

Richard Challoner Sixth Form

**COURSES INFORMATION BOOKLET
ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2017**



In partnership with the Holy Cross School

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Admission is open to students in Year 11 at Richard Challoner School and to boys and girls who have attended other institutions. Students in Year 11 at Holy Cross who wish to study in the Sixth Form partnership should apply for admission to Holy Cross.

To study Level 3 courses, students must have obtained at least five GCSEs Grade C or above including English and Mathematics at Grade 4 or above. They must also have a GCSE Grade B/6 or above in the subject they wish to study, or in an equivalent subject if it is one not studied at KS4. Specific entry requirements for each course are detailed with the information on each subject.

All students, whether internal or external, applying to our Sixth Form, 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 our Catholic school.
2. Predicted or actual GCSE grades or equivalent.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

External students will be considered according to the criteria laid out in the School's Admissions Policy which can be found on the school website.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT COURSE FOR YOU

Please see: "Post-16 Choices: A guide for Parents" which can be found on the school website. There is a wide range of courses available, allowing students to select programmes of study suited to their individual needs and aspirations.

GCE A Level courses are two year linear courses examined at the end of Year 13.

Applied courses offer students the opportunity to study a subject with a more specific work-related focus.

BTEC courses are vocational courses studied over two years.

Level 2 Courses: These courses are appropriate for students with particular educational or pastoral needs who have yet to achieve 5 GCSEs at Grade C/4 or above or B/6s in their chosen subjects. They are one year courses and students usually move on from these to Level 3 courses or apprenticeships. For those students not achieving a Grade 4 in either English or Maths, re-sit classes in either/ both these core subjects will form a compulsory part of their programme of study.

Details of Level 2 courses for 2017-2018 are to be confirmed, but will include the Level 2 Sports Leader Award.

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 points 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 6th Form. Discuss your hopes and ambitions with your family, your teachers and your mentors, who will give you invaluable advice.

All students will study 3 A level courses. Where there is evidence of exceptional academic ability, a student may choose 4 courses.

PART TIME JOBS

Many students will have part-time jobs in the Sixth Form and can gain valuable experiences from these. However it is vital that students do not work too many hours or their academic

success will be adversely affected. Students should therefore allocate no more than eight hours per week to part-time work.

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, PSHE, Games and lessons. Students must be punctual.
- There is a dress code for all Sixth Form students, which requires both boys and girls to wear a suit. Students must dress sensibly and appropriately reflecting the standards expected by the School.
- 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.
- Study periods are registered and students must work in the designated Sixth Form study areas.
- Sixth Form students have a shared responsibility for keeping all study and social areas clean and tidy.
- There is a No Smoking policy in the school and in the streets surrounding the school.

COURSES AT: RICHARD CHALLONER SCHOOL

- Art and Design - Fine Art
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computing Science
- Design Technology: Product Design
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- EPQ Level 3
- Food (Professional Cookery)
- Geography
- Government and Political Studies
- History
- ILM Award in Leadership and Management (Level 3)
- Law
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Modern Foreign Languages: Spanish
- Music
- Music Technology
- Performing Arts - Musical Theatre (BTEC)
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Sports Leader Award (Levels 2 and 3)

Edexcel: **FINE ART**
Subject Leader: Mr T Bailey

Why study Art and Design?

Art and Design helps to develop creativity, imagination, knowledge and practical skills. The skill set developed within the subject is extremely desirable in a wide range of careers and many employers look for those who can solve problems in a creative and original way. Students are encouraged to be reflective, work independently, be organised and self-motivated throughout the course. Studying Art and Design is also extremely important if pupils desire to work in the creative sector in jobs such as advertising, architecture, illustration, film, photography and all aspects of design.

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 painting and drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, textiles and alternative media (non-traditional methods such as mixed media, installation, site specific work, assemblage and digital media). Students also develop their cultural and critical understanding of art while studying a wide range of artists and designers.

Many extra-curricular activities happen throughout the course including exhibition and gallery visits, life drawing, portfolio workshops, visiting artists, studio sessions and the end of year summer exhibition.

A Level Course Structure

Component 1: Personal Investigation 60%

Students produce a body of work and final realisation developed from a starting point. Within the component, students will explore a wide range of media and artists, developing skill and understanding as work progresses. There is also a personal study that needs to be completed in which students explain their interest in other artists and their developing work (1000-3000 word essay)

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)

Students receive an externally set theme and have a period of 8 -12 weeks to go through the creative process, researching artists and exploring media before they produce a final realisation under controlled conditions. This takes the form of a 15 hour timed realisation where the work that has been planned is completed under supervised conditions.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in Art and Design or a Merit in BTEC Art. An Art L2 qualification is recommended but is not strictly

necessary. A student would need to gain approval from the Subject Leader.

BIOLOGY: A Level

OCR

Subject Leader: Mr M McAlonan

Teachers: Mr M McAlonan, Mr M Webber & Miss P Lee

Course Content: Studying A level Biology will give learners the opportunity to use microscopy to study the cell structure of a variety of organisms. Biologically important molecules such as carbohydrates, proteins, water and nucleic acids are studied with respect to their structure and function. The structure and mode of action of enzymes in catalyzing biochemical reactions is studied. The division and subsequent specialization of cells is studied, together with the potential for the therapeutic use of stem cells. Also learners study some human and plant physiology to include the structure and function of gas exchange and transport systems. Students also study the biodiversity of organisms; how they are classified and the ways in which biodiversity can be measured. The relationships between organisms are studied, considering variation, evolution and phylogeny. Learners will be required to develop a range of practical skills throughout their course in preparation for the written examinations. Students build on this knowledge and understanding by studying topics such as communication, homeostasis and energy and also genetics, evolution and ecosystems. Learners will be required to develop a range of practical skills throughout the course. Practical work in Biology is significant and routine. It is assessed in the final examinations and there is also a practical skills endorsement which is awarded separate to the final A level grade.

Mathematical skills are also embedded throughout the course and are assessed in the final exams. The Maths component of the specification is taught alongside the Biology and gives learners the opportunity to develop skills in algebra, geometry, statistics etc.

Examination/Assessment: The final assessments are made up of "breadth" papers and "depth" papers and contain a mix of multiple choice, short response and long response questions, including questions where the quality of the written communication is assessed.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in Biology and one other science (Triple Science) or GCSE Grade B or above in both Core & Additional Science (Double Science). GCSE Grade 5 or above in Mathematics and English Language.

BUSINESS STUDIES A Level

AQA

Subject Leader: Mr K Norris

This subject is about the business world, how it works and how it affects society. It is centrally concerned with how businesses analyse their options to achieve the best outcome. This course provides a broad understanding of business knowledge and skills to support progression to higher education. Students will gain a critical understanding of organisations and their ability to meet society's needs and wants and they will generate enterprising and creative approaches to business opportunities, problems and issues. Students will acquire a range of relevant business and generic skills, including decision making, problem solving, the challenging of assumptions and critical analysis and they will apply numerical skills in a range of business contexts.

Course Content:

1. What is business?
2. Managers, leadership and decision making to ...
 - a) ...improve market performance
 - b) ...improve operational performance
 - c) ...improve financial performance
 - d) ...improve human resource performance
3. Analysing the strategic position of a business
4. Choosing strategic direction
5. Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
6. Managing strategic change

Examination/Assessment: 3 written exams of 2 hours each

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 5 or above in Mathematics and English Language

CHEMISTRY: A Level

OCR

Subject Leader: Ms J Pearce

Teachers: Mr R Afiz, Mrs C Maher & Ms J Pearce

Course Content: The Chemistry A level is made up of six modules: Development of practical skills in Chemistry; Foundations in Chemistry; Periodic table and energy; Core organic Chemistry; Physical Chemistry and transition elements; Organic Chemistry and analysis. Through the study of these modules, students will develop knowledge, understanding and application of a range of ideas in Chemistry, including ideas of atoms and molecules, environmental aspects, manufacturing processes and the importance of Chemistry to the economy and society.

Examination/Assessment: Students study six modules, then sit three written papers assessing all six modules. Students will work towards a teacher-assessed Practical Endorsement.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in Chemistry and one other Science (Triple Science) or GCSE Grade B or above in both Core & Additional Science (Double Science). GCSE Grade 5 or above in Mathematics.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: A Level

WJEC/Eduqas

Subject Leader: Mr R Zapata

Course Content: This course will enable learners to develop a broad range of skills in the areas of programming, system development, computer architecture, data, communication and applications. The knowledge, understanding and skills are set by different projects, activities and research. There is no hierarchy implied by the order in which content and amplification are presented.

Component 1: Programming and System Development:

Written Examination 2 hours 45 minutes- 40% of qualification

This component investigates programs, data structures, algorithms, logic, programming methodologies and the impact of computer science on society.

Component 2: Computer Architecture, Data, Communication and Applications

Written Examination 2 hours 45 minutes - 40% of qualification

This component investigates computer architecture, communication, data representation, organisation and structure of data, programs, algorithms and software applications.

Component 3: Programmed solution to a problem

Non-exam assessment – 20% of qualification
This unit requires the learners to investigate, design, prototype, implement, test and evaluate a computer solution to a substantial problem of their choice. The learner's chosen problem must provide sufficient scope for them to access the marks available for each section of the work.

Learners need to investigate their chosen problems in sufficient detail to identify how data is collected, processed and output currently. The current system may be either paper-based or electronic. Candidates must solve the problem using original code (programming).

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in Computer Science and GCSE Grade 5 or above in Mathematics and English Language. Students who do not have a GCSE in Computer Science would need a meeting with the Subject Leader.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN: A Level

AQA

Subject Leader: Mrs C Owen

Course Content: This qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries. Students will investigate historical, social, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning into practice by producing products. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

Subject Content

1: Core Technical principles – Topics include: Requirements for product design, development and manufacture, digital design and manufacture, protecting design and intellectual property, enterprise and marketing in the development of products.

2: Core designing and making principles – Topics include: Design methods and processes, how technology and cultural changes can impact the work of designers, design processes, approaches to project management, responsible design, national and international standards in product design.

3: Additional specialist knowledge – Topics include: Performance characteristics of materials, forming, redistribution and addition processes, industrial and commercial practice.

Career Opportunities:

Engineering - various, product design, architecture, automotive design, interior design, advertising, graphic design, marketing, set/theatre design, furniture design, etc.

Examination/Assessment:

- Paper 1: Core technical principles and core designing and making principles (25% of A Level) 2 hour written examination
- Paper 2: Specialist Knowledge, technical design and making principles (25% of A Level) 2 hour written examination
- Non-Exam Assessment (NEA): Portfolio of work. 45 hours. Practical application of technical principles, design and making principles and specialist knowledge. (50% of A Level)

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in Design Technology or equivalent subject. Students who do not have a L2 DT qualification would need a meeting with the Subject Leader. GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language.

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES: A Level

WJEC

Subject Leader: Mr L Norton

The WJEC A level in Drama and Theatre Studies is a two year linear course. It offers a practical and challenging course of study which encourages learners to develop and apply an informed, analytical framework for making, performing, interpreting and understanding drama and theatre. The course would suit students who wish to progress from GCSE Drama or who have an active interest in performance outside school. The A level is split into four separate units that examine both your ability to perform and create theatre as well as your ability to analyse performance and answer essay questions on a range of set texts.

Examination/Assessment:

Unit 1: Theatre Workshop: Internally Assessed – 24% of qualification

Unit 2: Text in Theatre: Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes – 16% of qualification

Unit 3: Text in Action: Non-exam assessment: Externally assessed by a visiting examiner – 36% of qualification

Unit 4: Text in Performance: Written Examination: 2 hours 30 minutes – 24% of qualification

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in Drama and GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language and/or Literature. This is **essential** as students will analyse plays in depth and will write answers in long essays. (If a student does not have Drama at GCSE, they would need to consult with the Subject Leader.)

ECONOMICS: A Level

AQA

Subject Leader: Mr K Norris

Course Content: Economics has become high profile. The credit crunch, bankers' bonuses and fears of a Euro melt down are just three topics rarely out of the news in recent years, throwing a light on the importance of and divisions within the discipline. 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.

Paper 1: Markets and market failure The economic problem, price determination, production, costs and revenue, competitive and concentrated markets and

the market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets.

Paper 2: The National and International Economy.

The measurement of macroeconomic performance, the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis and macroeconomic policy.

Paper 3: Economic Principles and Issues. Individual economic decision making, perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly, the labour market, poverty and inequality.

Examination/Assessment: Three 2 hour written examinations consisting of multiple choice questions, data response questions and extended writing questions (essays).

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 5 or above in Maths, English Language and English Literature

ENGLISH LANGUAGE: A Level

Edexcel

Subject Leader: Mrs T Cheema

Subject Teachers: Mr H Cuthbertson, Miss E Johnson & Mr K McKenna

Course Content: A level English Language is a two year linear course, offering the opportunity for students to develop their expertise by engaging creatively and critically with a wide range of texts and discourses. The course will appeal to students who enjoy thinking about how language can be used creatively throughout society. Students will be expected to develop a comprehensive critical vocabulary for deconstructing language and its usage, and they will be given the opportunity to analyse, evaluate and debate a range of texts (both spoken and written). More specifically, students will be able to explore some of the following aspects of language: "Language and the Individual", (focussing on individual and social contexts for language, including Child Language Development); "Language Diversity and Change", (a consideration of larger-scale public discourses about change and variety, drawing on regional, ethnic, national and global versions of English); "Independent Language Investigation and Original Writing", (an independent investigation into an area of particular interest and a piece of original writing).

The English Language course is ideally suited to students who understand the importance of communication in a global world; students who can ask intelligent questions about texts; students who are eager to develop a critical linguistic vocabulary way beyond the demands of GCSE English.

Examination/Assessment: 80% of assessment is through examination (2 x 2 hour written papers),

taken at the end of the 2 year course, and 20% through coursework.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 6 or above in English Language and English Literature.

ENGLISH LITERATURE: A Level

AQA (Specification B)

Subject Leader: Mrs T Cheema

Teachers: Mrs C Verdin & Mrs T Cheema

Course Content: This is a linear course covering the study of a range of literary texts of different periods (including pre-1900 and post-2000 writing) grouped by genre (for example, comedy or tragedy; crime or political and social protest writing). Over the course of the two year A level course, students will study at least eight texts, two of which will be drama, two prose and two poetry. Students will have the opportunity to explore connections between texts and how texts might be interpreted in a multiplicity of ways, enriched by a reading of a range of critical theory. In the second year of the course, they will have the opportunity to choose their own texts for study in the "Theory and Independence" unit of the course. Students need to be prepared to engage in detailed textual analysis, creative and independent interpretive thinking, and regular and rigorous essay writing.

Examination/Assessment: 80% of the assessment is through examinations (Paper 1 - 2½ hours; Paper 2 - 3 hours) taken at the end of the two year course, and 20% through coursework.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 6 or above in English Language and English Literature.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION: Level 3

AQA

Subject Leaders: Mrs Verdin, Mr Woodcock

Course content: The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) allows a student to embark on a largely self-directed and self-motivated project. Students must choose a topic, plan, research and develop their idea and decide on their finished product.

The EPQ is highly valued by universities. It encourages creativity and curiosity. A project topic may be directly related to a student's main study programme, but should look beyond the specification. It can, alternatively, explore a completely different area of knowledge. A finished project may take the form of:

- a research based written report of c.5000 words

- a production* (e.g. a charity event, a fashion show or sports event etc.)
- an artefact* (e.g. a piece of art, a computer game or realised design)

(*A written report of c.1000 words must accompany these options)

Supported by guided learning of research methods and the acquisition of skills of project management and critical thinking, students record their project process in a Production Log. The process of recording and completing a project is as important as the finished product. Together with a presentation of their project findings to a non-specialist audience, the Production Log and Product are all assessed.

Examination/Assessment: Production Log, Product and Presentation are internally marked and externally moderated. The EPQ is graded A* - E. UCAS points value are 50% of a full A level.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE English Language Grade 5 or above preferred.

FOOD: A Level

City and Guilds Advanced diploma in Professional Cookery (Level 3 course which carries UCAS points)
Subject Leaders: Mrs N McDonald & Mrs G Lepore.

Course content: This is a very practical course that uses various commodities to prepare a variety of dishes.

The topics that you will undertake include:

Stocks, soups and sauces • Fruit and vegetables • Meat and offal • Poultry • Fish and shellfish • Farinaceous dishes • Desserts and puddings • Paste products • Biscuits, cakes and sponges • Fermented products • Chocolate products

You will learn various techniques, skills and cooking methods as well as how to present dishes professionally.

Examination/Assessment: 1 practical exam and 1 written exam at the end of the 2 year course.

GEOGRAPHY: A Level

Edexcel

Subject Leaders: Mr S Bromley, Mr T Woodcock & Miss L McDonald

Course Content: A contemporary geographical course with a strong focus on the interaction between global, national and local, physical and human geographies.

Globalisation, international development, environmental change and population pressure are just some of the forces creating global challenges

today and in the future. To understand, contribute and sustainably change the world we live in, requires a geographical understanding and skill set as developed by the new A level qualification. It is for this reason that Geography is such a valued qualification for all jobs today and tomorrow.

Paper 1: 2 hour 15 minutes (30% of the qualification)

- Tectonic Processes and Climate Hazards
- Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – including Glaciated Landscapes
- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Paper 2: 2 hour 15 minutes (30% of the qualification)

- Globalisation
- Shaping Places - including diverse places
- Superpowers
- Global Development and Connections – including Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Paper 3: 2 hour 15 minutes (20% of the qualification)

A synoptic study of two of the core examination areas to investigate geographical interactions:

Players,

Attitudes and Actions,

Futures and Uncertainties.

Paper 4: Coursework: Independent Investigation (20% of the qualification)

Teacher assessed coursework (no exam). The student identifies a geographical question or issue for investigation. The write up will assess the pupil's ability to introduce, collect data (quantitative and qualitative), present and analyse data, conclude and evaluate their findings.

Fieldwork: Over the course of the two years we will undertake 4 days of fieldwork to collect data for Paper 4 and to enrich our understanding of geography in the world around us. This will include a residential fieldtrip to the Lake District (Blencathra Field Studies Centre)

Specific Entry requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in Geography, and GCSE Grade 5 or above in Maths, English Language.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL STUDIES:

A Level

Edexcel

Subject Leader: Mr B O'Neill

"In politics, nothing happens by accident. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Course content: This course will introduce you to the major political institutions of the United

Kingdom and the United States. You will find out what power political institutions actually hold and the power we have over them. We will also ask whether these institutions function efficiently and look at the case for making changes to our current system of government. Our studies also focus on the power of ideology and the system of government in the United States and how it compares to our own system of government here in Britain. The study of politics will help you gain an understanding of the key political philosophies that have influenced British, American and International politics. You will 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 practise and acquire a wealth of valuable skills which are held in high demand and esteem in many fields of employment.

There are three components to the course:

Component 1: UK Politics. Topics include democracy, participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour, the media, and core political ideas such as conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

Component 2: UK Government. Topics include the UK constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive as well as relationships between the different branches of government. We also choose to focus on one political ideology in this section from a choice of anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism or nationalism.

Component 3: Comparative Politics. Students will study the politics of the USA, including the US Constitution and federalism, US congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court, democracy, participation and civil rights.

Examination/Assessment: Written examination at the end of the second year: one exam for each component.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in History or GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language or English Literature.

HISTORY: A Level

AQA

Subject Leaders: Mr M Coll & Ms L Blackburn

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 aspects of British, European and World History from the 17th to the 20th century will equip 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, broadcasting, law, politics, advertising, teaching, publishing and marketing.

Modules:

A Level Component 1: The British Empire c.1857 - 1914

A Level Component 2: Democracy and Nazism: Germany 1918-1945

A Level Component 3: A Personal Study on the Rise and Fall of Absolute Monarchy in France (1661-1792) (3000-3500 words)

Examination/Assessment:

A Level: Two written examinations of 2 hours 30 minutes each plus One Personal Study

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in History and GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language or Literature. (Students who have not studied History at GCSE may be able to take the A Level provided they have GCSE Level 5 or above in English Language and/or English Literature).

ILM AWARD IN LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT: Level 3

Course Leader: Mrs Verdin

This course has been run for the first time at Richard Challoner School in 2016, for those Prefects who wish to develop their understanding of leadership and management skills further, and to reflect on their own practice in the light of leadership and management theories.

It has been developed in conjunction with the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) and CVQO, and provides students with a tangible leadership qualification – probably the most highly regarded of the nationally recognised leadership and management qualifications, providing students with life skills beneficial for future employment. As a Level 3 qualification, it is comparable with A levels in terms of cognitive demand, although, because it

does not require as many learning hours as other Level 3 courses (approximately 10 hours of classroom time), it does not currently carry any UCAS points. However, the nature of the qualification means that it could make a significant difference to any application for a place at university, a job, an apprenticeship, or for any other school leavers' programme.

The course consists of two compulsory units:

1. "Leading and Motivating a team effectively" (4 short written assignments totalling c.1200 words)
2. "Understanding Leadership" (6 short written assignments totalling c.1200 words)

This course is additional to our core curriculum offer, and carries a cost to the school of £85 per student. However, we have, this year, been successful in securing sponsorship for the course, bringing the cost to each student down to £20.

Specific Entry Requirement: The course is open to any student successful in an application for the role of prefect.

LAW: A Level

OCR

Subject Leader: Mr B O'Neill

The study of A Level Law provides grounding in the main principles of English and Welsh Law. It enables candidates to develop knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of the structure, personnel and functions of the legal system.

The study of A Level Law encourages students to:

- develop and sustain their enjoyment of, and interest in, the subject.
- develop knowledge and understanding of selected areas of the law of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- develop an understanding of legal method and reasoning.
- develop the techniques of logical thinking and the skills necessary to analyse and solve problems by applying legal rules.
- develop the ability to communicate legal arguments and conclusions with reference to appropriate legal authority.
- develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of law in society.

The 2 year A Level course.

Year 12: Unit G151: English Legal System ● Civil courts and other methods of dispute resolution ● Criminal process ● Criminal courts ● Penal system ●

Judiciary ● the legal profession ● Lay people in the legal system ● Provision of legal services Unit G152: Sources of Law ● Doctrine of precedent ● Legislation ● European Union law ● Law reform
Year 13: Unit G153: Criminal Law ● Principles of criminal liability ● Attempted crimes ● Offences against the person ● General defences ● Non-fatal offences against the person ● Offences against property Unit G154: Criminal Law Special Study ● As in Unit G153 above

The number of units, set at 4, reduces the assessment burden on students as we finish 2 years of study with 4 straightforward assessments. Candidates are required to demonstrate a high level of legal skills throughout assessment and it is an excellent preparation for those wishing to progress to degree level study.

Examination/Assessment:

English Legal system (30%) 2 hour examination
Sources of Law (20%) 1 hour examination
Criminal Law (30%) 2 hour examination
Criminal Law Special Study (20%) 1½ hour examination

Specific Entry Requirement: No prior knowledge of the subject is required. It is expected that students will have achieved GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language and English Literature.

MATHEMATICS: A Level

Exam Board: tbc

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. The course consists of Pure and Applied papers, in the ratio 2:1. The Applications are Mechanics and Statistics, each equally weighted. Pure 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. Mechanics is the study of motion and equilibrium of bodies, including forces and moments. Statistics is the study of data and probability, to make predictions of the likelihood of events.

Mathematics is a very popular subject at Richard Challoner and successful completion of the course provides very good career prospects.

Enjoyment and ability in algebra is essential to the course.

If Mathematics or Medicine is to be studied at university, please read the individual university

prospectus to discover if Further Mathematics at A Level is required.

Examination/Assessment: At the end of Year 13 there are 3 exams, each 2 hours in length. Calculators are allowed for all exams.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 6 in Maths is a minimum requirement, although GCSE Grades 7, 8 or 9 are advised.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS: A Level

Exam board: tbc

Subject Leader: Mrs N Cloudsdale

Course Content: Further Mathematics broadens the student's understanding of Mathematics by introducing new topics of Pure Mathematics and a larger selection of mathematical applications. Pure Mathematics topics include matrices, complex numbers, differential equations and McLaurin and Taylor series.

Students study Further Pure and optional papers comprising of Mechanics, Statistics or Decision Maths. Further Pure and the optional units are in the ratio 1:1.

Students must also study the Maths A level in Years 12 & 13. There may be the opportunity to sit AS Further Maths in Year 12 as a fourth subject option.

If Mathematics or Medicine is to be studied at university, please read the individual university prospectus to discover if Further Mathematics at A level is required, whether it is an advantage or disadvantage and whether any retake modules are permitted. Visit www.ucas.co.uk for further information about university requirements.

Examination/Assessment: Four papers, two Further Pure and two optional papers, plus standard Maths A level course. Each exam is 1.5 hours.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 8 or above in Mathematics.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: SPANISH: A Level

AQA

Subject Leaders: Miss P Allenby & Mrs E Rosario

Course Content: The ability to speak another language is more important than ever in today's society. As a modern foreign language, Spanish now represents one of the most influential and widely spoken languages in the world and also offers a rich and diverse culture. This course will help you to

become proficient and confident in the Spanish language whilst at the same time gaining an insight into the society, history and culture of the Hispanic world.

As well as developing your Spanish language skills through the study of topical issues such as family, popular culture and health, you will also study the works of a Spanish speaking author, poet or playwright. After reading the text, we will analyse the key themes, language and characters together with the historical context of the work. At A Level, you will also improve your fluency and accuracy in grammar and syntax through further study and understanding of contemporary world problems such as immigration, environment and poverty as well as gaining practical techniques in the area of translation studies. The vast range of skills that you will develop during this A Level course will equip you not only for careers in fields as diverse as business, government, journalism, the creative arts, travel and tourism, teaching and law, but also for future holidays and travel abroad.

Examination/Assessment: The course is assessed through the skills of speaking, listening, reading, translation and essay writing.

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

MUSIC: A Level

Edexcel

Subject Leaders: Mr J Bridges & Miss K Jo

A level Music builds on the three essential components which are studied throughout the Secondary curriculum: Performing, Composing and Listening and Appraising. The course is designed to build on what students have learnt at GCSE and it is an excellent opportunity for students to put their musical skills to use in an academic and practical way. Throughout the course, students study music from different eras including the vocal music of Bach and Mozart, instrumental music from Berlioz and Vivaldi, music for film, popular music, including jazz, and music of the avant-garde 20th century. Students also study compositional techniques in set styles and will be expected to perform a range of repertoire in front of a live audience.

Course Outline:

Unit 1: Performing 30% - Students perform one or more pieces in a concert lasting a minimum of 8 minutes.

Unit 2: Composing 30% - This is organized in two parts:

1. A composition either to a brief or a free composition (40 marks)
2. A technical study based on an arrangement of a melody or a chorale in the style of J S Bach (20 marks)

Both parts must last in total at least 6 minutes.

Unit 3: Appraising 40% - A two hour examination in two parts. This exam covers a wide range of music genres and styles, each with three set works.

Section A: Areas of study and dictation (50 marks)

- Three questions related to the set works (audio and skeleton score provided)
- One short melody/rhythm completion exercise

Section B: Extended response

- Two essay questions – essay one (20 marks) and essay two (30 marks)
- Essay one asks students to draw links from their study of the set works to the music heard as an unfamiliar extract.
- Essay two gives a choice of three questions that ask students to evaluate the musical elements, context and language of one set work. Each option will be from a different area of study.

Examination/Assessment:

Performance (30%) – completed during the course and externally examined.

Composition (30%) – completed during the course and externally examined.

Appraising exam (40%) – externally examined

Specific Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade B or above in Music (if taken). Playing an instrument/singing to Grade 5 standard is essential. Students who believe they are at this standard but have not yet passed the exam must enquire instead. Students need to be able to read stave notation (treble and/or bass clef) fluently. An interest in, and an open minded approach to, all styles of music, as well as an ability to compose and write about music (to GCSE standard) is useful.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY: A Level

Edexcel

Course Leaders: Mr J Bridges & Mr N Cannon

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.

Course Outline:

Component 1 (20%): Recording – One recording, chosen from a list of 10 songs provided by Pearson, consisting of a minimum of five compulsory instruments and two additional instruments.

Component 2 (20%): Technology-based Composition – One technology-based composition chosen from three briefs set by Pearson. This relies on synthesis and audio manipulation and must be supported by a log book.

Component 3 (25%): Listening and Analysing – Section A: Listening and analysing (40 marks) – four questions, each based on unfamiliar commercial recordings supplied by Pearson (10 marks each). Section B: Extended written responses (35 marks) – two essay questions. One comparison question, which uses two unfamiliar commercial recordings from the CD (15 marks). The second essay uses the final unfamiliar commercial recording from the CD (20 marks).

Component 4 (35%): Producing and Analysing – Section A: Producing and Analysing (85 marks) – five questions related to the audio and MIDI materials provided, that include both the written responses and practical tasks.

Section B: Extended written response (20 marks) – one essay focusing on a specific mixing scenario, signal path, effect or music technology hardware unit.

Examination/Assessment: Assessment will include 40% of the course in coursework which is all externally assessed. The final 60% is achieved through two examinations: a Listening exam where students control their own CD and a Producing exam where students work on a Digital Audio Workstation (such as Logic Pro) on set tasks.

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

PERFORMING ARTS - MUSICAL THEATRE

BTEC Level 3 – Certificate 1 year (equivalent to one AS) - Subsidiary Diploma 2 years (equivalent to one A level)

Edexcel/Pearson

Subject Leaders: Miss S Willson, Mr J Bridges

Course Content: The course is vocational and will allow students to explore and focus on building technique and performance skills in singing, dancing and acting. The lessons take the form of rehearsals or workshops with material suited to the ability and stage of development of the students. Students will additionally learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands.

Rehearsal logs and follow up research will run alongside workshops and performances. You will be taught by professionally trained staff with experience of working in the performing arts industry. Professional Musical Theatre actors will give Master Classes. We have links with professional drama schools and West End Theatre visits take place regularly.

Examination/Assessment:

Assessment is through ongoing assignments and can vary from written tasks to practical demonstration of skills in the three areas. On completion students will be awarded an overall grade, which can be used towards entry to university. The course is assessed internally by Challoner staff and moderated externally by Edexcel/Pearson.

Specific Entry Requirements:

A typical performing Arts student is lively, ambitious, self-motivated and has a love of Musical Theatre. Additionally, it is vital that they should be willing to perform in public, work with others, solve problems, plan their own learning and communicate effectively.

We welcome students from secondary schools from the local area as well as our own. Students will need to have at least 5 GCSEs at Grade C/4 and above. We strongly suggest that one of the GCSEs is in Dance/Drama and/or Music. Those students who have had previous experience of classes in dance, singing or acting will also be welcomed onto the course. Natural talent is also of benefit! All students including those who are unsure as to whether the course is right for them are invited to attend a workshop alongside other students who have more experience. Their ability and potential will then be taken into consideration.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: A Level

AQA

Richard Challoner School/Holy Cross School

Subject Leaders: Mr P Manley, Ms P Sullivan & 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, and then be able to specialise in one.

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.

Component 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology

Section B: Skill acquisition

Section C: Sport and Society

Component 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport

Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics

Section B: Sport psychology

Section C: Sport and Society and technology in Sport.

Component 3: Practical performance in physical activity and sport.

Examination/Assessment: Component 1: 2 hour written exam, Component 2: 2 hour written exam, Component 3: Internal assessment with external moderation.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in Biology (Triple Science) or GCSE Grade B or above in both Core & Additional Science in Double Science. GCSE PE recommended but not essential. Students would need approval from the subject leader. Regular commitment to at least one extra-curricular competitive sport is essential.

PHYSICS: A Level

OCR A

Subject Leader: Mr D Toomey

Teachers: Mr D Toomey & Mr I O'Brien

Course Content: Physics allows students to study Newton's three laws of motion and applications to everyday situations, the motion of projectiles through the air and certain properties of materials such as Young's modulus. Students will also study basic circuit electronics and the laws governing them, for example, Kirchoff's laws and I-V characteristics of certain components. The physics of waves is also examined, with focus on progressive and stationary waves and their everyday occurrences, before

applying this knowledge to the study of quantum physics including Einstein's photoelectric equation as well as the phenomenon of wave-particle duality. In the second year, a further two modules are studied, entitled "Newtonian World and Astrophysics" and "Particles and Medical Physics". Throughout the course, students will also be required to develop practical skills in preparation for the written examinations.

Examination/Assessment: Students sit three written papers assessing all six modules. Students will also work towards a teacher-assessed Practical Endorsement.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in Physics (and GCSE Grade B or above in Biology and/or Chemistry) or GCSE Grade B in both Core and Additional Science. GCSE Grade 5 or above in Mathematics.

PSYCHOLOGY: A Level

AQA Specification A

Subject Leader: Mr A Scarisbrick

Course Content: Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. The mind is the most complex machine on Earth; it is the source of all our thoughts and behaviours, so if you are passionate about understanding how people think and behave then Psychology is for you!

The course covers a variety of topics and disciplines in psychology. In one examination paper you will cover **social influence** (e.g. why did the Germanic people obey the Nazis and why do people conform?), **memory** (e.g. how we create and store memories and are these reliable), attachment (e.g. how do we form attachments and what impact do these attachments have on our later development?), and **psychopathology** (e.g. how do we define abnormality and treat people who suffer from mental illness?).

For your second examination paper, you will cover **approaches in psychology** (e.g. how do the different disciplines in psychology explain why humans behave the way they do?), **biopsychology** (e.g. the structure and function of the brain), and **scientific processes** (e.g. how to create ethically reliable and valid experiments).

Your third examination paper will cover **issues and debates** (e.g. is human behaviour the product of genetic inheritance or the environment?), **gender** (e.g. how do we explain gender identity disorder?), **eating** (e.g. why do people develop eating disorders?) and **aggression** (e.g. why do people become aggressive?)

Examination/Assessment:

Three 2 hour examinations

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language and/or English Literature and Mathematics AND GCSE Grade B or above in two sciences in Triple Science or two Grade Bs or above in Double Science.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES: A Level

OCR

Subject Leaders: Mrs L Bailey & Mr N D'Aguiar

Course Content: This course offers a combination of Philosophy, Ethics and Christian Theology.

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? 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. We explore issues such as: 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? Is it acceptable to experiment on an aborted foetus? Is a human being more valuable than an animal?

Christian Theology: We explore how Christian Theology relates to the Philosophy and Ethics topics covered in the course.

Examination/Assessment: The A level course consists of two topics, and candidates sit two written examinations of 3 hours each.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in Religious Studies and GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language or English Literature.

SOCIOLOGY: A Level

AQA

Subject Leader: Mrs M Enright

Course content: Sociology is the systematic study of human groups and social life in modern society. It is a social science based on logical arguments and evidence. Sociology attempts as far as possible to minimise bias and to maintain objectivity when looking at the social world. If you have an interest in people, then sociology may be a good subject for you, because the focus is on the influences from society which shape the behaviour of people, their

experiences and their interpretations of the world around them. Studying sociology will give you an understanding of the social structure of institutions such as the family, education and the political system. It will foster the development of critical and reflexive thinking with a respect for social diversity. Sociology is an exciting, relevant and interesting subject that will enable you to develop an excellent understanding of contemporary society and social life as well as a lifelong interest in social issues. Studying Sociology can give you a whole host of career options, including Human Resources, Advertising, Social Work, Policing, Marketing, Law and Teaching.

A Level Examination:

Paper One: Education with Theory and Methods in context - Written Examination (2 hours).

Paper Two: Families and Households and Beliefs in Society - Written Examination (2 hours).

Paper Three: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods - Written Examination (2 hours).

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language and English Literature.

SPORTS LEADER AWARD

Subject Leader: Mr P Manley

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

Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership

The Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership (CSL) 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 seven units of work to complete.

Essential: A student must demonstrate a real enthusiasm for Sport and practically and theoretically a very good understanding of the skills and techniques of at least one sport.

Preferred: Real Enthusiasm for sport. Basic Literacy and Numeracy. Preferred Grade 4 at English Language and Mathematics

Level 3 Award in Higher Sports Leadership

The Level 3 Certificate 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. The Level 3 certificate consists of 8 units of which 7 must be successfully completed:

- 1) Developing Leadership Skills
- 2) Provision of sport within the community
- 3) Lead sessions designed to improve fitness
- 4) Organise and lead a sports event or competition
- 5) Legal and ethical responsibilities when working with others
- 6) Lead sport/activity sessions for children*
- 7) Lead sport/activity sessions for older people*
- 8) Lead sport/activity sessions for disabled people*

*Two of three to be completed

Learners must undertake a minimum of 30 hours of leadership within the community. They must undertake at least 10 hours leadership within units 2, 6, 7 and 8.

Compulsory requirement to gain a National Governing Body Award (Introductory or Level 1) which is current and valid

Specific Entry requirement: GCSE English Language and Mathematics at Grade 5.

Benefits to you:

- ✓ A fun and practical course that focuses on leading rather than technical ability
 - ✓ Potential stepping stone into employment, further education or training
 - ✓ A good foundation to progress onto other Sports Leaders UK awards or qualifications, and/or a National Governing Body award.
 - ✓ Develops generic leadership skills that will be vital in other areas of life
 - ✓ Allows those who are not sports superstars to take a full and active role in sport and physical activity
 - ✓ Increased self-confidence that comes through taking responsibility for own and others' learning and enjoyment.
-

COURSES AT HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

- Art, Craft and Design
- Art Textiles
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computing
- Creative Digital Media Production
- English Literature
- English Language & Literature
- Extended Project
- French
- Geography
- Health and Social Care: Applied Diploma
- History
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Music
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Science – Applied Science
- Sociology

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN: A Level

AQA

Subject Leader: Mr R Taylor

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.

Units 1, 2 & 3: Coursework (60%)

Sept Year 12 – Jan Year 13

These three units allow students to have the opportunity 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.

Unit 3: Year 13 Coursework Sept - Jan

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.

Unit 4: Externally Set Assignment (40%) Feb - May

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

Examination/Assessment: All work is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in at least one of the following: Art & Design, Applied Art or Art Textiles. Grade 4 or above in English Language.

ART TEXTILES: A LEVEL

AQA

Subject Leader: Mrs H Lamont

Course Content: On this course students are introduced to a range of textile media, techniques and processes. Students are provided with the opportunity to produce practical and contextual work in one or more areas including:

- Fashion
- Printed and/or dyed fabrics and materials
- Domestic textiles, wallpaper
- Interior design
- Constructed textile
- Textile Installation

Students have the opportunity to work with a variety of textile methods such as fabric painting, tie-dye, batik, fabric construction and stitching. **Students also explore drawing using a variety of methods and media as part of the course and need to have sound drawing skills.**

Units 1, 2 & 3: Coursework (60%)

Sept Year 12 – Jan Year 13

These three units allow students to have the opportunity 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.

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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.

Unit 4: Externally Set Assignment (40%) Feb-May

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

Examination/Assessment: All work is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in at least one of the following: Art & Design, Applied Art or Art Textiles. Please note that GCSE Design Technology Textiles is **not** valid to study this course. This is a Fine Art Textiles course following an Art Specification. Grade 4 or above in English Language.

BIOLOGY: A Level

Edexcel Specification B

Subject Leaders: Mrs V Gowan, Miss Guest & Mr Sophanpal

Course Content: Biology is a challenging and fascinating subject and it has many applications to everyday life. Whilst Biology is the most approachable Science, it is rigorous and engaging, and aims to equip students with a contemporary grasp of key biological principles.

The specification is split into 10 topics:

Topics taught during Year 12:

1. Biological Molecules
2. Cells, viruses and reproduction of living things
3. Classification and biodiversity
4. Exchange and transport

Topics taught during Year 13

1. Energy for biological processes
2. Microbiology and pathogens
3. Modern genetics
4. Origins of genetic variation
5. Control Systems
6. Ecosystems

Examination/Assessment:

At the end of Year 13, students will sit three exam papers. Papers 1 & 2 are both 1 hour 45 minutes long. Each paper provides 30% of the overall mark. Paper 3 is 2 hours 30 minutes long and provides 40% of the overall mark.

In addition there is an additional Certificate in Practical Skills which is awarded to A Level students who have demonstrated the necessary practical skills. This is separate to the A Level grade and, if awarded, is recorded as a Pass on the A Level certificate.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in Biology and one other science (Triple Science) or GCSE Grade B in both Core & Additional Science (Double Science). GCSE Grade 5 or above in Mathematics. GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language or English Literature.

CHEMISTRY: A Level

Pearson Edexcel Chemistry

Subject Leaders: Mrs S Gonzalez & Mrs C Wheeler

Course Content: The course is divided into short topics which include:

- Atomic Structure and the periodic table
- Bonding and structure
- Redox
- Inorganic chemistry and the periodic table
- Formulae, equations and amounts of substance
- Organic Chemistry
- Modern analytical techniques
- Energetics
- Kinetics
- Equilibrium
- Acid-based equilibria
- Transition metals
- Practical endorsement

Organisation of the course:

All students will study ten topics in Year 12 and complete the required practical assignments. In Year 13, they will study topics 11 - 17 plus complete the required practical assignments.

Examination/Assessment: The course is assessed by linear examinations. Students are examined on all topics at the end of Year 13, two papers of 30% each on specified content and a synoptic paper of 40% total marks. A Certificate in Practical Skills is awarded to students who have demonstrated the required level of practical skills.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in Chemistry and one other science (Triple Science) or GCSE Grade B in both Core & Additional Science (Double Science). GCSE Grade 5 or above in Mathematics.

COMPUTING: BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Edexcel

Subject Leader: Miss H Bosson

Course Content: This qualification is designed to support learners who are interested in learning about

the computing sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in the computing sector.

Students study three mandatory units:

- Principles of Computer science
- Fundamentals of Computer Systems
- IT Systems Security and Encryption

There is then one optional unit from a range covering creative computing, computer science and networking disciplines.

In the mandatory units, students will explore logical and structured ways that computer systems process data to develop programs, processes and systems that solve specific problems. They will analyse, develop and evaluate algorithms and computer code, and propose and apply solutions to ensure that computer systems are fit for purpose, developing the computational-thinking skills to effectively analyse a problem, break it down into its component parts and design and evaluate solutions.

Students will explore the relationship between hardware and software as part of a computer system and the impact that computing systems have on organisations and individuals. They will investigate the many different types of security attack, the vulnerabilities that exist and the techniques that can be used to defend the IT systems of organisations.

Examination/Assessment: Students will study the three compulsory units and one optional unit over two years. The course is 58% externally assessed and 42% portfolio based involving practical work, group work and it also requires learners to conduct extensive independent work.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 4 or above in English Language and in Mathematics. GCSE Grade C or Level 2 BTEC in Computing (Merit/Distinction) is advantageous.

CREATIVE DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION: BTEC National Level 3 Extended Certificate

Pearson

Subject Leader: Mr D Terracciani

Course Content: This course provides an introduction to the study of creative digital media production. Students develop an understanding of the media industry through analysing media presentations and pitching and producing media projects such as film trailers, adverts, TV programmes, newspapers, magazine front pages etc.

BTEC Media is more hands-on than the A Level and it would suit students who enjoy practical work more than studying theories. The course is designed for students who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the media industries.

Examination/Assessment: Equivalent to one A Level Students complete 4 units of which 3 are mandatory. Two units are externally assessed (58%)

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 4 or above in English Language and English Literature

ENGLISH LITERATURE: A Level

OCR

Subject Leaders: Mr M Oliver, Miss E Amer, Mrs D Middlecoat & Miss C Haughey

Course Content: English Literature is a highly rewarding subject which encourages students to become independent, critical thinkers. In particular, this course aims to foster a love of literature across genres and time periods, which provides an excellent foundation for the knowledge and skills required at degree level.

Some of the core texts studied include: *Private Lives* by Noel Coward, *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams, *The History Boys* by Alan Bennett, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and *The Bloody Chamber* by Angela Carter. Students will also study a Shakespeare text and a collection of poems from Christina Rossetti of Alfred, Lord Tennyson. At A Level there will be an opportunity to focus on a particular genre of literature: options include The Gothic and American Literature.

Examination/Assessment: Two examinations 80%, one Creative/Critical Study 20% internally assessed and externally moderated.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 6 or above in English Language and English Literature.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE: A Level

AQA

Subject Leaders: Miss E Amer and Miss C Haughey

Course Content: English Language & Literature allows students to continue to explore both the critical and theoretical aspects of the English language at advanced level. This course offers students the opportunity to study a wealth of literature, in addition to developing their own creative writing skills. They will study drama, poetry and prose and produce critically analytical reflections upon their own work.

Authors may include Mary Shelley, Bram Stoker, Margaret Atwood, Alice Sebold, Seamus Heaney, John Donne, Carol Ann Duffy, Robert Browning, Jon Krakauer, Kate Summerscale, F Scott Fitzgerald, Khaled Hosseini, Shakespeare, Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams and Rory Kinnear. Students will explore the influential significance of aspects of phonetics, phonology and prosodics, lexis and semantics, grammar, pragmatics and discourse.

Component 1 – Paper 1: Telling Stories
Component 2 – Paper 2: Exploring Conflict
Component 3 – Non-exam assessment: Making Connections

Examination/Assessment: Two examinations 80%. One personal investigative task linking texts by themes: 20%. This will be internally assessed and externally moderated.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 6 or above in English Language and GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Literature.

EXTENDED PROJECT: Level 3

Edexcel
Subject Leader: Mrs V Gowan

Course Content: The Extended Project is a standalone qualification that can be taken alongside GCEs. It creates the opportunity to develop transferable skills for progression to higher education or employment through the exploration of either an area of personal interest or a topic of interest. This qualification:

- is recognised by universities for the skills it develops
- is worth half an Advanced GCE qualification at grades A* to E
- carries UCAS points for university entry

The Extended Project encourages students to develop skills in the following areas: research, critical thinking, extended writing and project management. Students identify and agree a topic area of their choice. Students can choose from one of the following approaches:

- a dissertation (for example an investigation based on predominately secondary research)
- an investigation/field study (for example a practical experiment)
- an artefact (for example creating a website based on a client brief or solving an engineering problem)

The qualification is coursework based and students are assessed on the skills of managing, planning and evaluating their project. Students will research their

topic, develop skills to evaluate the information, and then present the final outcome of their project. The Extended Project cannot be used against a grade offer (such as AAA), but some universities may offer an alternative for students studying the Extended Project (such as ABB instead of AAB), provided that you get an A in your Extended Project.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language

FRENCH: A Level

AQA
Subject Leader: Ms Bouchy

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 French 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 French.

GEOGRAPHY: A Level

AQA
Subject Leaders: Mrs F Smith & Mr S Wigman

Course Content: A course aiming to excite students' minds, challenge their perceptions and stimulate their investigative and analytical skills.

Component 1: Physical Geography (40%)
Section A: Water and carbon cycles
Section B: Hot Desert Systems and Landscapes **or** Coastal Systems and Landscapes **or** Glacial Systems and Landscapes
Section C: Hazards **or** Ecosystems under Stress

Component 2: Human Geography (40%)
Section A: Global Systems and Global Governance
Section B: Changing Places

Section C: Contemporary Urban Environments or Population and the Environment or Resource Security
Component 3: Geographical Investigation (20%)

3,000-4,000 word individual investigation (60 marks)
Students complete an individual investigation which must incorporate data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

Students must work on their own contextualising, analysing and reporting their work to produce an independent investigation with an individual title that demonstrates required fieldwork knowledge, skills and understanding.

Examination/Assessment: 2 written examinations of 2 hours 30 minutes each and the individual investigation.

All students are required to undertake fieldwork in relation to processes in both physical and human geography. Students must undertake a minimum of four days of compulsory fieldwork. A fieldwork statement must be provided to the exam board to confirm that each student has fulfilled this requirement.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in Geography and GCSE Grade 5 or above in Maths and English Language.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE: Applied Diploma

WJEC

Subject Leaders: Mrs N Murphy & Ms T Sullivan

Course Content: In this course you will develop an interest in and an understanding of health, education, social care and issues affecting the care sector. It comprises 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.

In Year 2 you will study two further units. The first unit is based on providing learners with knowledge and understanding of common diseases and illnesses, in addition to a range of disability conditions and impairments. Content will cover: the basic concepts, cause and effect, care management process, legislation and barriers to care, risk reduction strategies and the burden of disability and disease. The second unit is based on demographic changes to life expectancy, the impact on the provision of health and social care services and the impact of the

management of long-term conditions. This unit will also include the physical and cognitive effects of ageing in addition to the rights and responsibilities of older individuals.

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. Examination (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%)

Unit 3: Disease, Illness and Disability (40% pre-release paper)

Unit 4: Ageing Demographic. This is internally assessed and externally moderated (60%)

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language and GCSE Grade C or above in Double/Triple Science (or Distinction in BTEC Science) and GCSE Grade 4 or above in Maths. It is recommended that students should also have GCSE Grade B or above in Health & Social Care.

HISTORY: A Level

AQA

Subject Leaders: Miss H Kay & Ms L Gordon

"Study the past if you would divine the future"
Confucius

Course Content: History is a fascinating subject which gives us a greater understanding of the world in which we live. Studying history broadens the mind and gives you valuable skills. History is a firm foundation for many academic courses and career choices. 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. History offers progression to a diverse range of careers including Teaching, Journalism, Law, Accountancy, Diplomatic Service, Media, Police, Local Government, Retail, Marketing, Social Work and Management.

Component 1: Breadth Study – The Tudors: England 1485 -1603

Component 2: Depth Study – Democracy and Nazism: Germany 1918-1945

Component 3: Historical Investigation - Witchcraft 1560 -1660: England & Europe

Examination/Assessment: Two written examinations both two and a half hours (80%) and an Historical Investigation (3000-3500) words (20%)

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in History and GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language or Literature. You may still be accepted if you did not study History for GCSE provided you can show evidence of good academic achievement in other subjects.

MATHEMATICS: A Level

Edexcel

Subject Leaders: Miss A Rout & Mrs M Haias

Subject to change

Course Content: A Level Mathematics builds on and extends GCSE knowledge and skills and introduces new ideas, such as calculus and its applications. It emphasises how mathematical ideas are interconnected and how these ideas can be applied to model situations mathematically.

There is a strong emphasis on logical reasoning and problem-solving and you will learn to use your mathematical skills and techniques to solve challenging problems. Most of the course involves using algebra and it covers topics such as trigonometry, co-ordinate geometry, differentiation and integration (calculus) and algebraic techniques and functions.

All students study statistics and mechanics. Statistics develops the skills required to interpret real data presented in summary or graphical form and helps us to draw conclusions about what the data shows. Mechanics allows us to describe and make predictions about how physical objects move and interact with each other involving ideas such as velocity, acceleration, force and mass which are central to understanding how the world works. The course assessment is entirely through examination. A Level Mathematics prepares students for further study and employment in a wide range of disciplines involving the use of maths such as sciences, social sciences, engineering and business.

Students will be assessed on their knowledge of Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics. The assessment objectives include a greater emphasis on modelling, problem-solving and reasoning, so some questions are likely to be longer with less scaffolding. This builds on the increase in problem-solving in GCSE so students will be better prepared. The examinations will be taken at the end of the course and it is expected that questions will link different aspects of the course.

Examination/Assessment: The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics consists of three externally examined papers.

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1

Written Examination: 2 hours (100 marks)

Students will study the following topics:

Proof, Algebra & Functions, Coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane,

Sequences & series, Trigonometry, Exponentials & logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Vectors

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2

Written Examination: 2 hours (100 marks)

Students will study the following topics:

Proof, Algebra & Functions, Coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, Sequences & series, Trigonometry
Differentiation, Integration, Numerical methods

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics

Written Examination: 2 hours (100 marks)

Students will study the following topics:

Section A: Statistics

Statistical Sampling, Data Presentation & interpretation, Probability, Statistical distributions, Statistical hypothesis testing

Section B: Mechanics

Quantities and Units in Mechanics, Kinematics, Forces & Newton's Laws, Moments

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 6 or above in Mathematics.

MATHEMATICS – FURTHER: A Level

Edexcel

Subject Leader: Mrs M Haias

Subject to change

Course Content: Further Mathematics is designed for students with an enthusiasm for mathematics, many of whom will go on to degrees in mathematics, engineering, the sciences and economics. As well as building on algebra and calculus, introduced in A Level Mathematics, the core content of Further Mathematics introduces complex numbers and matrices, fundamental mathematical ideas with wide applications in mathematics, engineering, physical sciences and computing. The non-core content will cover pure mathematics, statistics and mechanics to a deeper level. This will require students to use their mathematical knowledge to make logical and reasoning decisions, in solving problems both within pure mathematics and in a variety of contexts, and

communicate the mathematical rationale for these decisions clearly. The additional work in Pure Maths makes it a good choice for students with strong mathematical skills who are planning to study maths, physics or engineering at university, and for some Maths courses (or subjects based on Maths) at Oxford, Cambridge or some of the other Russell Group Universities, it is a requirement.

Examination/Assessment: The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Further Mathematics consists of four externally examined papers.

Paper 1: Further Pure Mathematics 1

Written Examination: 1 hour 30 mins (75 marks)

Students will study the following topics:

Proof, Complex Numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Further vectors

Paper2: Further Pure Mathematics 2

Written Examination: 1 hour 30 mins (75 marks)

Students will study the following topics:

Complex Numbers, Further Algebra and Functions, Further Calculus, Polar coordinates. Hyperbolic functions, Differential equations

Paper 3: Further Mathematics Option 1

Written Examination: 1 hour 30 mins (75 marks)

Students will take one of the following options:

Further Pure Mathematics 3 – Further Calculus, Further Differential Equations, Coordinate systems, Further Vectors, Further numerical methods, Inequalities.

Further Mechanics 1 – Momentum and Impulse, Collisions, Centres of mass, Work and energy, Elastic strings and springs

Paper 4: Further Mathematics Option 2

Written Examination: 1 hour 30 mins (75 marks)

Students will take one of the following options:

Further Pure Mathematics 4 – Groups, Further Calculus, Further matrix algebra, Further complex numbers, Number theory, Further Sequences and series

Further Mechanics 1 – Momentum and Impulse, Collisions, Centres of mass, Work and Energy, Elastic strings and springs

Further Mechanics 2 – Further kinematics, Further dynamics, Motion in a circle, Statics of rigid bodies, Elastic collisions in two dimensions

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 8 or above in Mathematics

MEDIA STUDIES: A Level

WJEC

Subject Leader: Mr D Terracciani

Course Content: Media Studies will enhance your enjoyment and appreciation of the media and their role in our daily lives. You will study how media texts are constructed and how audiences and users respond to and interpret them. You will also develop your knowledge and understanding of the relationship between media texts, their audiences and the industries which produce and distribute them.

A range of media texts will be covered including advertisements, DVD covers, CD covers, newspaper front pages, magazines, film extracts, television sequences, music videos, websites and computer game extracts. As part of your coursework you will also have the opportunity to create media products such as film extracts and magazine pages.

Examination/Assessment: Written examination (70%) and Production Coursework (30%)

Specific Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language and Literature

MUSIC: A Level

Edexcel

Subject Leaders: Ms K Jo & Mr J Bridges

A level Music builds on the three essential components which are studied throughout the Secondary curriculum: Performing, Composing and Listening and Appraising. The course is designed to build on what students have learnt at GCSE and it is an excellent opportunity for students to put their musical skills to use in an academic and practical way. Throughout the course, students study music from different eras including the vocal music of Bach and Mozart, instrumental music from Berlioz and Vivaldi, music for Film, popular music, including jazz, and music of the avant-garde 20th century. Students also study compositional techniques in set styles and will be expected to perform a range of repertoire in front of a live audience.

Course Content: Unit 1: Performing 30% - Students perform one or more pieces in a concert lasting a minimum of 8 minutes.

Unit 2: Composing 30% - This is organized in two parts:

3. A composition either to a brief or a free composition (40 marks)
4. A technical study based on an arrangement of a melody or a chorale in the style of J S Bach (20 marks)

Both parts must last in total at least 6 minutes.

Unit 3: Appraising 40% - A two hour examination in two parts. This exam covers a wide range of music genres and styles, each with three set works,

Section A: Areas of study and dictation (50 marks)

- Three questions related to the set works (audio and skeleton score provided)
- One short melody/rhythm completion exercise

Section B: Extended response

- Two essay questions – essay one (20 marks) and essay two (30 marks)
- Essay one asks students to draw links from their study of the set works to the music heard as an unfamiliar extract.
- Essay two gives a choice of three questions that ask students to evaluate the musical elements, context and language of one set work. Each option will be from a different area of study.

Examination/Assessment:

Performance (30%) – completed during the course and externally examined.

Composition (30%) – completed during the course and externally examined.

Appraising exam (40%) – externally examined

Specific Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade B or above in Music (if taken). Playing an instrument/singing to Grade 5 standard is essential. Students who believe they are at this standard but have not yet passed the exam must enquire instead. Students need to be able to read stave notation (treble and/or bass/clef) fluently. An interest in, and an open minded approach to, all styles of music, as well as an ability to compose and write about music (to GCSE standard) is useful.

PHOTOGRAPHY: A Level

AQA

Subject Leader: Mrs B Gibbs

A photography portfolio/project will need to be completed before enrolling on to the course.

Course Content: The course is delivered as digital lens based photography. The focus of the course is creative photography using manipulation 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.

**Unit 1, 2 & 3: Coursework (60%)
Sept Year 12 – Jan Year 13**

These three units allow students to have the opportunity 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.

Unit 3: Year 13 Coursework Sept - Jan

This unit incorporates two linked elements, practical work and a personal study. The practical work allows the student to pursue their creative development. 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.

Unit 4: Externally Set Assignment (40%) Feb-May

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

Examination/Assessment: All work is internally assessed and externally moderated

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in Art & Design, Applied Art or Art Textiles. Also GCSE Grade 4 or above in English

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: A Level

AQA

Richard Challoner School/Holy Cross School

Subject Leaders: Mr P Manley, Ms Sullivan & 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 A Level.

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.

Component 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology (35 marks)

Section B: Skill acquisition (35 marks)

Section C: Sport and Society (35 marks)

Component 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport

Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics (35 marks)

Section B: Sport psychology (35 marks)

Section C: Sport and Society and technology in Sport. (35 marks)

Component 3: Practical performance in physical activity and sport. Non-exam assessment

Examination/Assessment: Component 1: 2 hour written exam, Component 2: 2 hour written exam, Component 3: Internal assessment with external moderation.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in Biology (Triple Science) or GCSE Grade B or above in both Core & Additional Science in Double Science. GCSE PE recommended but not essential. Students would need approval from the subject leader. Regular commitment to at least one extra-curricular competitive sport is essential.

PHYSICS: A Level

OCR Specification A

Subject Leader: Dr O Zacharopoulou

Course Content: A Level Physics equips students with a wide range of academic and practical skills through the study of six modules.

1. Development of Practical Skills
2. Foundations of Physics
3. Forces and Motion
4. Electrons, waves and photons
5. Newtonian world and astrophysics
6. Particles and medical physics.

Examination/Assessment: The course is assessed by linear examinations; all six modules are examined at the end of Year 13. Two papers of 37% each and a synoptic paper of 26% of the total marks. 40% of the question paper assessment covers mathematical skills. A Level students will be awarded a practical certificate after successfully completing practical work set during the two year course.

Specific Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade B or above in Physics and one other science (Triple Science) or GCSE Grade B or above in both Core and Additional Science. GCSE Grade 5 or above in Maths

POLITICS: A level

AQA

Subject Leader: Mr M Tate

This is a draft specification and may be subject to change.

“Just because you do not take an interest in politics, doesn’t mean politics won’t take an interest in you” Pericles

Course Content: Do we, the people really control the politicians or do they control us? What will now happen to the UK following “Brexit”? What now for the Conservative and Labour Party? Can Donald Trump really become the next President of America? If you are interested in those questions then A Level Politics is the course for you. Politics is a crucial part of our daily lives and involves the important decisions that affect your life, whether it is in health, education or the economy.

In this course we will examine the key political institutions of the UK and explore the ways in which our society is governed. We will explore the importance of democracy and participation and how this has been reflected by the voter in elections. You will also gain an insight into the different political ideologies that have shaped British Politics.

A Level Politics will develop your analytical and evaluative skills, and is a highly respected subject amongst universities. Politics is particularly useful for those interested in careers in law, journalism, broadcasting, teaching, and or course, politics. It also has strong links to a range of other subjects including History, Philosophy and Economics.

Topics studied: Year 12 British Politics

Year 13: British and American Politics

Examination/Assessment: tbc

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade B/5 or above in one or more of English Language, English Literature and History

PSYCHOLOGY: A Level

AQA

Subject Leader: Miss S White

Course content: Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour – so if you are passionate about understanding how people think and behave, then Psychology is for you! The first year of the course covers topics such as memory (e.g. how we remember and whether we can trust our memories), social influence (e.g. why did German soldiers obey the Nazis and why do people conform?), attachment (e.g. do our early experiences affect our later development?), psychopathology (e.g. how we define mental illness), the different approaches used to explain behaviour in psychology, biopsychology (e.g. structure and functions of neurons), and scientific

processes (e.g. how to create reliable and valid experiments). In the second year, you will also study issues and debates, schizophrenia, relationships and aggression.

Examination/Assessment: A Level: Three written examinations (2 hours each) which will cover all the material over the two years.

Specific Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language or Literature and Mathematics plus GCSE Grade B or above in two Sciences in Triple Science or GCSE Grade B or above in GCSE in both Core and Additional Science.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES: A Level

Edexcel

Subject Leaders: Mrs A Lucas, Ms L Mackin & Mrs K Kelly

Course content: This fascinating subject includes a study of Philosophy of Religion, Religious Ethics and New Testament Studies.

Philosophy is the study of wisdom and it gives you the opportunity to study some ultimate questions such as philosophical arguments about the existence of God, the problem of evil and suffering and philosophical debates about miracles.

Ethics is thought-provoking and 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). New Testament Studies will give you the opportunity to study the Gospel texts, the scholarly and critical methods used today to study the text of the New Testament. We will also explore aspects of Christian Theology, for example the nature of Jesus as both human and divine.

Examination/Assessment:

Three written examinations of two hours each

Specific Entry requirement: GCSE Grade B or above in RE and GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language or Literature.

industry, commerce, the NHS, education authorities, further and higher education and charitable, counselling and voluntary organisations. Opportunities exist in the civil service and graduate management training schemes. Sociologists work with a varied and diverse client group.

Year 12 students will cover the key concepts and theories associated with the study of Sociology:

- Families and Households – topics include childhood, family diversity and demography
Education, methods in Context and Research

SCIENCE – APPLIED SCIENCE: BTEC Level 3

Extended Certificate

Subject Leaders: Ms C Capaldi

Course Content: This BTEC Level 3 course is equivalent to 1 GCE A Level and carries the equivalent UCAS points. The BTEC Extended Certificate covers 4 units over 2 years.

Principles and Applications of Science

Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques

Science Investigation Skill

One Optional Unit

The course covers the key knowledge and practical skills required in the vocational sector.

Examination/Assessment: One exam (25%)
One externally assessed practical task (33%)
2 internally assessed coursework units (42%)

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 Grade C or above in two or more sciences (Triple Science). GCSE Grade 4 or above in Mathematics.

SOCIOLOGY: A Level

AQA

Subject Leaders: Ms F Kinirons

Course content: Sociology is the study of human social relationships, 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's subject matter is diverse: we will look at topics ranging from crime to religion, the family to education, from divisions of race, social class and gender to the shared beliefs of a common culture. Sociology is an exciting, relevant and interesting subject that will enable you to have a better understanding of the world you live in. 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 sectors. Employers include local and central government,

*Richard Challoner School Sixth Form
offers a wide and varied programme of study,
meeting the needs of all our students in a caring Catholic environment that embraces
tradition with innovation.*

*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 are committed to creating a secure and friendly environment.
 - ✓ Close academic mentoring 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 social



Richard Challoner School

Manor Drive North,
New Malden,
Surrey, KT3 5PE
Tel: 020 8330 5947
Fax: 0208 330 3842
Email: rbc@challoner.kingston.sch.uk
Website: www.richardchalloner.com



The Holy Cross Catholic Girls' School

25 Sandal Road,
New Malden,
Surrey, KT3 5AR
Tel: 020 8395 4225
Fax: 0208 395 4234
Email: hxs@holycross.kingston.sch.uk
Website: www.holycross.kingston.sch.uk