



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE  
READING • BERKSHIRE



***Sixth Form Information***  
**2020 - 2021**

For the second year running, St Joseph's College was rated one of the top 60 schools in England for the progress made from GCSE to A Level.





# ***Welcome***

**Welcome to St Joseph's College Sixth Form. We are dedicated to providing the best education for our students, not only academically but also to prepare them to be confident, caring citizens, ready for the challenges of A Levels and life at university and beyond.**

The Sixth Form offers small classes and a strong focus on the individual, ensuring each one of our students can perform to their maximum potential, both in their A Level studies and in developing their skills as leaders in the school society.

St Joseph's has a long standing reputation as a caring school, and our nurturing ethos is as evident in the Sixth Form as it is elsewhere in the school - each one of our students is challenged and supported in equal measure.

We produce young people of whom we are justifiably proud in both academic and social prowess.

We welcome a number of new students into the Sixth Form every year, alongside those who are already at St Joseph's, and we make every effort to help each Sixth Former settle quickly into their studies.

We invite you to find out more about the vibrant and busy life of the Sixth Form.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Andrew Colpus  
Headmaster

Charlotte Hart  
Head of Sixth Form





# ***Life in the Sixth Form***

**St Joseph's College Sixth Form lies at the heart of the school. Students form an integral part of life at the College. Staff and students work closely together to achieve the best academic results for each individual, to ensure that every Sixth Former develops confidence and maturity, and is prepared for life beyond the Sixth Form.**

## **AIMS**

The Sixth Form offers each student an individual path through their A Level studies, allowing them greater independence, whilst also providing personal guidance and support to enable them to reach their potential.

Small classes and inspirational teaching encourage academic excellence within a caring community and give our young people every chance to achieve their ambitions. Sixth Form students benefit from opportunities for leadership, and the provision of enrichment activities offers additional opportunities to take on challenges outside of the classroom.

Pastoral care and academic support are outstanding. Each student has a tutor who knows them as an individual, and is responsible for the day to day monitoring of their academic and personal well-being.

## **SIXTH FORM INDUCTION**

All students take part in an extensive induction programme, both before joining the Sixth Form and throughout their first term in Year 12. This includes spending a day at an outdoor adventure centre, completing teambuilding exercises and challenges. This offers students an opportunity to get to know each other before term starts, and helps to build their confidence.

Students also take part in a retreat, which encourages them to be reflective about their spiritual growth.



### **BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**

The Sixth Form Centre provides a dedicated space for students to work and socialise. It is equipped with WiFi and computers, and the College Library offers a wealth of resources. A Common Room and kitchen facilities offer opportunities to relax amongst peers. There are also many opportunities for Sixth Form students to extend their learning by experiencing trips and visits.

A full extra-curricular programme is available, culminating in the Sixth Form Ball at the end of the Summer Term.

### **SIXTH FORM PRIVILEGES**

Sixth Form students may sign in and out of College at lunchtime. If they wish to have lunch in the Dining Hall they are offered a priority service.

Students enjoy the flexibility of the Sixth Form dress code, which requires them to dress in a business-like manner.

St Joseph's College offers a school transport service which covers a number of routes.





# ***Academic Life***

**St Joseph's aims to inspire all students to excel in their studies, and become confident and independent young people.**

## **THE CURRICULUM**

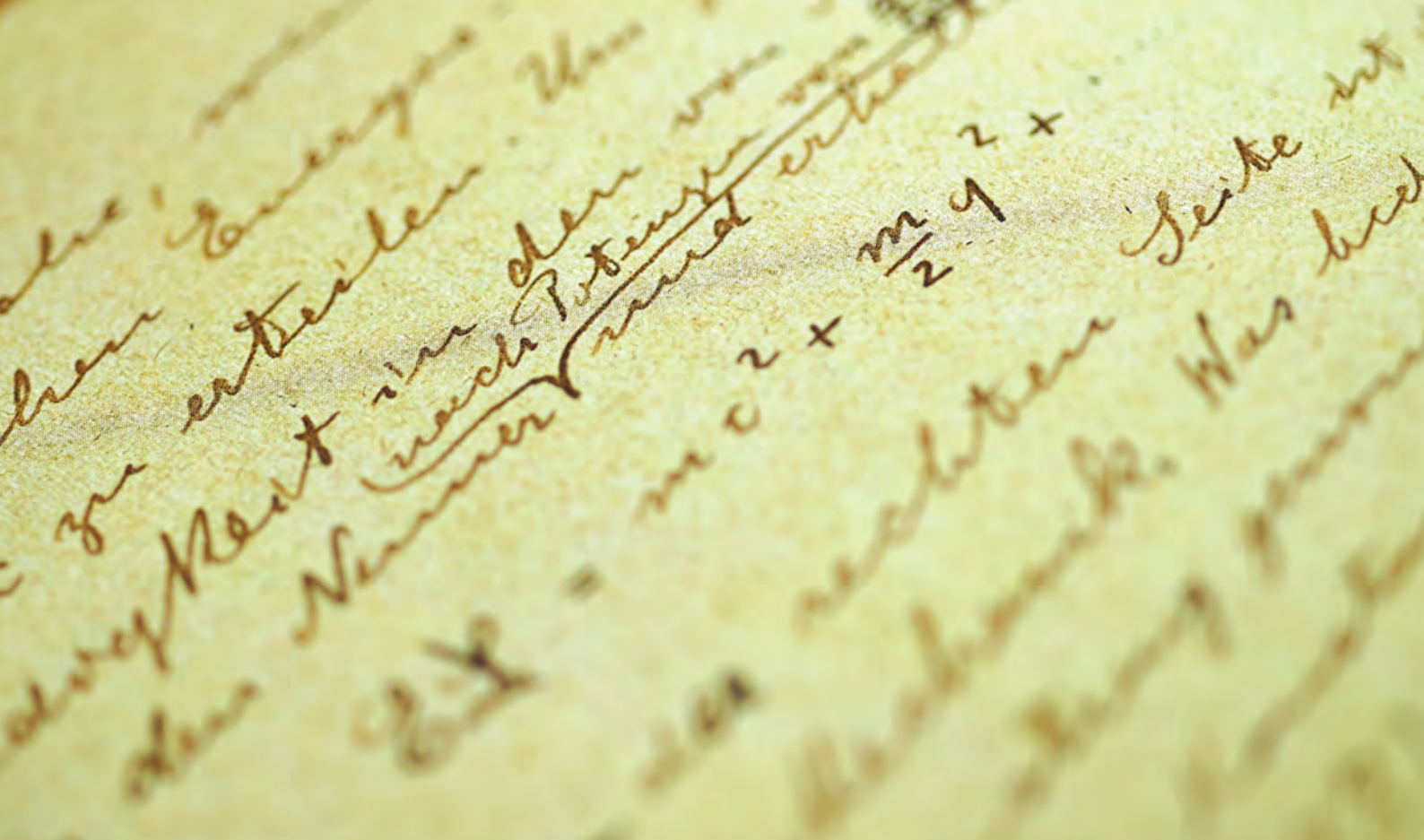
The Sixth Form offers a broad curriculum of A Level subjects which are respected by universities and employers.

The high level of in-depth study required at A Level ensures that students are adequately prepared for university. Students take on more responsibility for planning and managing their own studies. Small teaching groups mean that there is always support available to each student.

## **A LEVELS**

A Level examinations take place in the Summer with some A Levels offering coursework or practical assessment. Students typically take three A Levels plus the Extended Project Qualification over two years.

Choosing the right A Levels is an important step for each student. Decisions are reached during the Autumn and Spring terms of Year 11, with support provided by subject teachers, form tutors and senior members of staff.



# Results and Achievements

**At St Joseph's, success is about more than a set of exam results.  
It is about providing a broad education that enables each student  
to grow into a confident and mature adult, ready to take on  
challenges in all aspects of life.**

Paul Drechsler CBE, former CBI President, agrees that exam results are not the most important thing that employers look for: "Education is about more than results and rote learning, and should prioritise teaching that encourages thoughts, questions, creativity and teamworking. The power of education is to give people not just what they need to operate in today's workplace, but the spirit of enquiry that allows them to shape tomorrow's too."

At St Joseph's our aim is to provide an education which develops and nurtures the whole person.

Examination results will vary from year to year, and our aim is to ensure that each student achieves the best possible results in public exams. St Joseph's is not, and does not seek to be, an 'exam factory' because the school's approach to academic recruitment is inclusive rather than exclusive. It is vitally important to us that students fit well into the school

community, where they will develop a passion for learning, be happy and thrive, and leave us having achieved great things and with a smile.

Students at St Joseph's move on to study a wide range of degree level subjects and courses whether at universities, conservatoires or through professional apprenticeships.

Over the last three years, our students have accepted places at over thirty different universities, studying for almost fifty different degrees. The subjects they are passionate about are as diverse as the students themselves - from Law to Medicine, a Masters in Mechanical Engineering to Acting and Performance.

## **A Level results 2020**

A* to A	49%	A* to C	92%
A* to B	73%	A* to D	100%

# ***Extra Curricular and Leadership***

**Opportunities to take on new challenges are available to all students beyond academic study.**

Extra-curricular activities and opportunities for leadership enable students to acquire new skills and develop confidence and responsibility.

From coaching young teams on the sports field to conducting a musical ensemble, opportunities are available to suit every individual.

Music and Drama are an important part of College life and Sixth Formers play a significant role in concerts and drama productions, both on stage and behind the scenes.

St Joseph's has an award-winning track record of success in the Young Enterprise Scheme, which encourages students to learn about business and the workplace, developing management, finance and entrepreneurial skills.

Students are also invited to take part in the CAFOD Youth Leadership programme, and every Sixth Former is trained to be a Peer Mentor for younger pupils.

In addition, Sixth Formers lead the student community with positions of responsibility as Head Students, Prefects and House Officials, which develop maturity, leadership qualities and service to others.



## **DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD**

St Joseph's College is a Duke of Edinburgh Award Directly Licensed Centre and offers the Gold Award in the Sixth Form. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) aims to provide an enjoyable, non-competitive, challenging and rewarding programme of personal development. Expedition areas include the Brecon Beacons, Snowdonia and the Lake District.





# *University Preparation and Careers*

With a range of more than 40,000 courses at over 300 institutions in the UK alone, choosing the right higher education course is essential. It has also been shown that those students who pay careful attention to detailed research are most likely to conclude their courses successfully. Here at St Joseph's we pride ourselves in giving our students the best possible preparation for life beyond school, and our leavers' destinations are testimony to our success in doing so.

In the Sixth Form, students receive enhanced careers guidance by a team of professionals which includes the Head of Careers, the Head of Sixth Form, form tutors and subject specialists. We also run an external speaker programme with presentations on higher education and employment, led by business experts and university admissions tutors. Sixth Formers attend the College's biennial Careers Convention and have full use of the well-stocked careers library, including university prospectuses and a wealth of online resources.

Students are encouraged to consider their career prospects from the outset of their Sixth Form education. In Year 12, they receive regular careers lessons, led by the Head of Careers. They also attend the UCAS Conference and take part in a seminar, led by Surrey University, on how to write a Personal Statement.

In Year 13, students receive individualised and tailored support on writing their UCAS application, including their Personal Statement. Students are able to use the BridgeU programme to help them research universities and to write their Personal Statements. Emphasis is placed on how to maximise their chances of being successful at getting into their choice of university. We also run an extensive programme on employability skills, covering topics like graduate recruitment, higher apprenticeships, and work experience, amongst others. Furthermore, students undertake a mock interview with an experienced external interviewer as practice for university or employment interviews. The College encourages students to seek relevant work experience placements to enhance their university applications.



# ***Extended Project***

**The Extended Project develops students' ability to work independently in preparation for further study at a higher level.**

The Extended Project is a single piece of work that requires a high level of planning, preparation, research and autonomous study. It aims to improve students' critical thinking and time management skills and inspires them to develop a love of learning for learning's sake.

All students complete an Extended Project and have free choice in selecting their topic. Extended Project titles by our current Sixth Form include:

- Could animals benefit from recent advances in immune based treatments?
- 'Does prison prevent recidivism?
- Can e-sports replace real sport?
- Silent Killers; Can artists reduce the amount of waste going into the sea?
- How can human life be sustained on other planets?

The Extended Project helps students to develop a range of valuable skills through pursuing their interests and investigating topics in more depth. It demonstrates an ability to work independently, deliver a presentation, manage time, plan, research, edit and amend work with the support of a personal supervisor.

The qualification is the equivalent of one AS Level, and is worth up to 28 UCAS points. It has been praised by universities and employers as a valuable means of guiding students into higher education and the workplace.

The students performed very well this year, with 95% of them achieving an A\* to B grade.

# Enrichment

Enrichment offers students a wider experience of education at St Joseph's. It aims to broaden students' horizons, introduce them to new subjects, challenge them to think differently and inspire them to achieve in all areas of life.

The course will incorporate an array of different topics including presentations from outside speakers on topical issues, lectures from university lecturers in new subjects,

information on the UCAS process, volunteering, student finance and career prospects as well as an introduction to cooking at university.

All students take part in the enrichment programme and therefore leave the College with a better understanding of life beyond school. Most importantly, students will develop as independent, thoughtful citizens.

# Sport

**PE offers a varied programme of activities which are tailored to each student. We hope that every student will find something active that they enjoy doing.**

Our newly launched Senior Games Afternoon takes place every Thursday, giving students a regular opportunity to enjoy physical activity. They can choose to train, compete and develop their skills in a traditional team sport such as rugby, tennis or hockey, or alternatively they can try something completely new. Activities such as CrossFit, cheerleading and badminton are on offer, together with specialised training courses in climbing and golf amongst others.

The choice of activities varies during the year, enabling students to explore a number of different sports. Many of these take place offsite, taking advantage of specialist facilities in the local area.



# College Fees

## **The Governors of St Joseph's College seek to maintain fair and affordable fees.**

In 2020/21 school fees for each year group are £12,000 per annum, £4,000 per term. Fees are subject to Governor review for the beginning of each academic year.

Payment is made in advance by Direct Debit in ten monthly instalments from July to April.

Parents are given as much notice as possible of any increase in fees and up to date information is available online in the Parent Handbook.

### **REGISTRATION**

Upon registering a pupil, a non-refundable fee of £50 is payable to cover registration procedures and the entrance assessment.

### **DEPOSITS**

Once the offer of a place at the College has been accepted a non-refundable deposit of £500 is payable. This is returned, less any expenses incurred, after the pupil's final term in Year 13.

Acceptance of a place is on the understanding that both the pupils and his/her parents accept and conform to the conditions, requirements and regulations of the College, a copy of which may be obtained from the admissions department.

### **EXTRAS**

Whilst the College tries to include all its costs within the annual fees there are certain extras which are payable in addition and would include (list not exhaustive) the following:

- Daily transport to school
- Meals
- Educational visits, trips and field courses
- Instrumental music, speech and drama lessons
- Individual learning support lessons
- Public examination fees

### **BURSARIES**

A limited number of means tested bursaries are available.

Bursarial support may also be provided by St Joseph's where parents experience financial difficulties after a child has started at the College.

All bursaries are reviewed annually.

# ***General Information***

## **COLLEGE DAY**

Students may arrive from 7.45am. The school day begins at 8.20am and finishes at 3.40pm. At the end of the day, there are activities and games fixtures, which may require students to stay later, for which advance notice is given. Students may remain in the College to study until 6.00pm.

## **COLLEGE MEALS**

Breakfast, morning break, lunch and tea are served daily in the College Dining Hall and students can choose from a wide range of hot and cold food. Payment for meals is made in advance via a cashless payment system.

## **HOUSE SYSTEM**

There is a vertical House System for Academic, Sporting and Social Activities. All pupils belong to one of four Houses: Dixon, Hummel, Jennings and Richardson.

With regular meetings and competitions, there is strong commitment to the House system. The Sixth Form undertakes much of the organisation of House events, and friendly rivalry exists at all levels for sport and inter-House events.

## **ENTRANCE PROCEDURE**

Entry into Year 12 for students joining the College is dependent upon an interview with the Headmaster and the Head of Sixth Form and a satisfactory report from the applicant's current school. The academic standard is normally a minimum of five good GCSE grades.

# ***A Level Subjects***

Art and Design	15
Biology	16
Business Studies	17
Chemistry	18
Classical Civilisation	19
Computer Science	20
Drama and Theatre Studies	21
Economics	22
English Literature	23
French	24
Geography	25
History	26
Information Technology	27
Mathematics (and Further Mathematics)	28
Media Studies	29
Music	30
Philosophy, Ethics and Religion	31
Physical Education	32
Physics	33
Psychology	34
Spanish	35



# Art and Design

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Fine Art or Graphic Design.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

Edexcel

## COURSE AIMS

To develop your ability to appreciate the visual world and to enable you to respond in a personal and creative way. The course will encourage you to refine your technical skills, trust your creative instincts and investigate the work of varying artists enabling your personal style to evolve. The course aims to foster an enquiring mind, enjoyment and appreciation of Art and Design as a visual language.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Personal investigation	60%
2. Externally set assignment	40%

## COURSE CONTENT

The structure of the course offers rich opportunities for students to pursue their own interests and lines of enquiry in the pathways of Fine Art, Art, Craft and Design or Graphic Communication. They will build on existing knowledge and develop skills demonstrating a breadth and depth of the formal elements, through experimentation of a wide range of media. All approaches are catered for, from figurative to abstract and conceptual.

## CAREER PROSPECTS

Art and Design can lead to a range of careers, including architecture, interior design, graphic design, conservation/restoration, teaching, events organising, journalism, auctioneering, product design, television research, photography, film and television, animation, exhibition design, curation, fashion design, textile design, jewellery and fine art.

# Biology

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology, or Grade 7 or above in Combined Science.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

Edexcel

## COURSE AIMS

The course helps students develop a number of skills such as collecting and evaluating data, investigating facts and using deduction, communicating a point of view effectively and developing independent learning skills.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Natural Environment and Species Survival	33.3%
2. Energy, Exercise and Co-ordination	33.3%
3. General and Practical Applications in Biology	33.3%

## COURSE CONTENT

The A Level Biology course is made up of eight topics. Four are covered in Year 12 and four are covered in Year 13.

1. Lifestyle, Health and Risk
2. Genes and Health
3. Voice of the Genome
4. Biodiversity and Natural Resources
5. On the Wild Side
6. Immunity, Infection and Forensics
7. Run for your Life
8. Grey Matter

## CAREER PROSPECTS

Many students study Biology as their only A Level science and go on to careers in law, management, computing or accounting. However, if you wish to choose a biologically related degree course, Chemistry should also be studied. Adding Physics or Mathematics will give you even greater options such as biotechnology, genetic engineering, medicine, veterinary science, physiotherapy, pharmacy, biochemistry, ecology, nursing, sports science, teaching, zoology, marine biology, or forensic science.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

There are visits to Reading University to see their Electron Microscope and Bayer to perform complex experiments in a research environment.

Our weekly Café Scientifique gives students an opportunity to hear external guest speakers present about their work and how STEM subjects are used in a broad range of academic and industrial areas. Students in the Sixth Form also develop leadership skills as they support younger pupils in our very lively STEM club.

# Business Studies

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a Grade 6 and a Grade 5 across GCSE English and Mathematics.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

Edexcel

## COURSE AIMS

To generate enterprising and creative approaches to business opportunities, problems and issues. To be aware of the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities faced by organisations and individuals. To acquire a range of relevant business and generic skills, including decision making, problem solving, the challenging of assumptions and critical analysis. To apply numerical skills in a range of business contexts.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Marketing, people and global businesses	35%
2. Business activities, decisions and strategy	35%
3. Investigating business in a competitive environment/ Global business	30%

## COURSE CONTENT

### Theme 1

• meeting customer needs • the market • marketing mix and strategy • managing people • entrepreneurs and leaders.

### Theme 2

• raising finance • financial planning • managing finance • resource management • external influences.

### Theme 3

• business objectives and strategy • business growth • decision-making techniques • influences on business decisions • assessing competitiveness • managing change.

### Theme 4

• globalisation • global markets and business expansion • global marketing • global industries and companies (multinational corporations).

## CAREER PROSPECTS

Business studies graduates are found in almost every employment sector: retail; distribution; hospitality and leisure; financial institutions; sales; marketing; production management; professional services (chartered accountancy, business consultancy, law and tax); finance (banking, city markets, insurance); major industrial and manufacturing organisations; media and others.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Visits to business organisations including the mini plant in Oxford. Opportunities to attend conferences and lectures. Running a business through the Young Enterprise scheme. Taking part in ICAEW's national Business Accounting and Skills Education competition.



# Chemistry

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry or Grade 7 or above in Combined Science.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

Edexcel

## COURSE AIMS

Chemistry is often called the central science. The course provides a practical experience for students to increase their enjoyment and understanding of Chemistry, along with the skills to study the subject at a higher level.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Inorganic and Physical Chemistry	30%
2. Organic and Physical Chemistry	30%
3. General and Practical Principles in Chemistry	40%

## COURSE CONTENT

In Year 12 Chemistry provides the foundations of chemical principles, which are developed and applied further in Year 13. Through studying selected topics in Organic, Physical and Inorganic Chemistry, students have the opportunities to make observations, critically analyse results and use their problem solving skills. Different aspects of contemporary chemistry contexts are included such as pharmaceuticals and alternative fuels.

Practical work plays an important role in the study of Chemistry.

## CAREER PROSPECTS

Chemistry A Level provides students with many transferable skills such as problem solving, analysis and numeracy. Besides continuing to study Chemistry or other science subjects at a higher level, many students will also go into careers such as finance, insurance and banking.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

The Chemistry department has close links to Reading University. Students usually have the opportunity to visit the Spectroscopy suite at the University during their course.

Our weekly Café Scientifique gives students an opportunity to hear external guest speakers present about their work and how STEM subjects are used in a broad range of academic and industrial areas. Students in the Sixth Form also develop leadership skills as they support younger pupils in our very lively STEM club.

# Classical Civilisation

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a Grade 6 and a Grade 5 across English and another Humanities subject.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

OCR

## COURSE AIMS

The Classical Civilisation A Level qualification provides students with a broad and rewarding study of the classical world. Students have the opportunity to study elements of the literature, visual/material culture and thoughts of the classical world while acquiring an understanding of their social historical and cultural contexts.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. The World of the Hero	40%
2. Imperial Image	30%
3. Greek Religion	30%

## COURSE CONTENT

The course is made up of three modules.

Module 1 The World of the Hero is a compulsory component consisting of an in-depth study of one of Homer's epic poems and Virgil's Aeneid.

For module 2, Culture and the Arts, we will study Imperial Image. The idea of a politician 'spinning' their public image is one which is very familiar from our contemporary media; and so this exploration of a Roman politician Augustus Caesar and his successful propaganda campaign is both highly relevant and engaging.

For module 3, Beliefs and Ideas, we will study Greek Religion. Religion was an essential part of ancient Greek identity. Studying the practicalities of religious ritual, and the role it plays in society, alongside the functions and layout of famous temple complexes, will help develop your understanding of the central role religion played in the life of everyday people.

## CAREER PROSPECTS

Humanities qualifications are popular with universities and employers alike, and show that you are able to deal critically and logically with subjective, complex, imperfect information. You will build your skills in writing and critical reading and will learn to understand others through their languages, histories and cultures.

# Computer Science

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in Computer Science GCSE and Grade 6 or above in Mathematics GCSE.

Students must have their own Windows 10 Laptop with MS-Office.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

OCR

## COURSE AIMS

To understand the principles of computer science. To be able to analyse problems in computational terms. To be able to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Computer Systems (written)	40%
2. Algorithms and Programming (written)	40%
3. Programming Project	20%

## COURSE CONTENT

Computer systems:

- Processors, input, output and storage devices
- Software development
- Data exchange, data types and structures
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical

Algorithms and programming:

- Algorithms
- Computational thinking
- Problem solving

Programming project (non-exam assessment)

Students will be expected to analyse a problem, design, develop, test, evaluate and document a program. The program must solve the problem and should be written in a suitable programming language.

## CAREER PROSPECTS

This course would lead to computer science related degrees and then careers such as: Software Development, Information Analyst, Cyber Security Analyst or IT Project Manager

## EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Students will have the opportunity to take part in the CyberCenturion Cyber Security Challenge. They may also become involved in programming the school's digital lighting desk and operating the other audio visual equipment.

# Drama and Theatre Studies

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Drama, or a strong interest in the subject. interest in the subject.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

AQA

## COURSE AIMS

The course aims: to explore theatre as an art form both literary and visual - understanding cultural social, historical context; to develop students' skills in a range of theatrical mediums: acting, directing, design and theatre technologies; to enable students to think creatively, work collaboratively and respond analytically.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Drama and Theatre	40%
2. Creating Original Drama	30%
3. Making Theatre	30%

## COURSE CONTENT

There are three components:

C1: Drama and Theatre - a written exam comprising study of two pieces of theatrical literature and analysis of one live performance seen. Students explore both from the perspective of performer, director and designer articulating and justifying their ideas for a theatrical realisation of the text.

C2: Creating Original Drama - devising a piece of theatre, applying the theory and practice of influential practitioners, evaluating their ideas in a written response.

C3: Making Theatre - performance of three theatrical texts applying a practitioner to each interpretation.

## CAREER PROSPECTS

Careers within the creative arts industries: producer, director, casting, stage or theatre management, theatre design, acting, media, sound production and many more.

Any careers requiring creative, analytical thinking skills, capacity to lead and work collaboratively and excellent communication skills: project management, event management, law, teaching, journalism, politics, PR and marketing amongst many other disciplines.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Regular theatre visits are undertaken and workshops are held within and outside school. Students are invited to help with lower school productions, as well as participating in their own senior and whole school performances. Students can also take optional Speech and Drama lessons (LAMDA).



# Economics

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English and Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

AQA

## COURSE AIMS

In Economics you will look at issues which affect our lives, such as economic scarcity, employment, prices, international trade and poverty. Economists often debate over these issues. It is this controversy which makes Economics lively and interesting and which allows you to form your own opinions.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Markets and market failure	33.3%
2. National and international economy	33.3%
3. Economic principles and issues	33.3%

## COURSE CONTENT

### Individuals, firms, markets and market failure

1. Economic methodology and the economic problem
2. Individual economic decision making
3. Price determination in a competitive market
4. Production, costs and revenue
5. Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly
6. The labour market
7. The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
8. The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets

### The national and international economy

1. The measurement of macroeconomic performance
2. How the macroeconomy works: the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis, and related concepts
3. Economic performance
4. Financial markets and monetary policy
5. Fiscal policy and supply-side policies
6. The international economy

## CAREER PROSPECTS

Economics is a versatile subject that can help you in a number of careers. Not only could you find yourself working for big corporations, banks or the government but your qualification in Economics could also be valuable in a career such as

# English Literature

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Literature and Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

AQA

## COURSE AIMS

To foster a love of, and appreciation for, a range of literature.

To encourage students to pursue their own independent study and research into an area of literature they especially enjoy.

To broaden their knowledge and encourage wider reading of texts that have shaped our own and other cultures.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Love through the ages	40%
2. Texts in shared context - Modern Times - 1945 to the present day	40%
3. Independent Critical study	20%

## COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1 explores one poetry and one prose text from a set list - one of which must have been written before 1900 - alongside a Shakespeare text. The examination will include an unseen extract and will involve comparison of unseen with previously studied material.

Paper 2 will allow students to work with open book on their set texts taken from a specified time period - in this case post 1945 - and will also involve comparison with unseen material. Texts include prose, poetry and drama.

The Independent Critical study allows students to produce a researched piece on two texts of their choice on which they have to produce independently a 2500 word essay.

## CAREER PROSPECTS

A Level English Literature is highly recommended for Law related degree courses, Business degree courses or degrees in the social sciences. Careers which use the analysis of ideas, literacy skills and the ability to communicate. Specialised careers, like print journalism, writing, media or advertising, will especially welcome students with these skills.

Finally, an A Level in English Literature will show others that you are an articulate, well-read and well informed young adult.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Students go on a wide variety of theatre trips and also take part in conferences.

# French

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE French.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

AQA

## COURSE AIMS

You will learn not only more French, but also more about how French speakers live, think and feel: A Level French, rooted firmly in the French-speaking world, aims to broaden, enrich and inspire.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Listening, Reading, Translation from and into French on cultural/social/political topics	50%
2. Writing in French about film/literature	20%
3. Speaking about cultural/social/political topic and individual research topic	30%

## COURSE CONTENT

In Year 12 you will discover young French speakers' experience and opinions of music, cinema, family and society. You will also study one film, novel, or play. You will learn to share your own views engagingly in French.

In Year 13 you will explore social and political issues like integration and exclusion, participation and protest, study a novel or play and research a topic of personal interest.

## CAREER PROSPECTS

Whether your career is in business, law, the media or science, French will be an asset: your skills as negotiator, communicator, researcher or language learner, and your understanding of a foreign culture will be highly prized by employers in our increasingly small world, where your colleagues, customers and competitors will be multinational and multilingual.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Sixth Form linguists enjoy opportunities to visit France and see French films, plays and exhibitions closer to home.

# Geography

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

AQA

## COURSE AIMS

To encourage students to recognise the complexity of the relationship between people and their environment. To encourage students to engage as knowledgeable, questioning citizens, who realise that the values, attitudes and circumstances of people impact upon their decisions in the world.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Physical Geography	40%
2. Human Geography	40%
3. Individual Investigation, leading to a written report	20%

## COURSE CONTENT

The course includes a variety of Physical and Human topics, which reflect current world issues and themes, such as the stresses being imposed on many physical environments, and the problems of resource security in the world today. There will be four days of fieldwork and the use and analysis of graphs, maps, statistics and digital data. Students will complete an individual investigation leading to a written report and two written exams, with data response questions and questions requiring more extended essays.

## CAREER PROSPECTS

Geography has one of the highest rates of graduate employability and is highly valued by employers for its knowledge base and the application of key skills. Geographers develop a sound understanding of current issues at local, national and global scales and become adept at data collection, presentation and analysis. Geographers enter many areas of employment, especially those involved in tourism, social services, environmental matters, marketing and research.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Students have the opportunity to complete a variety of fieldwork including a day trip to East London and a two-day residential to the south coast. The department regularly attends study days at the Royal Geographical Society, the Mountain and Ocean Film Festivals at the Hexagon and has a very active eco-committee.



# History

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE History.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

OCR

## COURSE AIMS

History aims to develop candidates' expertise in analysing and evaluating documents and acquiring knowledge of a wide range of topics in British and European History.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. British Period Study and Enquiry	25%
2. Non-British Period Study	15%
3. Thematic Study and Historical Interpretations	40%
4. Non-exam assessment	20%

## COURSE CONTENT

The course content will cover topics of History ranging from Medieval to Modern, focusing in detail on political, social and economic themes. The final module which is completed independently by the student can be on a topic of their choosing, dependent on their proficiency.

## CAREER PROSPECTS

History can be useful for all of the following:

The Armed Forces and the Police, law, the media, national and local government the Civil Service and the Diplomatic Service, horticulture and nature conservation, architecture and the conservation of buildings/artefacts, archaeology, teaching, lecturing, record offices and archives, heritage organisations and charities, museums and galleries.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

University lectures that tie in with the course and off-site study visits to places such as the Tower of London.

# Information Technology

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE ICT or Computer Science.

Students must have their own Windows 10 Laptop with MS-Office.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

CIE

## COURSE AIMS

This course sees students develop a wide range of IT skills together with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of IT. Candidates are encouraged to become discerning users of IT.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Theory	25%
2. Practical	25%
3. Advanced Theory	25%
4. Advanced Practical	25%

## COURSE CONTENT:

Data processing and information	Sound and video editing
Hardware and software	IT in society
Monitoring and control	New and emerging technologies
Algorithms and flow charts	Communications technology
eSecurity	Project management
The digital divide	System life cycle
Expert systems	Mail merge
Spreadsheets	Graphics creation
Modelling	Animation
Database and file concepts	Programming for the web

## CAREER PROSPECTS

System analysis, website development, a range of opportunities in management information systems, database administration, graphic design.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Students will have the opportunity to take part in the CyberCenturion Cyber Security Challenge. They may also

# Mathematics

## Further Mathematics

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

For Further Mathematics, at least Grade 7 and preferably Grade 8 in GCSE or iGCSE Mathematics.

### EXAMINATION BOARD

AQA - A Level Mathematics

Edexcel - Further Mathematics

### COURSE AIMS

An A Level in Mathematics is one of the most valuable qualifications you can achieve before a degree. The course is designed to enable students to develop mathematical skills, coherent arguments, logical reasoning and problem solving skills.

### ASSESSMENT

A Level Mathematics

Unit	Assessment
1. Pure	33.3%
2. Pure and Mechanics	33.3%
3. Pure and Statistics	33.3%

A Level Further Mathematics

Unit	Assessment
1. Core Maths (Pure)	25%
2. Core Maths (Pure)	25%
3. Option Paper (Pure/Mechanics/Statistics/Decision)	25%
4. Option Paper (Pure/Mechanics/Statistics/Decision)	25%

### COURSE CONTENT

The A Level in Mathematics is split between Pure Mathematics and Mechanics and Statistics. The main components of Pure Mathematics include Algebra, Geometry, Calculus, Proof and Trigonometry. The Mechanics and Statistics component covers Kinematics, Newton's Laws, Probability, Statistical Distributions and Hypothesis Testing. The course is assessed by three two-hour papers of equal weighting at the end of the two years of study. There is no coursework component. A calculator is permitted in all papers.

A Level Further Mathematics is a separate qualification to Mathematics and can be taken as a fourth A Level option. The additional content introduces the student to new topics including Complex numbers, Matrices, Differential Equations as well as furthering Statistics or Mechanics knowledge. There is some choice in what students study in Further Mathematics, and we will always tailor our advice to the student.

### CAREER PROSPECTS

All employers and universities will look favourably on a candidate with a good A Level in Mathematics. Beyond the obvious careers of medicine and engineering, and careers in the sciences and financial sectors, the skills used to develop reasoning and coherent argument are useful in business, law, journalism and many more besides.

### EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Students will take part in the Senior Mathematical Challenge run by the United Kingdom Mathematical Trust, and some will be selected to take part in the Team Maths Challenge. There is a well attended weekly Mathematics clinic that offers support to students.

# Media Studies

## *\*subject to demand*

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in English Language and Literature

### EXAMINATION BOARD

Eduqas

### COURSE AIMS

Studying A Level Media concerns critically engaging with media texts of all types; analysing ideas in television, radio, music, video games, advertising, film, print media and online and social participatory media.

### ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Analysing Media Language & Understanding Media Industries and Audiences	35%
2. Television in the Global Age; Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media; Media in the Online Age	35%
3. Coursework: An individual cross-media production	30%

### COURSE CONTENT

The media curriculum is underpinned by the key concepts of media studies: industry, audience, media language and representation. Students will be encouraged to consider their own experience of the media industry and analytically consider the role it plays in their own lives. There are frequent opportunities for links with English Language, History, Psychology, Criminology and Sociology.

### CAREER PROSPECTS

Studying Media equips students for a range of opportunities beyond KS5. Such as working in a media industry (television, radio, film, online/participatory media, digital media, advertising and marketing), journalism, editing, events management, market research, public relations and teaching.

### EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Students will have the opportunity to visit a TV studio, attend professional events promoting products and visit theme parks such as Harry Potter World tbc.



# Music

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Music.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

OCR

## COURSE AIMS

A Level Music aims to extend the skills required to take part in, and appreciate making, music, developing each student's musical interests, encouraging lifelong learning and providing access to music-related and other careers.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Performing - Recital	35%
2. Composing - Two Compositions	25%
3. Listening and Appraising	40%

## COURSE CONTENT

A Level Music offers an exciting combination of performance and composition alongside listening and appraising. There is a strong element of choice in all parts of the examination, whether you are selecting pieces to play in your recital, choosing a style of music in which to compose or deciding which set works to study (ranging from Beethoven's Third Symphony to Louis Armstrong's Heebie Jeebies).

## CAREER PROSPECTS

Students who study A Level Music often continue with music for higher education but equally study subjects ranging from English to Mathematics and the sciences.

Careers involving music often include: being a musician, music education, the theatre, arts, media, recording or music therapy.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Apart from regular concert trips, A Level students participate in most extra-curricular activities within the College as well as running Junior Wind Band and A Capella.

They can benefit from recitals, masterclasses and lunchtime concerts from professional musicians, and take part in musical productions such as Little Shop of Horrors and Sister Act. Students can also travel abroad with our biennial music tours to Europe.

# Philosophy, Ethics and Religion

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Religious Studies.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

OCR

## COURSE AIMS

- Develop interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate it to the wider world
- Develop knowledge and understanding appropriate to a specialist study of religion
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies
- Adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion
- Reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Philosophy of Religion	33.3%
2. Religion and Ethics	33.3%
3. Developments in Religious Thought	33.3%

## COURSE CONTENT

Philosophy of Religion: ancient philosophical influences; the nature of the soul, mind and body; arguments about the existence or non-existence of God; the nature and impact of religious experience; the challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil; ideas about the nature of God; issues in religious language.

Religion and Ethics: normative ethical theories; the application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance; ethical language and thought; debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience; sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

Developments in Religious Thought: religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world; sources of religious wisdom and authority; practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition; significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought; key themes related to the relationship between religion and society in the context of one religion.

## CAREER PROSPECTS

This course will teach you how to put forward logical arguments and back them up with evidence. It will also help you to focus your thoughts into concise and precise structures. This course is useful to all careers from medicine to law, business, journalism, politics and performing arts.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Year 12 have the opportunity to take part in the CAFOD Youth Leadership scheme.

# Physical Education

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE PE.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

AQA

## COURSE AIMS

A course which allows students to play to their strengths in performing their main sport to a high level. Theoretical content offers a deeper understanding of how the mind and the body of a performer change and adapt to the varying demands of training and competition.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Theory Paper 1	35%
2. Theory Paper 2	35%
3. Practical	30%

## COURSE CONTENT

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Skill Acquisition
- Sport in Society
- Exercise Physiology
- Biomechanics
- Sports Psychology
- Sport Technology in Society
- Practical Performance or Coaching in one sport

## CAREER PROSPECTS

Careers involving Physical Education include: PE teacher, personal trainer, physiotherapist, elite sports coach, sports journalist, dietician and sports technology.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Students have the opportunity to develop their skills beyond the classroom in a variety of ways: organising and running their own sessions, coaching junior teams or taking part in structured activities with staff.

# Physics

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Physics or Grade 7 or above in Combined Science, and Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

AQA

## COURSE AIMS

Physics A Level offers a seamless transition from GCSE studies. It provides a smooth pathway to university courses in physics and other subjects in which physics is a key component, whilst developing students' interest and enthusiasm.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Sections 1 to 6.1	34%
2. Sections 6.2 to 8	34%
3. Practical skills and Option	32%

## COURSE CONTENT

The course includes an interesting range of topics for both theory and practical study, such as Mechanics, Waves, Nuclear and Particle Physics, and Electric Circuits. The Physics department has two well-equipped laboratories and has very good technical support. Students regularly carry out experimental work to understand theory better and develop their practical skills.

## CAREER PROSPECTS

Physics at A Level is an excellent basis for many degree courses, and plays a very good supporting role for the study of other sciences, mathematics, medicine, computing or engineering. A Level Physics is a highly regarded qualification and the shortage of scientists will make you valuable for a wide range of courses and careers.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Pupils get to see the most advanced research in Particle Physics during a trip to CERN in Geneva and Gas Physics is illustrated by a Scuba Diving initiation. Each year, teams enter the very successful F1 in Schools Challenge. Our weekly Cafe Scientifique gives pupils an opportunity to hear external guest speakers present about their work and how STEM subjects are used in a broad range of academic and industrial areas. Pupils in the Sixth Form also develop leadership skills as they support younger pupils in our very lively STEM club.

# Psychology

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English and Mathematics and  
Grade 6 or above in GCSE Science.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

AQA

## COURSE AIMS

To offer an engaging and effective introduction to Psychology, covering the fundamentals and enabling the development of skills valued by Higher Education and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Introductory Topics in Psychology	33.3%
2. Psychology in Context	33.3%
3. Issues and Options in Psychology	33.3%

## COURSE CONTENT

The course covers:

- approaches and methods related to the core areas of Psychology - cognitive, social, biological, developmental, individual differences and research methods.
- explanations from different perspectives, along with psychological issues and debates.
- a range of attractive topic options to ensure that students experience an interesting, diverse and coherent course of study.

All units are examined through multiple-choice, short answer and extended answer questions.

## CAREER PROSPECTS

The scientific aspects of Psychology, including application of reasoning and data manipulation, generate skills for careers in healthcare, law enforcement, finance, IT and research; whilst understanding human behaviour and motivation, ability to critically analyse problems, formulate considered responses and generate new ideas, are welcome in the creative industries, the legal sector, government administration and education.

# Spanish

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Spanish.

## EXAMINATION BOARD

AQA

## COURSE AIMS

A Level Spanish helps students develop confident, effective communication skills in Spanish and a thorough understanding of the culture of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. It develops an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language learning and encourages students to consider their study of the language in a broader context.

## ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment
1. Listening, Reading and Writing	50%
2. Writing	20%
3. Speaking	30%

## COURSE CONTENT

Contents:

1. Social issues and trends
  - 1.1 Aspects of Hispanic Society
  - 1.2 Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society
2. Political and artistic culture
  - 2.1 Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
  - 2.2 Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world
3. Grammar
4. Works
  - 4.1 Literature: **La Casa de Barnarda Alba**
  - 4.2 Film: **Ocho Apellidos Vascos**

## CAREER PROSPECTS

Whichever career you specialise in, being fluent in Spanish will be an asset. In today's global world, the skills developed through language learning, as well as extensive knowledge of a foreign culture, are highly prized by employers and universities. Top businesses, industries and universities are multinational and multilingual.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Residential trips to Spain, attendance at exam skills conferences, theatre visits, trips to the Flamenco Festival, tapas evenings, Spanish film nights/cinema outings, access to Spanish media, weekly conversation lessons with the Spanish assistant.



TES INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL OF THE YEAR 2015/16

OUTSTANDING PROGRESS AWARD  
EDUCATION BUSINESS AWARDS 2016

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP TEAM  
LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2016

SHORTLISTED FOR TES WELLBEING AWARD 2019

SHORTLISTED FOR i25 AWARD 2019

SHORTLISTED FOR INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL OF THE YEAR 2019

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, READING

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