry, Arabic and Spanish, Philosophy
Essex University	Italian & Management, Economics, English & Spanish, Modern Languages (2), Maths, Politics (2), Philosophy & Economics, Economics, English, English Literature, History, History and Economics, Art History & Visual Culture and History, Psychology, Spanish & Italian, Human Biosciences, Natural Sciences, Medical Sciences
Exeter University	English & Spanish, Modern Languages (2), Maths, Politics, Philosophy & Economics, Economics, English, History, History and Economics, Psychology, Spanish & Italian, Human Biosciences, History & International Relations (with Year Abroad), Biological Sciences, History with Study Abroad
Glasgow University	Anthropology, Biochemistry, Common Law, Philosophy / Politics
Gloucestershire University	Philosophy & Religion
Goldsmiths	English
Greenwich University	Chemical Engineering
Harper Adams	Agriculture, Agriculture with Animal Science, Veterinary Nursing
Hertfordshire University	Physiotherapy, Paramedic Science, Pharmacology, Sport & Excercise Science, History, Nutrition, Business Economics
Hull University	Biomedical Science (2)
Hull York Medical School	Medicine (2)
Imperial College London	Chemistry with Molecular Physics, Design Engineering
Keele University	Maths and Physics, Medicine, Chemistry (2), Financial Mathematics
Kent University	Accounting & Finance (with a year in industry), Applied Psychology with Clinical Psychology, Film Studies and English & American Literature, Law, Marketing, Psychology (2), Pharmacy, Business & Management with a year in industry
Kent & Medway Medical School	Medicine

DESTINATION	COURSE
King's College, London	Biochemistry, Dentistry (2), Medicine, Music, History, Geography, Culture, Media & Creative Industries, English Language and Linguistics, Psychology, Psychology with Professional Placement Year, Biomedical Science (2), Biomedical Engineering, Pharmacy
Kingston University	Midwifery
Lancaster University	English Literature
Leeds Metropolitan University	Art, Event Performance
Leeds University	Advanced Psychology, Design & Colour Technology, Economics, Economics & Spanish, English Language & Literature, Italian with Spanish, Midwifery, Music, History, Theology & R.S. Spanish, Portuguese & Latin American Studies, Sport & Exercise Science, Theatre and Performance, Politics, Philosophy, Politics & Economics, Classical Literature & English, Medicine, Medicinal Chemistry with a Year in Industry, Accounting and Finance, Physics
Leicester University	Biological Science, Chemistry with Forensic Science, Economics & Politics, History, Law, Medicine, Politics, Law, Economics (3), English Literature, Chemistry (with a foundation year), Psychology
Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts	Foundation Certificate in Acting
Liverpool University	History (Social & Economic), Veterinary Science
London Metropolitan	Events Management
London School of Economics	Economics, Politics and International Relations, Anthropology & Law, Mathematics, Statistics, and Business
London South Bank	Adult Nursing
Loughborough University	Economics (2) English, English and Publishing, Geography (2), Geography with Economics, History and English, Sport & Excercise Science, Industrial Design and Technology, Economics with Geography, Retailing, Marketing & Management, Graphic Design (with placement year)
Manchester University	Accounting & Finance, Drama, Economics, Economics & Politics, History of Art, Mathematics with Business & Management, Physics, Spanish & Japanese, Biomedical Sciences, Medicine, Computer Science with Industrial Experience
Medway School of Pharmacy	Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Physiology
Newcastle University	Geography, Politics and Economics
Northumbria University	Sport Management, Applied Sport & Excercise Science
Nottingham Trent University	Criminology, Pharmacology, Furniture Design, Philosophy and History, Ancient History, Psych with Crim, Law & Psychology
Nottingham University	Economics & International Economics, Civil Engineering (2), Animal Science, Business & Economics of Contemporary China (2), Economics, German & Abinitio Russian, History (2), Humanistic Counselling Practice, Law, Medicine, Modern Languages with Business, Portuguese & Spanish (2) Spanish & Abinitio Portugese, Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience, Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine, Chemistry (2), Nutrition, Politics & American Studies, American Studies & History, Modern Languages, English & Philosophy (2), Pharmacy, Geography, Psychology (2), Liberal Arts
Oxford Brookes University	Biological Science, Business and Marketing Management, International Relations and Politics, Law, Sport & Exercise Science
Oxford University	Mathematics, Spanish and Russian, History, English Language and Literature, Human Sciences, Chemistry, Law, French and German, French and Italian, Biochemistry
Plymouth University	Internet Design
Portsmouth University	Economics, Biomedical Science, English, Computer Animation and Visual Effects, Dental Hygiene, Film Studies, Human Resource Management with Psychology, Sociology & Criminology, Sociology
Queen Mary College, London	Biomedical Sciences, Dentistry, Zoology, Law
Reading University	Biological Sciences, Italian, Film, Chemistry, Quantity Surveying, Computer Science
Roehampton University	Primary Education with Maths, Drama and Theatre Studies, Primary Education KS1/KS2
Royal Academy of Music	Opera Studies
Royal Holloway College, London	Economics, Music, Zoology, Psychology, Business and Management, Drama & Music
Royal Veterinary College, London	Veterinary Medicine, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Physics
Salford University	Professional Sound & Video Technology
Sheffield University	Biology (2), Biomedical Sciences, Law
SOAS University of London	Politics and Law
Southampton University	Spanish & Latin American Studies, Biomedical Sciences (3), Applied Social Sciences, Economics and Management Sciences(2) English and Spanish, Law(2), Psychology (3), Psychology & Education Studies, Spanish & Latin, Politics and International Relations, American Studies, English, Physics with Astronomy
St Andrews	Art History, Medicine
St George's Hospital, University of London	Medicine (2), Biomedical Science (4), Radiography
Surrey University	Business & Retail Management, Economics (2), Law (2), Physics, Nursing, Modern Languages (French & Spanish), Veterinary Medicine & Science, Psychology, Biological Sciences, Criminology, Microbiology
Sussex University	Accounting & Finance, Anthropology, Chemistry, History, American Studies, Biosciences, Psychology with Education, Psychology with Clinical Approaches
University of Swansea	Business Management (Finance) with a Year Abroad
University College, London	Economics (4), MFL-French and Spanish, Neuroscience, Geography (2), Medicine, Applied Medical Sciences (2), Biochemical Engineering, Psychology (2), Psychology with Education, Human Sciences, Law, Pharmacy
University of the Arts, London	Product and Industrial Design
University for the Creative Arts, Canterbury	Art & Design Foundation Diploma
Warwick University	Biomedical Science, Biological Sciences, Economics (2), International Management, Mathematics (3), Psychology, Hispanic Studies & French, English Literature (2), German and History, History, Politics, Philosophy and Law (PPL), Theatre and Performance Studies, Politics & International Studies
West of England University, Bristol	Geography, Accounting and Finance, Early Childhood Studies
Westminster University	English Literature & Spanish, International Relations, Digital Media & Communication, Digital Media Development, Journalism
Winchester University	Performing Arts
York University	Criminology, Economics & Economic History, English & Education, History (4), Management, Politics, Accounting, Business Finance & Management, Politics & International Relations, History & Politics, Chemistry, Computer Science, History of Art, Theatre: Writing, Directing & Performance
STUDY ABROAD	
University of Budapest: Dentistry, Medicine • **Prague University:** Medicine • **Skidmore College, New York:** Psychology • **University of Amsterdam:** History of Art **University of Breda (Netherlands):** Game Design & Architecture • **University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA:** BS Chemistry **University of Toronto:** Communication Culture, Information & Technology (CCIT)	
Apprenticeships	HR Apprenticeship at Rothchild & Co.

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