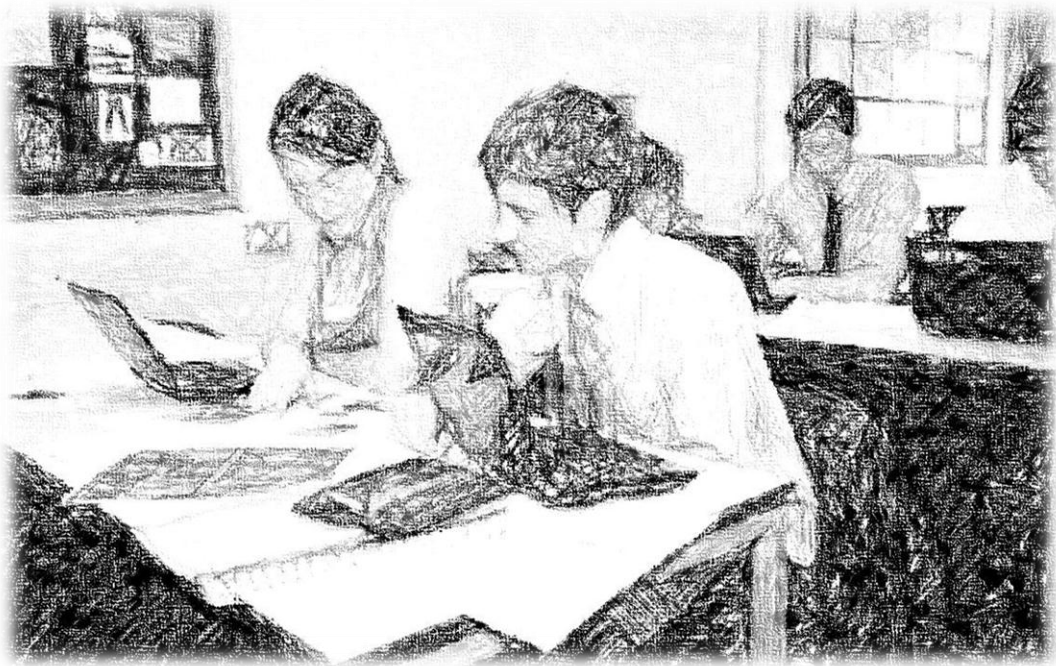


The Holy Cross School &  
Richard Challoner School

# SIXTH FORM

F E D E R A T I O N

INFORMATION BOOKLET  
ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2012



*We believe that every student can fulfil their God-given talent with the right commitment and support. Creating this opportunity for every Sixth Form student is the real goal we strive for.*

Dear Prospective Federation Sixth Formers

The Federation of Holy Cross School and Richard Challoner School at post-16 level has been in existence for over 30 years. Our two Catholic schools join together to provide a stimulating environment in which all our students can thrive and grow.

### **Guidance and Support**

With over 440 students in the Federation the community is vibrant, yet of a size where young people receive excellent guidance and support. This guidance is essential to ensure that all students make sustained and substantial academic progress on their journey towards university or employment. Individual mentoring meetings with senior staff take place at the start of Year 12 to ensure that all students are following appropriate courses and are fully aware of the individual targets to which they should aspire.

### **Investment**

In recent years our two schools have benefitted from over ten million pounds of capital building which has significantly enhanced the Sixth Form's educational environment.

### **Find out more**

In this booklet you will have the opportunity to find out more about the wide range of subjects, both academic and applied, that are available. The breadth of curriculum offers the opportunity for students to follow a variety of courses where the assessment criteria are best suited to their individual talents.

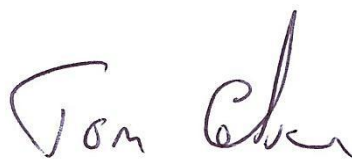
### **A warm welcome**

Our Federation offers a warm and welcoming Catholic community in which all students have the opportunity to develop their talents to the full.

Yours sincerely



Tom Cahill  
Headteacher  
Richard Challoner School



Tom Gibson  
Headteacher  
Holy Cross School

## **OUR SIXTH FORM**

The Holy Cross and Richard Challoner Federation is able to provide all the advantages of a large Sixth Form whilst still retaining the benefit of an organisation which knows its students as individuals. This means that we are able to provide:

- A learning environment in a caring community where each student is treated as an individual.
- A pastoral care system which offers continuous support to students during their academic, personal and social development within the Sixth Form.
- Full support and guidance with University applications, career development and life beyond school.
- Modern classrooms, computer suites and dedicated facilities including a lecture theatre, psychology laboratory, drama and dance studios, sports halls, a state of the art fitness centre and a 6<sup>th</sup> form café.
- Leadership opportunities through a prefect system, peer mentoring, Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, Young Enterprise, Student Supporters, Community Service and Millennium Volunteers.

## **PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE**

The process of applying to Higher Education starts in the summer term of Year 12 with a week of university-related activities. These aim to focus on courses and university choices, Gap Year possibilities, UCAS applications and the writing of Personal Statements delivered through presentations, outside speakers and personal guidance.

A feature of this preparation is a day when former students and university student ambassadors share their knowledge and experience of university courses and life with our current students.

Recent destinations of Federation students include Cambridge (Modern Foreign Languages), Oxford (English), Queen Mary's (Law), St George's (Medicine), King's College London (Dentistry and Medicine) and University College London (Speech Sciences).

For those who are looking to take a different route into employment we offer sessions on "How to write the perfect CV", together with support and interview practice.

Our students have a diverse range of skills and talents and our aim within the Sixth Form Federation is to be fully inclusive ensuring success for all, wherever these talents may lie.

## **LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM**

Joining the Federation offers both new responsibilities and new privileges. We aim to promote the best habits of independent thought, learning and research and we strive to foster self-confidence, enthusiasm, perseverance and integrity. Twice a year we celebrate the achievements of our students with an "Awards Breakfast" and those who merit awards for their motivation, commitment and progress are then invited to a "Rewards Dinner". Our Common Rooms and Sixth Form Café provide the centre of social life at break and lunch times where students are able to relax and make new friends. Students are encouraged to organise social events such as Quiz Nights and Theatre and Concert Visits, as well as to raise money for local charities via the Charities Committee. There are a wide range of sporting, art, drama and musical opportunities for students to enjoy. The culmination of Year 13 is the Leavers' Ball held at Epsom Race Course. This is organised by the Sixth Form Social Committee and provides our students with a memorable ending to their time within the Sixth Form Federation. The Federation is characterised by its friendly atmosphere. Students, teachers and support staff work together to promote an environment in which we aim to develop an enquiring mind and a respect for others.

## **OPPORTUNITIES AND ACTIVITIES**

We offer opportunities through a wide variety of activities for each student to widen their academic, cultural and spiritual experiences. Each academic year begins with a Sixth Form Mass and during the year, students help to organise the Christmas and Easter Festivals. Other activities include visits to the Tate Modern, Biology and Geography Field Trips and Art and Drama workshops.

## **ADMISSION CRITERIA**

Admission is open primarily to those students in Year 11 currently attending Holy Cross School and Richard Challoner School and, in addition, if places are available, to students who have attended other institutions.

To study Level 3 (AS and Applied) courses, students must have obtained at least five GCSEs Grade C or above including English and Mathematics. They must also have a GCSE Grade B or above in the subject they wish to study, or in an equivalent subject if it is one not studied at KS4.

All students, whether internal or external, applying to the Sixth Form Federation, will be interviewed and will be required to provide the following:

1. A commitment on the part of the student to contribute to the ethos of a Catholic school.
2. Evidence of the appropriate motivation and enthusiasm to follow their chosen courses and the ability to work independently. A student's record of attendance and punctuality will be taken into consideration.
3. Evidence, supported by a reference from a student's Form Tutor/Head of Year, that the student is likely to behave in the mature and responsible way expected of Sixth Form students.
4. A commitment on the part of the student to contribute to the life of the school and to act as a "role model" for the younger students.

### **CHOOSING THE RIGHT COURSE FOR YOU**

There is a wide range of courses available, allowing students to select programmes of study suited to their individual needs and aspirations.

**Level 3 Courses: GCE AS** courses consisting of 2/3 units examined during Year 12. They represent the first year of "A" level and must be achieved before proceeding to "A2" level.

**GCE A2** courses consisting of a further 2/3 units examined during Year 13.

**Applied** courses offering students the opportunity to study within a work based context.

All Level 3 courses carry the same UCAS tariff for university.

**Level 2 Courses:** These courses are appropriate for students who have yet to achieve 5 GCSEs at Grade C or above. They are one year courses and may lead on to Level 3 courses. There is the opportunity for students to resit their GCSE English and Mathematics to improve their grade.

Level 2 courses in Public Services, Media Studies and Community Sports Leadership are also available.

**University Entrance:** If you wish to move on from the Sixth Form to University and you know the subject that you wish to study, you will need to consider the UCAS point's tariff and the requirements that may be needed for your chosen degree.

### **WHAT SHOULD YOU CHOOSE?**

You must think about your strengths and aspirations in selecting your programme of study. Look carefully at the content of the courses in this booklet. Are you good at coursework; is there a coursework section? Do you prefer formal examinations? Is practical work one of your strengths? Think about what you want to achieve by the end of your time in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Federation. Discuss your hopes and ambitions with your family and your teachers who will give you invaluable advice.

### **THE PASTORAL SYSTEM**

We will take care to ensure that the courses you follow in the Sixth Form are appropriate to your needs and ambitions, and that you have chosen a programme in which you are likely to succeed. To further assist you in your studies you will be assigned a personal tutor or a mentor who will support your learning and personal development. PSE sessions are held weekly and attendance is compulsory. The programme includes:

- An Induction programme for new students
- Advice on university applications
- Visits to universities and talks from university tutors
- A career's programme with work experience and/or voluntary work
- Mock interviews
- Speakers from a wide variety of subject areas

When students are not in timetabled classes, they are expected to study in the designated study areas or to use their time wisely for practical work, work experience or voluntary work. Tutors/Mentors will monitor the effective use of this time.

### **THE PREFECT SYSTEM**

All Sixth Form students have the opportunity to apply for a position in the Prefect system.

Students are able to take responsibility for duties around the school and for helping with younger students.

This role allows students to demonstrate their reliability and their trustworthiness and is an excellent reference for university or job applications.

### **PART TIME JOBS**

Many students will have part-time jobs in the Sixth Form and can gain valuable experiences through these. However it is vital that students do not work too many hours or their academic success will be adversely affected. We recommend that no more than eight hours are allocated each week to part-time work.

## **GUIDELINES FOR SIXTHFORMERS**

Our primary aim is to help YOU achieve the best possible grades.

A student should return to the Sixth Form for the purpose of acquiring and extending educational qualifications and developing personal and social qualities. These will increase the possibility of gaining good employment or a place in higher education and will thus enhance the opportunity to be successful in life.

Sixth Formers are a very important and valued part of our schools and as young adults we expect them to provide an example to the rest of the school in their attitude to work and in their high standards of behaviour.

### **A FRAMEWORK FOR SIXTH FORM STUDENTS**

- We encourage independent learning within the Sixth Form and expect students to take an increasing responsibility for their own progress.
- Students must use the Biometric Fingerprinting System to register in and out of school.
- Attendance at school is FULL TIME and this includes attendance at Assemblies, PSE and lessons. Students must be punctual.
- There is a dress code for all Sixth Form students. Students must dress sensibly and appropriately reflecting the standards expected by the Federation.
- There is a Sixth Form Contract which all students and their parents must read and sign. Rules and regulations are kept to a minimum in the Sixth Form as is appropriate for a young adult community. Every effort is made to treat students as mature young people and the Sixth Form exists on a friendly basis of trust and goodwill.
- During study periods, the Sixth Form study rooms should be used for work.
- Sixth Form students have a shared responsibility for keeping all study and social areas clean and tidy.
- There is a No Smoking policy in both schools and in the streets surrounding the schools.

## **COURSES WITHIN THE SIXTH FORM FEDERATION**

- Art and Design (Richard Challoner School)
- Applied Art and Design (Holy Cross School)
- Art, Craft and Design (Holy Cross School)
- Biology (Richard Challoner & Holy Cross)
- Business Studies (Applied)
- Chemistry
- Critical Thinking
- Design and Technology
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- Economics
- English Language (Richard Challoner School)
- English Language (Holy Cross School)
- English Literature (Richard Challoner School)
- English Literature (Holy Cross School)
- Film Studies
- Food Technology
- Geography
- Government and Political Studies
- Health and Social Care
- Health, Social Care & Early Years
- History (Richard Challoner School)
- History (Holy Cross School)
- Information Communication Technology (RC)
- Information Communication Technology (HX)
- Mathematics (Richard Challoner School)
- Mathematics (Holy Cross School)
- Mathematics – Further Mathematics (Holy Cross School)
- Media Studies
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Music Technology
- Performing Arts
- Photography (Richard Challoner School)
- Photography (Holy Cross School)
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies (Holy Cross School)
- Religious Studies (Richard Challoner School)
- Science – Applied Science (Holy Cross School)
- Sociology (Richard Challoner School)
- Sociology (Holy Cross School)
- Sports Leader Award
- Travel and Tourism

## **ART & DESIGN: AS & A2 Level**

Edexcel (Fine Art)

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leader: Mrs P Dutton

### **Why study Art and Design?**

It develops creativity, imagination, practical and intellectual skills. The creative industries are growing rapidly: Advertising, Film and Video, Architecture, Computer and Video games, Design, Designer Fashion, to name a few. The skills developed in art are of practical use in many careers and a source of pleasure in their own right.

### **What is Fine Art?**

Fine art is work produced as an outcome of the students' personal experience, rather than being created exclusively for a practical function or a tightly prescribed brief. Students learn to use a wide range of materials and techniques including: alternative media (non-traditional media, such as mixed media, installation, site specific work, assemblage & digital media), painting and drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics and textiles.

Many extra-curricular activities are organised: visiting artists, workshops, life drawing, gallery visits & art events

### **AS Unit 1: Coursework (60% AS)**

After an introductory 6-weeks you select a personal focus developing work in your chosen materials.

### **AS Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment (40% AS)**

Preparation: 8 – 10 weeks. 8 hours timed realisation.

### **A2 Unit 3: Coursework (30% A level)**

You produce practical work and an in-depth study of artists linked to your interests in art (min 1000 words)

### **A2 Unit 4: Externally Set Assignment (20% A Level)**

Preparation: 8 – 10 weeks. 12 hours timed realisation.

### **Specific Entry Requirement:**

GCSE Grade B or above in Art and Design

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## **APPLIED ART & DESIGN: AS & A2 Level**

Edexcel

Holy Cross School

Subject Leader: Mrs E Sluman

This course enables students to acquire skills, techniques and processes to create, develop and present creative outcomes that meet the needs of a design brief. They will utilize primary and secondary sources and explore working methods linked to industry practice.

Single Award = 1 A Level Double Award = 2 A Levels

**AS:** Students work to a brief and cover 3 units for the Single Award and 6 units for the Double Award. There is a Summative Project set by Edexcel and no examination. The students study visual language, use of materials and techniques, visual communication and produce work in two/three dimensions.

**A2:** The Units in the A2 Double Award relate to personal and portfolio development, contextual work, design or fine art. The Single Award requires the completion of a Personal Study and a design or fine art portfolio. The Synoptic Project (students write their own brief) at the end of the course is common to both awards. There is no examination. All work is internally assessed and externally moderated.

### **Specific Entry Requirement:**

GCSE Grade B in Art & Design or a Merit in GCSE Applied Art & Design (or similar) would be an advantage

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## **ART, CRAFT & DESIGN: AS & A2 Level**

Edexcel

Holy Cross School

Subject Leader: Mrs E Sluman

If you choose to study Art, Craft & Design, you will have the freedom to work with a wide range of 2D and 3D materials and techniques.

This gives you the opportunity to work to your strengths and to develop your creative and visual skills in areas such as surface design, painting, textiles and photography. You may want to use mixed media and develop your work using materials most suited to your ideas.

### **AS Unit 1: Coursework**

This unit forms the basis for students to have opportunities to generate ideas and research from primary and contextual sources, record their findings, experiment with media and processes and develop and refine their ideas towards producing a series of outcomes.

### **AS Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment**

Students will be set a question or theme by Edexcel. They have an extended preparatory period in which to develop their ideas before an eight hour examination.

### **A2 Unit 3: Coursework**

This unit incorporates two linked elements, practical work and a personal study. The practical work allows the student to pursue their creative potential. The personal study is a clearly identified area of study linked to the practical work. It provides the focus for

contextual analysis and connections and must be between 1000 and 3000 words.

#### **A2 Unit 4: Externally Set Assignment**

Students will be set a question or theme by Edexcel. They have an extended preparatory period in which to develop their ideas before a twelve hour examination.

All work is internally assessed and externally moderated.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B in Art & Design or a Merit in GCSE Applied Art & Design (or similar) would be an advantage

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#### **BIOLOGY: AS & A2 Level**

OCR

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leaders: Mr M Webber & Mr C Cheung

Holy Cross School

Subject Leaders: Mrs V Gowan,

Mrs V Quinnell & Miss C Capaldi

**Course Content:** This course allows you to develop your interest in Biology by offering a range of modules. You will examine the structure of a cell membrane and its role in the transport of substances into and out of the cell. We also look at the transport systems of both mammals and plants. The effect that lifestyle has on the body is also investigated. We look at the role of both enzymes and molecules in the body. We concentrate on the diversity of life and the adaptations that both plants and animals have made in response to their environment. Fieldwork will be carried out during the course.

**Examination/Assessment:** No Coursework. Teacher assessed practical examinations and four written examinations.

**Specific Course Requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in Biology or GCSE Grade B in both Core & Additional Science

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#### **BUSINESS STUDIES (APPLIED): AS & A2 Level**

AQA

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leaders: Miss G O'Beirne & Mr T Woodcock

**Course Content:** This is a vocational qualification that enables candidates to develop both a broad understanding of Applied Business principles and give them the opportunity to focus on a specific pathway, e.g. Marketing, Finance, Human Resources.

Using directed learning, the Applied Business course encourages students to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of realistic business contents through a variety of approaches from theoretical to practical emphasis.

The course encourages students to become more independent learners and acquire the following range of skills:

- Presentation skills
- Research skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Cognitive skills

**Examination/Assessment:** The course is internally assessed by the production of a portfolio and externally assessed by examinations.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Business Studies not essential. Successful students will need to have strong organisational skills and a highly independent work ethic with good research skills and an ICT capability.

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#### **CHEMISTRY: AS & A2 Level**

OCR

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leaders: Mr R Afiz & Mr S Pritchard

Holy Cross School

Subject Leader: Mr M Taylor

**Course Content:** During Year 12, some of the topics studied include developing knowledge and understanding of the ideas in Chemistry with the emphasis being on the application of that knowledge:

- The ideas of atoms and molecules
- Environmental aspects
- Chemical manufacturing processes
- The importance and role of Chemistry to the Economy and Society
- An understanding of the elements in the periodic table
- Carbon compounds including fossil fuels
- Rates of reactions
- Development of practical skills - chemical analysis, titration,

**Examination/Assessment:** Modular Exams in January and June. The first exam is weighted at 30 % of the assessment, the second exam is weighted at 50 %. The final 20 % is Practical Assessment – this is internal and marked by your subject teachers. The January exam is a 1 hour written paper and the June exam is a 1 hour 45 min written paper.

#### **Specific Entry Requirement:**

GCSE Grade B or above in Chemistry or GCSE Grade B in both Core & Additional Science.

## **CRITICAL THINKING: AS Level**

OCR

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leader: Mr C Doran

AS Critical Thinking is designed to help you to:

- Understand and apply different patterns of reasoning
- Judge the credibility of evidence
- Assess arguments
- Develop and present relevant arguments

The skills acquired and practised in Critical Thinking are directly applicable to all other A Level subjects. Universities and colleges want students who are well-versed in higher thinking skills; analysis, evaluation and the communication of coherent argument. AS Critical Thinking is an extremely effective way to prepare for aptitude tests that some of the top courses and universities now require: Medicine, Law, Oxford and Cambridge colleges.

### **AS Unit 1:**

An introduction to Critical Thinking gives students an understanding of how arguments are constructed and teaches them to apply criteria so as to judge the credibility of evidence.

### **AS Unit 2:**

Assessing and developing argument, teaches students to identify, explain or evaluate arguments, and to recognise the techniques used to formulate them. Students also develop the skills to write their own arguments.

**Examination/Assessment:** Two 90 minute examinations, each worth 50% of the total marks.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** This can only be taken as a 5<sup>th</sup> AS and by students who achieved highly at GCSE overall.

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## **DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: AS & A2 Level**

AQA

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leaders: Mr T Gibbons, Mr N Henderson & Miss C Owen

**Course Content:** The course is designed to encourage students to take a broad view of design and technology, to develop their capability to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing. It provides a challenging progression from GCSE courses and an integrated combination of product design, resistant materials and graphic products. The course is stimulating, creative and

innovative and provides opportunities for students to create a variety of practical outcomes.

### **Examination/Assessment:**

The course is assessed through written examinations and coursework which provides students with the opportunity to design and make a single item or a collection of smaller products.

### **Specific Entry Requirement:**

GCSE Grade B or above in Design Technology

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## **DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES: AS & A2 Level**

WJEC

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leaders: Mr N. Zoladkiewicz & Mr L Norton

**Course Content:** This highly practical course centres on plays from World Drama across the centuries and explores how plays can be presented on stage. Students therefore study and research plays in depth for practical and written examinations. They also explore Plays through practical workshops using current professional rehearsal techniques. Students also study all the elements of theatre production (including performance and design) to learn how plays are brought to the stage and they attend professional theatre productions, which they review.

Students must be prepared to rehearse outside lessons and attend evening visits to the theatre.

### **Examination/Assessment:**

Two practical examinations: February in Year 12 and March in Year 13

Two written examinations: One at the end of each year.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade C or above in Drama, English Language and Literature. This is **essential** as students will analyse plays in depth and will write answers in long essays.

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## **ECONOMICS: AS & A2 Level**

AQA

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leaders: Mr C MacGreevy & Mr R Travers

**Course Content:** Economics is the study of local, national and international markets. Studying economics will help you to develop a range of skills, including analytical and problem-solving skills, numerical and computing skills, communication skills, political awareness and team-working skills. Economics is intellectually robust and of contemporary relevance. It can prepare you for jobs

that are rewarding both financially and intellectually; Actuarial Studies, Accountancy, Investment and Corporate Banking, Finance and Politics, amongst many others.

**AS Unit 1: Microeconomics** - You will understand some basic microeconomics models such as demand and supply, the operation of the price mechanism and the causes of market failure and apply these to current problems and issues.

**AS Unit 2: Macroeconomics** - You will understand aggregate analysis and use this to explore recent and current economic behaviour. You will understand, and be able to analyse and evaluate, macroeconomics policies. You should have a good knowledge of developments in the UK economy and government policies over the past ten years.

**A2 Unit 3:** This unit considers more complex microeconomic models and develops critical approaches to economic models and methods of enquiry. You will understand the decisions made by firms and how their behaviour can be affected by the structure and characteristics of the industry. Appreciation of the ways in which developments in the United Kingdom markets and government microeconomic policy can be related to the global and European Union (EU) contexts is required.

**Unit 4:** This is a synoptic unit. You will analyse and evaluate the causes of changes in macroeconomic indicators and economic models in greater depth through written, numerical and graphical forms. There is an emphasis on the consequences of changes in macroeconomic indicators. You must be prepared to propose, analyse and evaluate possible solutions to macroeconomic problems.

**Examination/Assessment:** Examinations in June of each year. Assessment techniques include: multiple choice questions, data response questions and essay questions.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in Mathematics and English

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## ENGLISH LANGUAGE: AS & A2 Level

Edexcel

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leader: Mrs C Leach

**Course Content:** This course examines the way language is used in society today. There is much emphasis on the grammatical structure of language, as well as analysis of how certain types of language are used for certain purposes and audiences. At AS, students study a variety of contemporary language

and comment on the differences between spoken, written and multimodal texts. Students explore how language choices reflect the identity of the user and how language use varies in context. At A2, students acquire knowledge of language diversity and children's language development. Students demonstrate their skills as writers, exploring the techniques of a variety of genres in order to produce effective texts for specific genres, audiences and purposes.

### Examination/Assessment:

The course is assessed through examinations and coursework.

### Specific Entry Requirement:

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

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## ENGLISH LANGUAGE: AS & A2 Level

AQA Specification B

Holy Cross School

Subject Leader: Mrs D Middlecoat

Teachers: Mr M Oliver, Mr D Terracciani & Mrs E Grout

**Course Content:** English Language encourages students to develop methods of exploring and understanding spoken and written language and understanding the roles of purposes, audiences and contexts. It includes categorising and creating texts, and developing and investigating language. AS study is focussed on three specific social contexts: Language and Power, Language and Gender and Language and Technology. Students are encouraged to develop their own writing skills, producing writing in different genres for different audiences and purposes. At A2 students will focus on two specific areas of language study: Child Language Acquisition and Language Change.

### Examination/Assessment:

One written examination and coursework

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in English Language and English Literature

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## ENGLISH LITERATURE: AS & A2 Level

AQA (Specification B)

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leaders: Mrs C Verdin & Mr D Cass

**Course Content:** This course covers a range of literary texts of different periods and genres including drama, poetry and prose. At AS, the focus is on comparing the ways in which stories are told and thereby

construct different realities and on exploring the genre of Dramatic Tragedy. At A2, this foundation is extended by allowing a focus on a variety of texts from the "Gothic" genre, and on exploring the ways in which texts can be interpreted from a variety of critical standpoints. The A2 course allows students to pursue their own individual literary interests in the further reading required for the comparative element of the coursework. Students need to be prepared to engage in detailed textual analysis, creative and independent interpretive thinking, and regular and rigorous essay writing.

**Examination/Assessment:** The course is assessed through examinations and coursework.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in English Language and English Literature.

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### **ENGLISH LITERATURE: AS & A2 Level**

AQA (Specification A)

Holy Cross School

Subject Leader: Mrs D Middlecoat

Teachers: Mrs D Middlecoat, Mr K Thorogood & Mrs E Grout

**Course Content:** English Literature aims to encourage students to develop as informed, independent readers and critics of literary texts.

**AS:** Students will study a set poetry text plus wider reading of the Victorian era and Creative Study, where students will produce coursework based on drama and prose.

**A2:** Students will concentrate on Reading for Meaning, where a range of literature on the theme "Love through the Ages" will be studied. They will also produce an Extended Essay and Shakespeare Study for coursework.

**Examination/Assessment:** One written examination and coursework for each year of study.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in English Language and English Literature

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### **FILM STUDIES: AS & A2 Level**

WJEC

Holy Cross School

Subject Leaders: Mr D Terracciani

**Course Content:** This subject will enable students to develop an understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of cinema and film. As the course is mainly assessed through essays and written

examinations, it is suited to students with good writing skills.

### **AS: British and American Films**

Coursework includes one 1500 word essay and the production of a film sequence.

### **A2: World Cinema, Spectatorship and Film Criticism**

Coursework includes a research project and creative work

**Examination/Assessment:** Written examinations and Coursework.

40% coursework (essays/research projects/creative work)

60% examination (AS = 1 x 2½ hour paper, A2 = 1 x 2¾ hour paper)

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade C or above in English Language and English Literature

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### **FOOD TECHNOLOGY: AS & A2 Level**

AQA

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leaders: Mrs N McDonald & Mrs K Dominy

**Course Content:** This course is part of the Design and Technology suite of subjects and it follows two main areas of study:

- **Materials and Components** – You will develop an understanding of food science and the functional properties of the main food components: proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals and NSP. Emphasis is placed on the effects of cooking/processing on these foods, thus practical work forms a major part of this section.
- **Design and Market Influences** – Study in this area will develop understanding of the broader perspectives of the food industry. You will investigate the development of food products with reference to environmental sustainability, health issues, social factors, the influences of culture and consumer safety.

**Examination/Assessment:** Written examinations for Materials and Components (AS = 50%, A2 = 25%). 50 hour piece of coursework, 25 hours should consist of practical work. (AS = 50%, A2 = 25%)

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in DT and/or Catering

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## **GEOGRAPHY: AS & A2 Level**

AQA

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leaders: Mr S Bromley, Mr T Woodcock &

Miss C Alexander-Watson

**Course Content:** A contemporary geographical course with a strong focus on the interaction between physical and human geography.

**AS modules: Physical and Human Geography** – 2 hour written examination.

### **Topics:**

- Rivers, floods and Management
- Population Change
- Cold Environments
- Coastal Environments
- Energy Issues
- Health Issues

**Geographical Skills** – 1 hour written examination  
Structured fieldwork questions testing students' basic investigative, cartographic, graphical, ICT and statistical skills. Students must undertake a piece of geographical research during a field trip to the south coast.

### **A2 modules: Contemporary Geographical Issues**

2 hour 30 minutes written examination

#### **Physical Topics:**

- Plate Tectonics
- Weather and Climate
- Ecosystems

#### **Human Topics:**

- World Cities
- Development and Globalisation
- Contemporary Conflicts and Challenges

**Geography Fieldwork Investigation** – 1 hour 30 minutes written examination.

Structured questions based on students' fieldwork investigations and skills. In preparation for this unit, students will attend a four day residential fieldwork visit to Slapton Lee FSC in Devon.

**Examination/Assessment:** Written examinations and coursework

AS – 50% of the total award

A2 – 50% of the total award

**Specific Entry requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in Geography, Maths and English.

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## **GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL STUDIES:**

### **AS & A2 Level**

Edexcel

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leaders: Mr K Coomber and Mr C Doran

*"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors."* Plato

**Course content:** This course will introduce you to the major political institutions of Britain. You will find out what power they have and what power we have over them. We will also ask whether these institutions function efficiently, and look at the case for making changes to our system of government.

The study of politics will help you gain an understanding of the key political philosophies that have influenced British politics. You will also be equipped with the skills and concepts needed to make mature judgements about a wide range of current affairs.

The study of Politics is a traditional step towards a career in journalism or broadcasting, law, school or university teaching, and local or national politics. It will give you the opportunity to practice and acquire a wealth of valuable skills which are in high demand in many fields of employment.

### **Topics studied:**

- AS: British Politics
- A2: American Politics

**Examination/Assessment:** Two written examinations.

**Specific Entry requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in English and/or History

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## **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE: AS & A2 Level**

AQA

Holy Cross School

Subject Leaders: Mrs N Murphy & Mrs T Jenkinson

**Course Content:** In this course you will develop an interest and an understanding of health, education, social care and issues affecting the care sector. It comprises of two mandatory units. The first one introduces you to factors affecting the quality of life, focusing on the care principles, skills and techniques required by both formal and informal carers on how to treat individuals within a range of care settings. The second unit will enable you to gain knowledge and understanding of the factors that influence an individual's health and well-being and how recent government initiatives promote good health.

The course provides a suitable foundation for employment and higher education in the health care and education sectors

**Examination/Assessment:**

**Unit 1:** Promoting Quality Care and Communication.

This is externally assessed by an examination in January (40%)

**Unit 2:** Promoting Good Health.

This is a portfolio based on a health promotion campaign focussed on a specific target group. This is internally assessed and externally moderated (60%)

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Health and Social Care is an advantage. GCSE Grade C or above in Science, English and Maths. Good communication skills and the ability to research, gather, analyse and evaluate information are essential.

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**HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND EARLY YEARS**

OCR National Certificate Level 3 (equivalent to 1 A Level)

Holy Cross School

Subject Leaders: Mrs N Murphy & Mrs T Jenkinson

**Course Content:** This OCR National Level 3 course is an exam-free, vocationally related qualification which takes an engaging, practical approach to learning and assessment. It will develop your understanding of care values and an awareness of behaviour. You will learn how to handle sometimes stressful relationships in the care environment. The qualification will also cover the practical issues of providing food and monitoring health. Optional units will develop your appreciation of the great diversity and tremendous scope offered for progression to employment and higher education.

**Units studied:**

Four mandatory units:

Unit 1: Working to quality practice in care settings

Unit 2: Working with service users in care settings

Unit 3: Behavioural awareness in care

Unit 4: Applied practical care in settings

Two specialist units in Child Development and Care for Babies.

**Examination/Assessment:** Completion of six internally assessed units **over two years** which are externally moderated.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** 5 GCSEs A\* - C including English and Maths

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**HISTORY: AS & A2 Level**

Edexcel

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leaders: Mr M Coll & Mr C Doran

The best reason for taking History is that you are really interested in the subject. You enjoy exploring and discovering the past. You like reading, writing and discussion, and feel a sense of achievement after successfully confronting and making sense of complex and challenging problems.

The past has given us all our political and religious ideas and institutions, our social customs, and indeed our own personal and family identities. The study of History gives us a unique perspective on the present. Studying British and European History in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries equips you with the skills needed to make mature judgements about a wide range of current affairs.

A Level History is a traditional step towards a career in journalism or broadcasting, law, school or university teaching, and archaeology.

**Modules Include:**

The Road to Unification: Italy, 1815-70

The Unification of Germany, 1848-90

The experience of warfare in Britain: Crimea, Boer and World War I, 1854-1929

**Examination/Assessment:** Two written examinations

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in History and/or English Language

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**HISTORY: AS & A2 Level**

AQA

Holy Cross School

Subject Leaders: Miss H Kay & Ms L Gordon

**Course Content:** History is a fascinating subject which gives us a greater understanding of the world in which we live. History can open up many career options. It is widely respected by universities and employers as a discipline which promotes independent thinking, research skills and the ability to present a logical argument.

Modules include: AS – Britain 1906-1951 and Life in Nazi Germany 1933-1945.

A2 – Russia and the USSR 1941-1991 and an historical enquiry on European Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust.

**Examination/Assessment:** Three written examinations + an Historical Enquiry: Personal Study

(approx. 3500 words) internally assessed and externally moderated.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in History and/or English Language

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## **INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: AS & A2 Level**

AQA

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leader: Mr R Farrell

**Course Content:** The course involves the study of the principles, knowledge and skills that make up Information Communication Technology.

It is comprised of both theory and practical modules. Students will develop their understanding of ICT as a whole through their study for the modular examinations and they will also develop their practical ICT skills by completing their coursework module. Students will examine a wide range of areas associated with ICT, for example: how businesses use ICT, how ICT affects society, computer networks, the internet and on-line commerce, health and safety and ICT, legal aspects of ICT and the development of new ICT systems. At the end of the course students should have a sound understanding of ICT theory and a high level of competency in the practical aspects of ICT.

### **Examination/Assessment:**

Four modules split into three theory examinations and one piece of coursework.

### **Specific Entry Requirement:**

GCSE Grade B or above in ICT

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## **INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Level 3 National Certificate**

OCR

Holy Cross School

Subject Leader: Miss L Peirce

**Course Content:** This ICT course gives an in-depth understanding of ICT in the modern workplace, giving insights into ICT's role in specialist careers. It offers a range of practical units and allows students to explore and develop their own areas of personal interest. Our two year course covers a wide area of study which includes digital business communication, collaborative working, problem solving and digital showcasing.

The OCR National Certificate in Information Communication Technology requires a two year commitment from students and six units of

assessment. This qualification is the equivalent of 1 A Level.

**Please note students will not be able to drop this subject in the second year.**

**Examination/Assessment:** The course is portfolio based and involves extensive practical, independent work. All assessment will be from evidence provided within the portfolios submitted. The course aims to provide students with practical, work related skills in preparation for university and the world of work.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade C or above in English Language and English Literature

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## **MATHEMATICS: AS & A2 Level**

Edexcel

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leader: Mrs N Cloudsdale

**Course Content:** Mathematics A Level teaches highly respected and widely used skills. The skills are essential for further study in areas such as engineering, economics, business, electronics, computing and design. In Year 12, Core 1, Core 2 and Mechanics are taught. In Year 13, students will study Core 3, Core 4 and either Mechanics 2 or Statistics 1. Core Maths is the manipulation of algebra and the solving of harder equations. Students will begin to use differentiation for rates of changes and integration for areas under curves and will extend their knowledge of trigonometry and series. In Year 13, in Core Maths, students will extend all their previous skills and be introduced to vectors and proof. Mechanics is the study of motion and equilibrium of bodies, including forces and moments. Statistics is the study of data and probability. Mathematics is a very popular subject at Richard Challoner and completion of the course provides very good career prospects.

If Mathematics or Medicine is to be studied at university, please read the individual university prospectus to discover if Further Mathematics at A2 is required.

**Examination/Assessment:** AS = 3 modules. A2 = 3 modules. Core 1 is examined in the January of Year 12 and Core 3 in the January of Year 13. Other modules are examined in the summer of the year in which they are taught.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Mathematics at Grade B or above (minimum)

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## **MATHEMATICS: AS & A2 Level**

Edexcel

Holy Cross School

Subject Leader: Mr D Middlecoat

**Course Content:** Students study six units of work, four of which cover topics in pure mathematics; the remaining two units cover applications of mathematics.

Pure Mathematics covers topics such as co-ordinate geometry, calculus, further algebra techniques and trigonometry. The first assessed unit in this field is non-calculator, thereby testing the student's mental calculation skills.

Applied Mathematics encompasses Statistics and Mechanics. The statistics unit will develop skills learned at GCSE, looking at measures of location, measures of dispersion, relationships between sets of data and probability. Mechanics looks at motion of particles, the forces acting upon them, collisions between particles, "moments" and "equilibrium".

**Examination/Assessment:** Each of the six units has a terminal exam of 1½ hours, contributing 75 marks to the overall profile.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in Mathematics.

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## **MATHEMATICS – FURTHER MATHEMATICS: AS & A2 Level**

Edexcel

Holy Cross School

Subject Leader: Mr K Lee

Further Mathematics requires the study of a further 6 units of work beyond the standard A Level. It is particularly appropriate if you wish to study a mathematics related course at university; in many cases it may even be a pre-requisite. The standard A Level course is covered in year 12 and the AS and A Level in Further Mathematics is taught the following year.

**Course Content:** There are three Pure Mathematics units, FP1, FP2 and FP3, with examinations in two of these being compulsory. This leaves a further three or four units to be studied in Applied Mathematics making up the six units of work. The Pure Mathematics units develop topics studied at A Level such as algebraic techniques, calculus, vectors, series and trigonometry. In addition to this, you will be introduced to new fields of study involving topics such as complex numbers, matrices and the polar co-ordinate system.

The applied units offer a degree of choice, though usually covering mechanics and statistics at the

second level, after which one of these disciplines is usually chosen for study at level three as well. There is also the opportunity to add flexibility to your chosen units by developing your independent study skills working through decision maths as an applied unit of study. This new field of study is an introduction to logistics and examines algorithms to solve "routing" problems.

**Examination/Assessment:** Each of the six units has a terminal exam of 1½ hours, contributing 75 marks to the overall profile.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade A\* in Mathematics

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## **MEDIA STUDIES:**

### **National Certificate/Diploma**

OCR

Holy Cross School

Subject Leader: Mr D Terracciani & Miss L Peirce

**Course Content:** Media Studies offers a range of practical units and allows students to explore and develop their own areas of personal interest. Our two year course covers a wide area of study which includes advertising, popular press, TV, film and the music industry.

The OCR National Certificate in Media Studies and Video Production requires a two year commitment from students and six units of assessment. This qualification is the equivalent of 1 A level.

The OCR National Diploma also requires a two year commitment and twelve units for assessment. This qualification is the equivalent of 2 A levels.

**Please note students will not be able to drop this subject in the second year.**

**Examination/Assessment:** The courses are portfolio based and involve extensive practical, independent work. All assessment will be from evidence provided within the portfolios submitted. The courses aim to provide students with practical, work related skills in preparation for university and the world of work.

### **Entry Requirement:**

**Certificate:** GCSE Grade C or above in English Language and Literature

**Diploma:** GCSE Grade B or above in English Language and Literature **and** Merit or above in Level2 OCR Media.

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## **MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: AS & A2 Level**

AQA

Holy Cross School/ Richard Challoner School

Subject Leaders: **French:** Mrs J Hollingbery (HX) Mrs C Pennels (HX) & Mrs C Child (RC)

**Spanish:** (RC) Mrs E Rosario, Miss S Taylor & Miss P Allenby

**Italian:** Mrs J Hollingbery

**Course Content:** The knowledge of another modern foreign language develops our ability to communicate with others and provides us with an understanding of other people and cultures. If you are interested in languages and communication, then this course could be suitable for you. Similarly, if you are interested in the business world, in travel or tourism, or in journalism or the media, then you may also find this course appropriate.

You will develop a greater knowledge and understanding of the culture and way of life of the target-language country and you will examine in further detail all the topic areas covered in GCSE. You will develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing so that you can communicate at a higher level in the language you have chosen as well as improve your general study skills.

**Examination/Assessment:** This includes listening, speaking, reading and writing examinations.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above (on the higher papers) in the chosen language.

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## **MUSIC TECHNOLOGY: AS & A2 Level**

Edexcel

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leader: Mr S Amura

**Course Content:** In this course you will learn about the technical side of producing music. In the age we live in, very rarely will you hear a recording that has not been manipulated in one way or another. We look at; production techniques, effects, digital and analogue recording, sequencing, scoring, arranging and the use of computers.

A great deal of the year will be spent working on the large coursework requirements for which you will be required to give up time after school and at weekends in order to make use of the facilities undisturbed.

We will study set pieces from a wide variety of popular music since the era of recording began. Much of this music you will be already familiar with, and I am sure that looking at this music in a different light will only increase your enjoyment of it.

Time will be spent using the Apple Mac computers in the Music room as well as portable multitrack recorders and the newly installed Recording Studio.

**Examination/Assessment:** Assessment will include a large amount of coursework in the areas of: Recording, Sequencing and Arranging. A Listening/Analysis exam covers work on areas of study and set works. Work at A2 is an extension in these areas.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in Music. Minimum Grade 5 Standard on an Instrument or Voice. Keyboard skill is a big advantage.

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## **PERFORMING ARTS:**

### **BTEC Level 3 Certificate - Diploma**

Edexcel

Holy Cross School

Subject Leaders: Ms M Mellor & Mrs L Sedgwick

**Course Content:** There are a range of Performing Arts Courses which will provide a greater range of learning opportunities.

You will have the opportunity to develop your individual talents and creative skills in a variety of ways. You will learn from highly qualified professionals who will encourage your creative expression and help you develop as individual artists. We have excellent facilities – a spacious Drama Studio, a Dance Studio and a Music Suite equipped with modern equipment and software. You can choose from a wide range of modules, including: Physical Theatre, Dance Performance and Musical Theatre.

**Examination/Assessment:** Coursework and Practical Assessment. (No final exam)

**Specific Entry Requirement:** Merit or above in L2 BTEC Performing Arts is an advantage as is GCSE Grade B or above in Drama, Dance and/or Music. Without these qualifications you must complete an audition in the summer term of Year 11.

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## **PHOTOGRAPHY: AS & A2 Level**

Edexcel

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leader: Miss J Amon

**Course Content:** During this course students will be encouraged to explore the potential of digital photography. The course is all about creative photography and it requires the student to be able do more than just take a good photograph. The student

will develop an independent approach to photography and will be encouraged to work in a wide range of materials and processes. Students must go beyond mere observation and recording; they must analyse and critically evaluate the photographic images of their own and other artists'/ photographers' work. Many extra-curricular activities are organised: visiting Artists and Photographers, workshops, gallery visits & events.

#### **AS Unit 1: Coursework (60% AS)**

After an introductory 6 weeks you select a personal focus developing work in your chosen format.

#### **AS Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment (40% AS)**

Preparation: 8 – 10 weeks. 8 hours timed realisation

#### **A2 Unit 3: Coursework (30% A Level)**

You produce practical work and an in-depth study of photographers linked to your interest in Photography (min. 1000 words)

#### **A2 Unit 4: Externally Set Assignment (20% A Level)**

Preparation: 8 – 10 weeks. 12 hours timed realisation

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in Art and Design is an advantage.

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### **PHOTOGRAPHY: AS & A2 Level**

AQA

Holy Cross School

Subject Leader: Miss C Davis

**Course Content:** The course is delivered as digital lens based photography. The focus of the course is creative photography using manipulations techniques. It requires the student to be able to do more than just take a good photograph. The student will develop a creative art based project; one of the main course requirements is creative development. Students must go beyond mere observation and recording; they must analyse and critically evaluate the photographic images of their own and other artists' work.

#### **AS Unit 1: Coursework portfolio (50% AS)**

Students produce a portfolio of work, based on a theme that shows exploration, research and development of photographic techniques, skills and refinement of their ideas, producing a series of outcomes.

#### **AS Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment (50% AS)**

Students will be set a question or theme by AQA. They have an extended preparatory period in which to develop their ideas before an eight hour examination.

#### **A2 Unit 3: Personal Investigation (25% AS)**

This unit incorporates two linked elements, practical work and a personal study. The practical work is similar to Unit One, but the student is required to work at a higher level. The personal study is a clearly identified area of study closely linked to the practical work. It provides the focus for contextual analysis and must be between 1000 and 3000 words.

#### **A2 Unit 4: Externally Set Assignment (25% AS)**

Students will be set a question or theme by AQA. They have an extended preparatory period in which to develop their ideas before a twelve hour examination

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B in Art & Design or a Merit in GCSE Applied Art & Design (or similar) would be an advantage

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### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION: AS & A2 Level**

AQA

Richard Challoner School/Holy Cross School

Subject Leaders: Mr P Manley,

Mrs T Jenkinson & Mrs N Murphy

This subject offers students the opportunity to experience and develop an interest in a variety of roles within sport such as performer, official and coach at AS and then be able to specialise in one at A2.

This qualification looks to equip students with the skills and knowledge required for higher education and/or the world of work.

The Advanced Level course builds on the work studied at GCSE to enhance knowledge and increase understanding of the factors that affect participation in physical education.

The course will address current contemporary topics such as the use of ergogenic aids, technology and the increasing commercialism of sport. The course also includes applied physiology, skill acquisition and opportunities for participation.

**AS Unit 1:** Opportunities for and the effects of leading a healthy and active lifestyle.

**Unit 2:** Analysis and evaluation of physical activity as a performer/official/coach.

**A2 Unit 3:** Optimising performance and evaluating contemporary issues within sport.

**Unit 4:** Optimising practical performance in a competitive situation.

**Examination/Assessment:** Unit 1: 2 hour written exam, Unit 2: internal assessment with external moderation, Unit 3: 2 hour written exam.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Short Course PE (minimum) and GCSE Grade B or above in Biology. Students should be regular participants in school sports, sports teams and extra-curricular activities.

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### **PHYSICS: AS & A2 Level**

OCR

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leaders: Mr I O'Brien & Mr R Galletly

**Course Content:** Candidates are expected to bring together the principles and concepts from different areas of physics and apply them in a particular context, expressing ideas clearly and logically and using specialist vocabulary. They are also expected to use analysis and interpretation in contexts which may be unfamiliar to them. Modules studied include:

- Mechanics
- Electrons, Waves and Photons
- The Newtonian World
- Fields, Particles and Frontiers of Physics
- In addition there is a practical module in each year

#### **Examination/Assessment:**

Candidates final grades are calculated using the total mark from all 3 Y12 modules for AS and all 6 modules for the A2 course. The practical skills modules involve candidates carrying out 3 tasks under controlled conditions.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in Science and Maths

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### **PSYCHOLOGY: AS & A2 Level**

AQA Specification A

Holy Cross School

Subject Leaders: Ms S White & Miss D Perfetti

**Course Content:** Psychology is “the study of mind and behaviour”- so if you are interested in how other people think and behave then Psychology might be for you! In the first year the course covers topics such as memory (e.g. how we remember), abnormality (e.g. how it is defined and treated), and social influence (e.g. why do people obey orders such as during the Holocaust). These topics are taught in two units with an exam for each. In the second year, the third unit consists of examining relationships, aggression and eating disorders. In the final unit, students look in-depth at Schizophrenia and Psychology of Media e.g. influences on behaviour. Finally, students will demonstrate understanding of the scientific method in Psychology, through

designing investigations, analysing and interpreting data and writing a scientific report. Through this, students develop an awareness of ethical issues in Psychology, including the ethical implications of psychological research.

**Examination/Assessment:** Two written examinations each in Years 1 & 2

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in English Language and Grade C or above in Mathematics plus GCSE Grade B or above in two Sciences in Triple Science or two Grade Bs or above in GCSE Double Science or Distinction in BTEC Science.

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### **RELIGIOUS STUDIES: AS & A2 Level**

Edexcel

Holy Cross School

Subject Leader: Mrs A Lucas & Miss K. Henshaw

#### **Course content: Ethics and New Testament**

Ethics is fascinating and very relevant to many careers today such as law and medicine as it deals with current issues in society. You will study the relationship between religion and morality; ethical theories such as Utilitarianism and Situation ethics and ethical issues (War and Peace and Sexual Ethics). At AS you will carry out an investigation into an aspect of medical ethics.

John's Gospel is very different to the other gospels, including Luke that many of you have studied at GCSE. It is unique because it is full of symbolism and theology as the author focuses on the meaning behind and significance of Jesus' actions and teachings rather than on the actual events. The course covers the 'I am' sayings (e.g. the theology behind the saying "I am the light of the world"); miracles, women and discipleship. We explore the religious, philosophical and social background to the New Testament and analyse how Jesus is presented in the gospels.

**The A2 course** consists of a further two units which are designed to build on learning at AS. We cover two more ethical theories and study justice, law and punishment and continue with John's Gospel.

#### **Examination/Assessment:**

AS: One written examination in January (50%) and one in June (50%)

A2: Two written examinations in June

**Specific Entry requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in RE and English

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## RELIGIOUS STUDIES: AS & A2 Level

OCR

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leaders: Mr D'Aguiar, Miss L Greenway  
& Miss E Levitt

**Course Content:** This course offers a combination of Philosophy and Ethics. These are areas that you may not have studied before; however, they will interest, challenge and fascinate you.

**Philosophy:** The study of wisdom. We explore the BIG questions, challenging you to think about and question everything you take for granted. God – Can I prove God exists? If God created everything, who created God? If God can do everything, can God swim?

**Philosophical Issues –** Will I be able to eat in heaven? Is my mind the only thing that exists and the rest a figment of my imagination? How do I know that the words I am writing mean the same for you as they do for me?

**Ethics:** The topic content is contemporary, including legal issues, current affairs and medical/technological advancements and their consequences.

**Ethical Theory –** How do we determine what is right and wrong? Why should people do good and not evil? What is my conscience and is it reliable?

**Practical Ethics –** Do I have the right to a child? Is it acceptable to experiment on an aborted foetus? Is a human being more valuable than an animal?

**Examination/Assessment:** The AS course is divided into 2 modules, both of which are assessed by a written examination. The A2 course builds on topics explored in the first year, and candidates sit three written examinations. There is no coursework.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in Religious Studies.

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## SCIENCE – APPLIED SCIENCE:

### BTEC Level 3 National Subsidiary Diploma

Edexcel

Holy Cross School

Subject Leader: Mrs V Quinnell

**Course Content:** The 60 credit BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary is broadly equivalent to one GCE A Level and carries the equivalent UCAS points. It covers the key knowledge and practical skills required in the vocational sector. Students will work in class on assignments that have a work related context and build on their IT, research and practical skills. The BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary offers an engaging programme comprising six units over two years:

Fundamentals of Science

Working in the Science Industry

Scientific Investigation

Scientific Practical Techniques

Physiology of Human Body Systems

Forensic evidence collection and analysis

**Examination/Assessment:** The course is internally assessed by the completion and submission of six unit portfolios.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade C or above in two or more Sciences in Triple Science or GCSE Grade C or above in both Core and Additional Science or a Distinction in BTEC Science. GCSE Grade C or above in Mathematics and students must have good organisational skills.

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## SOCIOLOGY: AS & A2 Level

AQA

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leader: Mrs M Enright

Holy Cross School

Subject Leaders: Ms F Kinirons & Miss D French

**Course content:** Sociology is the study of social life, social change and the social causes and consequences of human behaviour. For sociologists, the lives of individuals can only be understood through studying the wider social context in which we live. Sociology includes the study of group life and looks at the things we hold in common as well as the differences between us. It is an exciting, relevant and interesting subject that will enable you to have a better understanding of the world you live in. While many sociology graduates enter work in the public sector in a social or welfare role, others go into a variety of jobs throughout the private and public sector. Some employers include local and central government, industry, commerce, the NHS, education authorities, further and higher education and charitable, counselling and voluntary organisations. Opportunities also exist in the civil service and graduate management training schemes. Sociologists work with a varied and diverse client group.

**AS Unit 1:** Family and Households – Students study topics such as Childhood, Gender and Demography.

**AS Unit 2:** Education and Research Methods – topics include social policy, subcultures and patterns of achievement in relation to class, gender and ethnicity.

**A2 Unit 3:** Beliefs in Society/Religion – topics include the relationship between religious beliefs and social change and stability, religious organisations.

**A2 Unit 4:** Crime and Deviance with theories and methods - topics include theories to explain the social distribution of crime by age, gender, class and locality

**Examination/Assessment:**

Two written examinations for AS and two for A2.

**Specific Entry Requirement:** GCSE Grade B or above in English Language and Literature.

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**SPORTS LEADER AWARDS**

Richard Challoner School  
Subject Leader: Mr S Walsh

The Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership (Year 12) and the Level 3 Award in Higher Sports Leadership (Year 13) are nationally recognised leadership awards and qualifications that help people develop essential life skills such as organisation, motivation, communication and working with others. All of the awards and qualifications are practical - candidates learn by doing rather than through written work. Assessment is made upon a candidate's ability to lead and demonstrate their leadership skills for a certain period of time, within a specific setting.

**Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership (CSL)**

The Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership qualification enables successful candidates to independently lead small groups of people in sport and recreational activities. The qualification teaches generic leadership skills such as organisation, planning, communication and teamwork through the medium of sport. There are eight units of work to complete.

**Level 3 Award in Higher Sports Leadership**

The Level 3 Award in Higher Sports Leadership is a nationally recognised qualification that enables successful candidates to lead un-supervised groups of people in sport and recreational activities. This qualification builds upon the skills and experience gained through the Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership. As with the Level 2 Award, there are eight units to complete.

**Specific Entry requirement:**

Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership:  
Interest in sport and coaching and an enthusiastic and confident manner.

Level 3 Award in Higher Sports Leadership:  
Successfully complete the Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership.

These qualifications will assist successful candidates to pursue a career in the sports industry.

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**TRAVEL AND TOURISM:**

**BTEC National Award (Level 3)**

Richard Challoner School

Subject Leaders: Mr S Bromley, Mr T Woodcock & Mrs H Richardson

**Course Content:** An award in Travel and Tourism provides:

- Education and Training for Travel and Tourism employees.
- A vocationally specific qualification.
- The opportunity to enter employment in Travel and Tourism or to progress to higher education.
- The opportunity to develop a range of techniques, personal skills and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life.

The BTEC consists of six units that will be undertaken over **two** years:

Unit titles:

- 1) Investigating Travel and Tourism
- 2) The Business of Travel and Tourism
- 3) The UK as a Destination
- 4) Customer Service in Travel and Tourism
- 6) Preparing for Employment in the Travel and Tourism Industry
- 8) Long-haul Travel Destinations

**Examination/Assessment:** All units will be assessed internally via case studies, assignments, presentations, observation and time constrained assessment.

**Grading:**

At the end of the **two year course** grading will be allocated through a Pass, Merit and Distinction basis

*The Holy Cross School and Richard Challoner School Sixth Form Federation offers a wide and varied programme of study, meeting the needs of all our students in a caring Catholic environment.*

*We seek to offer a high quality of education in a Catholic learning environment in which each person is recognised as a Child of God. Students are encouraged to develop their talents and a sense of worth in faith, hope and love for God and in respect for one another.*

### **What we can offer you:**

- ✓ Excellent teaching which caters for the individual learning needs of all our students
- ✓ An extensive and innovative range of A Level and Applied courses.
- ✓ Pastoral Care from staff who know you in a secure and familiar environment.
  - ✓ Close academic monitoring to facilitate individual progress.
  - ✓ The opportunity to develop real leadership skills through service to the school and the wider community.
  - ✓ A programme of extra-curricular activities which enhances personal growth, both spiritually and socially



#### **The Holy Cross Catholic Girls' School**

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#### **Richard Challoner School**

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