



BYRON COLLEGE

YEAR 11 AS/A2 LEVEL OPTIONS
Discussion Evening



Thursday 14th April, 2016

ENTERING THE SIXTH FORM 2016



Welcome to the Sixth Form!

Life in the Sixth Form at Byron College is a very special time for pupils for many reasons. You will be studying the subjects you enjoy; you will establish new friendships with pupils who join us from other schools and other countries; you will develop leadership skills through community service; and you will relish the opportunities to offer clubs and to help with the organization of a variety of school events. But most importantly, you will appreciate the fantastic support you receive from your teachers, tutors and parents as you prepare to leave Byron and start a new life elsewhere.

During the sixth form you will talk to your form tutor on a regular basis to review your AS/A-Level choices, exam results, UCAS application forms and to talk through any problems that may occur. High academic expectations, small class sizes and the close monitoring of performance promotes sound academic success. University and career information will be available for all pupils.

Choosing your Options

Entering the Sixth Form is an important and exciting opportunity to study a small number of courses that you have specifically chosen. The aim of the Options Booklet is to help you plan your course of study for September 2016, and beyond. It contains information on subjects being offered at Year 12. You should read it carefully and keep it for future reference. Choices of AS/A-Level subjects are very important, so you will need to take your time and think through the various options carefully; talk to your teachers, Form Tutor, parents and current sixth formers to ensure that you are as well informed as possible.

Overall the subjects you study in the Sixth Form should provide you with a course that is:

- ***Suited to your interests and abilities;***
- ***Challenging and achievable for you;***
- ***Relevant for your career aspirations;***
- ***Providing pathways for further study at a higher level;***
- ***Not a result of peer pressure.***

The best advice is to plan for the long term and to keep your options open by selecting a balanced course. Specializing too early in one curriculum area has the disadvantage that if your career plans change, your course selection may make this difficult. You should make sure that your choice of subjects allows for future flexibility and is relevant to your possible career needs. It is wise to think in terms of several possible career areas.

Most pupils study 5 subjects at AS Level in Year 12, reducing to 3 subjects at A2-Level in Year 13. Whilst a complete A-Level consists of the AS and A2 courses in a particular subject, a free standing AS course is a useful qualification in its own right. It is sometimes possible for pupils to take a new AS course in Year 13, timetable permitting.

AS and A2 courses in some subjects are modular; the courses are broken down into sections which are separately examined with the so-called “uniform mark” from each component added to give the total score for the end of the course.

Currently, A-Levels are being reformed and, in some subjects, reformed A-levels ready for first teaching in September 2016 will all be fully linear with exams at the end of the full two years. The reformed A-levels will not include AS-Level qualifications. New AS-Levels will be standalone qualifications, designed to offer breadth of curriculum. The marks from them will not contribute to an A-Level grade and AS-Levels will broadly remain at their current standard.



Opportunities

There is greater choice in the Sixth Form, ranging from what you wear at school, opportunities to take part in and offer enrichment activities, to opportunities to acquire work experience, and there are now opportunities to study new subjects.

To complement your academic studies, you will attend a series of talks and presentations throughout the year from academics, people from many different walks of life and representatives from universities to help you plan your future.

Pupils with English as a Second Language will have the opportunity to attend lessons in English to develop their speaking and writing skills further. An IELTS course is offered in Year 12 and if pupils have already attained a high level in all English skills, they will be invited to take the IELTS test at the end of Year 12.

In addition, participation in engaging, interactive workshops in PPD (Personal and Professional Development) will equip you with the tools you need to identify your goals and give structure to your learning plan.

Finally, you will be encouraged to maintain health and fitness through scheduled PE lessons.



The Sixth Form is a fresh start with new challenges and new responsibilities. The quality of life in the Sixth Form depends on your enthusiasm, self-motivation and self-discipline.

We hope that as you enter the Sixth Form you will respond positively to both the new freedoms and demands which it entails in preparation for life after school.

Course Title: Classics - Classical Civilisation

Course code: OCR AS/A-Level GCE in Classics: Classical Civilisation - H041, H441

Why study Classical Civilisation at AS/A-Level?

OCR Classics suite provides the opportunity for the study of classical sources in their contexts. It is flexible, creative, fair and accessible.

Classical Civilisation is the study of the Greek and Roman worlds. Pupils find this subject immensely enjoyable. The course is diverse in its content, including literature, drama, history and politics, art, philosophical and religious beliefs and offering a breadth of experience by the study of two civilisations at the height of their achievements.

Other benefits Include:

- The Classical Civilisation pathway offers the opportunity to study the Classical World from various different perspectives: archaeological; historical; cultural; literary. There is the possibility to focus the GCE mainly on the Classical Greek World or on the Roman World, or to create a broad ranging curriculum that spans both.
- Reduced assessment burden on pupils as the number of units has been reduced from six units to four units (two at AS, two at A2).
- Simple straightforward assessment, with no coursework.

What will I learn?

AS: You will study any **two** of the Classical Civilisation units 1-6 which include:

- Archaeology: Mycenae and the classical world;
- **Homer's Odyssey and Society;**
- Roman Society and Thought;
- **Greek Tragedy in its context;**
- Greek Historians;
- City Life in Roman Italy.

A2: In addition to the two AS units, you will study any two of the A2 Classical Civilisation units 7-10:

- Roman Britain: Life in the outpost of the Empire;
- Art and Architecture in the Greek world;
- Comic Drama in the Ancient World;
- Virgil and the world of the hero.

How will I be assessed?

- All units are assessed through a timetabled written examination. Examination series are available every June.
- The **AS GCE** is made up of **two units** which are externally assessed and form 50% of the corresponding **four-unit Advanced GCE**.

What are the entry requirements?

The course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills specified for GCSE Classical Civilisation; however, prior attainment of a GCSE qualification in a classical subject is **not** required. In addition, it is recommended that pupils have attained GCSE Grade C in English.

The skills needed for this course are an enjoyment of Greek mythology and a willingness to read and discuss literature (all texts are in English); to examine sources, both literary and artistic and be critical about them. During the course your ability to analyse and evaluate evidence will be developed, as will your aesthetic appreciation. You will need to do additional reading about Greek and Roman society. Your written work will include answering source-based questions (short and structured) and essays.

Pupils studying Classical Civilisation will be expected to enhance their understanding by participating in visits to archaeological sites, museums and theatre.

Future Opportunities?

Classical Civilisation is a challenging subject, which can lead to a wide range of university courses, both in Classics and other disciplines. It provides a training that is widely respected in the professions and in industry. At its highest level you study a period of human history, as closely as possible integrating language, literature, politics, philosophy and the arts.

You can combine Classical Civilisation very well with any Arts subject or Maths in the Sixth Form; Sciences have also been successfully studied along with Classics. Classical Civilisation complements subjects such as: English Literature, Languages, History or Government and Politics, while providing a valuable contrasting breadth for scientists. The syllabus provides excellent opportunities for pupils to develop the critical and evaluative skills essential for the world of work or for further study in higher education.

Course Title: A Level Modern Greek

Course code: A-Level Greek (8GK01/9GK01)

Why study Modern Greek at A-Level?

Greek language and literature is a fascinating subject. Pupils will study a variety of texts from different Greek authors and thus become acquainted with the Greek literary heritage, irrespective of their nationality. They will develop an understanding of literary ideas and strengthen their knowledge, in order to cultivate critical thought. The course is comprised of class discussions, research tasks and essay writing in order to promote learning, while also being an enjoyable and enriching experience.

What will I learn?

The AS course encourages pupils to foster interest in, and enthusiasm for, the Greek language, and develop an awareness and understanding of contemporary society and culture. It also enables all pupils to derive enjoyment and benefit from language learning and, as a result, take their place in a multilingual global society.

AS level Greek will be a stand-alone qualification and will no longer contribute to an A level grade. However, the AS Greek is designed to be co-taught with the first year of the A-Level course. The exam will be at the end of one year.

The A2 course promotes research and cultivates a greater, more in-depth knowledge and understanding of Greek literature, culture and society.

How will I be assessed?

AS is a 2-hour and 45-minute paper in 3 sections, externally assessed. The examination covers three key areas: Section A - Reading; Section B - Translation; Section C - Essay. Pupils are required to convey their understanding of written Greek through a series of reading tasks and demonstrate an ability to produce Greek in continuous writing.

A2 is a 3-hour paper in 3 sections, externally assessed.

The examination also comprises three sections: Section A: Reading; Section B: Translation; Section C: Essays on literature topics.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade B or above in GCSE Modern Greek.

Future Opportunities?

Literature, Classics, Sociology, Law, Arts, Psychology, Medicine, Life Sciences, Journalism, Translating / Interpreting.

Course title: Applied Information Communication Technology

Course code: Cambridge International AS and A-Level Applied Information and Communication Technology (9713)

Why study Applied Information and Communication Technology at A-Level?

In a world where information and communication technology (ICT) is constantly changing, individuals increasingly need technological and information literacy skills that include the ability to gather, process and manipulate data. This syllabus encourages students to become effective and discerning users of ICT. It helps them to develop a broad range of ICT skills, knowledge and understanding.

What are the entry requirements?

It is advisable that candidates beginning this course have studied Information and Communication Technology at IGCSE level.

Future opportunities?

Cambridge International A Level Applied Information and Communication Technology provides a suitable foundation for the study of ICT or related courses in higher education. Equally it is suitable for candidates intending to pursue careers or further study in ICT, or as part of a course of general education.

What will I learn?

The A-Level in Applied ICT assesses both knowledge and understanding, as well as practical skills, as follows:

Knowledge and understanding:

You should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- The functions and uses of the main hardware and software components of ICT systems, including portable communication systems;
- The ways in which organisations use ICT;
- The impact on society of the use of ICT in the home;
- The stages of the systems life cycle and the methods used within each of these stages;
- ICT and computing terminology.

In addition, you should be able to demonstrate all the knowledge and understanding from Cambridge International AS Level, and extend your knowledge and understanding of:

- The ways in which a wide range of organisations use ICT;
- The impact on society of the use of a wide range of online applications;
- The networking of information-processing systems and the use of online services.

Practical skills:

You should be able to:

- Select the right software for the task;
- Communicate effectively with other ICT users using email and search for appropriate information using the internet;
- Prepare, create, amend and edit documents and interactive presentations;
- Create both flat-file and relational database structures, add data, check the data entry, perform searches, reorganise data by sorting and present calculated values based on the data;
- Create graphs and charts;
- Integrate data from several sources;
- Output data in different forms;
- Create and test a data model using a spreadsheet, extract and summarise data in a variety of forms.

You should be able to fulfill all of the practical skills from Cambridge International AS-Level and:

- Create a mail merged document using a word processor and data handling package;
- Create an automated procedure which enables a user to select both the required document and the data to merge it with;
- Output data in different forms.

How will I be assessed?

The Scheme of the Assessment is as follows:

AS-Level:

Paper 1: Written (40% of total marks)

Paper 2: Practical (60% of total marks)

A-Level:

Paper 1: Written (20% of total marks)

Paper 2: Practical (30% of total marks)

Paper 3: Written (20% of total marks)

Paper 4: Practical (30% of total marks)

Course Title: AS and A-Level History

Course code: History (9389)

Why study History at A-Level?

Cambridge International AS/A-Level History is accepted by universities and employers as proof of knowledge and understanding of History. Successful candidates gain lifelong skills including:

- assessing different interpretations of an argument
- formulating their own ideas about a subject
- presenting clear and logical arguments
- evaluating historical evidence
- developing an understanding of historical concepts such as cause and effect, similarity and difference and continuity and change.

Cambridge International AS and A-Level History is one of the most recognised qualifications around the world. It is accepted as proof of academic ability and of historical knowledge for entry to universities. Every year, thousands of pupils with Cambridge International AS and A-Level History win places at good universities worldwide.

What will I learn?

AS-Level:

Component 1 Document question (source-based)

The Search for International Peace and Security, 1919–1945

Component 2 Outline study

International Relations, 1871–1945

A2-Level:

Component 3 Interpretations question (source-based)

The Holocaust

Component 4 Depth study

Europe of the Dictators, 1918–1941

How will I be assessed?

A Cambridge International A-Level qualification in History can be achieved either as a staged assessment over different examination series or in one examination series.

Component 1 Document question, 1 hour 40%

Component 2 Outline study, 1 hour 30 minutes 60%

Component 3 Interpretations question, 1 hour 20%

Component 4 Depth study 1, 1 hour 30 minutes 30%

What are the entry requirements?

We recommend that candidates who are beginning this course should have previously completed a Cambridge IGCSE course in History or the equivalent and have attained Grade C or above.

Future Opportunities?

Cambridge International A-Level History provides a suitable foundation for the study of History or related courses in higher education. Equally it is suitable for candidates intending to pursue careers or further study in Arts, Humanities and Social Science related areas (such as Law), or as part of a course of general education.

Cambridge International AS-Level History constitutes the first half of the Cambridge International A-Level course in History and therefore provides a suitable foundation for the study of History at Cambridge and for related courses in higher education. Depending on local university entrance requirements, it may permit or assist progression directly to university courses in History or some other subjects. It is also suitable for candidates intending to pursue careers or further study in Arts, Humanities and Social Science related areas, or as part of a course of general education.

Course Title: AS and A-Level Geography

Course code: Cambridge International AS and A-Level Geography (9696)

Why study Geography at A-Level?

Cambridge International AS and A-Level Geography is accepted by universities and employers as proof of knowledge and understanding of Geography. Successful candidates gain lifelong skills, including:

- an appreciation of the need for understanding, respect and co-operation in conserving the environment and improving the quality of life both at a global scale and within the context of different cultural settings
- an awareness of the usefulness of geographical analysis to understand and solve contemporary human and environmental problems
 - a sense of relative location, including an appreciation of the complexity and variety of natural and human environments
 - an understanding of the principal processes operating within Physical and Human Geography
 - an understanding of the causes and effects of change on the natural and human environments
 - an awareness of the nature, value, limitations and importance of different approaches to analysis and explanation in geography
 - a concern for accuracy and objectivity in collecting, recording, processing, analysing, interpreting and reporting data in a spatial context
- the ability to handle and evaluate different types and sources of information
 - the skills to think logically, and to present an ordered and coherent argument in a variety of ways
 - an excellent foundation for studies beyond Cambridge International A-Level in Geography, in further or higher education, and for professional courses.

What will I learn?

Paper 1:

The Physical Core: Hydrology and fluvial geomorphology; Atmosphere and weather; Rocks and weathering.

The Human Core: Population; Migration; Settlement dynamics.

Paper 2:

Advanced Physical Geography Options: Tropical environments; Coastal environments; Hazardous environments ; Arid and semi-arid environments. (Candidates study **two** of the above environments)

Paper 3:

Advanced Human Geography Options: Production, location and change; Environmental management; Global interdependence; Economic transition. (Candidates study two of the above topics)

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 Core Geography (3 hours)

Candidates answer questions in three sections. In Section A, they must answer five of six questions on the Physical and Human Core topics for a total of 50 marks. In each of Sections B and C, candidates answer one of three structured questions based on the Physical (Section B) and Human (Section C) Core topics, for a total of 25 marks in each section.

100% of total marks at Cambridge International AS-Level 50% of marks at A-Level

Paper 2 Advanced Physical Options (1 hour 30 minutes)

Candidates answer two structured essay questions, each on a different optional topic, from a total of eight questions based on the Advanced Physical Options syllabus, for a total of 50 marks.

25% of marks at A-Level

Paper 3 Advanced Human Options (1 hour 30 minutes)

Candidates answer two structured essay questions, each on a different optional topic, from a total of eight questions based on the Advanced Human Options syllabus, for a total of 50 marks.

25% of marks at A-Level

What are the entry requirements?

We recommend that candidates who are beginning this course should have previously completed a Cambridge IGCSE course in Geography or the equivalent and have attained Grade C or above.

Future Opportunities?

Cambridge International A-Level Geography provides a suitable foundation for the study of Geography or related courses in higher education. Equally it is suitable for candidates intending to pursue careers or further study in Planning, Environmental Subjects, Development, Tourism, etc., or as part of a course of general education.

Cambridge International AS-Level Geography constitutes the first half of the Cambridge International A-Level course in Geography and therefore provides a suitable foundation for the study of Geography at Cambridge International A-Level and thence for related courses in higher education. Depending on local university entrance requirements, it may permit or assist progression directly to university courses in Geography or other subjects. It is also suitable for candidates intending to pursue careers or further study in Planning, Environmental Subjects, Development, Tourism, etc., or as part of a course of general education.

Course Title: IAL Maths

EDEXCEL INTERNATIONAL AS AND ADVANCED LEVEL (IAL)

Edexcel International AS and A-Level qualifications are Pearson-regulated qualifications designed with the global learner in mind. They were introduced in 2013 as international alternatives to the Ofqual-regulated AS and A-Levels offered in the UK.

They differ from A-Levels in that they have a flexible, modular structure, but they maintain the rigorous standards of all Edexcel qualifications. All subjects (except Law) offer January and June examination windows, giving pupils more options when applying to local and international universities.

IALs are currently available in 8 popular subjects: **Accounting, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Economics, Law**. Four more subjects – English Language, English Literature, History and Psychology – are in development.

International AS-Level in Maths

Course code: Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Mathematics (XMA01)

Units: CORE MATHS 12 and Statistics 1 (2 exam papers at the end of year)

International A-Level in Maths:

Course code: Pearson Edexcel International A-Level in Mathematics (YMA01)

Units: CORE MATHS 34 and Mechanics 1 (2 exam papers at the end of year)

Further Maths:

Course code: Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Further Mathematics (XFM01)

Why study Maths at A-Level?

You'll extend your range of mathematical skills and techniques as you study our Edexcel International AS/Advanced Level in Mathematics.

Studied over one or two years, the course will help to develop:

- your ability to reason logically and recognise incorrect reasoning
- your ability to use mathematical skills and techniques to solve more difficult problems
- your understanding of coherence and progression and of how different areas of mathematics can be connected
- the skills needed to use technology such as calculators and computers
- your awareness of the relevance of mathematics to other fields of study and to society in general.

On completion, you could go on to further study of mathematics and related subjects, or choose to enter employment.

Advanced Level in Sciences: Physics – Chemistry – Biology

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary *and*

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Course structure:

The Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in all three sciences comprises six units and contains an International Advanced Subsidiary subset of three IAS units.

The International Advanced Subsidiary (IAS) is the first half of the International Advanced Level course and consists of Units 1, 2 and 3. It may be awarded as a discrete qualification at the end of Year 12 or contribute 50 per cent of the total International Advanced Level marks should the pupil wish to continue with the subject in Year 13.

The full International Advanced Level award consists of the three IAS units (Units 1, 2 and 3), and three IA2 units (Units 4, 5 and 6) which make up the other 50 per cent of the International Advanced Level (completed at the end of Year 13).

Pupils wishing to take the full International Advanced Level must, therefore, complete all six units.

Assessment:

100% external assessment. Exams are taken at the end of year 12 (IAS) and at the end of year 13 for those wishing to complete the full International A Level.

Course Title: AS and A-Level Physics

Course code: Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Physics (XPH01); Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Physics (YPH01)

Why study Physics at A-Level?

The Advanced Level in Physics is an optional course that is offered to all pupils entering Year 12 at Byron College.

The content of the course is mechanics, waves, quantum physics, electric and magnetic fields, particle physics, nuclear decay, oscillations and astrophysics.

The course will help pupils:

- * to progress from the Key Stage 4 programme of study and enable them to sustain and develop an enjoyment of, and interest in, physics and its applications.
- * to develop an understanding of the link between theory and experiment.
- * to understand the importance of physics as a human endeavour that interacts with social, philosophical, economic and industrial matters.
- * to prepare for higher educational courses in physics and related courses.

What will I learn?

Unit 1: Physics on the Go

This unit involves the study of mechanics (rectilinear motion, forces, energy and power) and materials (flow of liquids, viscosity, Stokes' Law, properties of materials, Young's modulus and elastic strain energy).

Unit 2: Physics at Work

This unit involves the study of waves (including refraction, polarisation, diffraction and standing (stationary) waves), electricity (current and resistance, Ohm's law and non-ohmic materials, potential dividers, emf and internal resistance of cells, and negative temperature coefficient thermistors) and the wave/particle nature of light.

Unit 3: Exploring Physics

Students are expected to develop experimental skills, and a knowledge and understanding of experimental techniques, by carrying out a range of practical experiments and investigations while they study Units 1 and 2.

Unit 4: Physics on the Move

This unit involves the study of further mechanics (momentum and circular motion), electric and magnetic fields, and particle physics. Particle physics is the subject of current research, involving the acceleration and detection of high-energy particles.

Unit 5: Physics from Creation to Collapse

This unit involves the study of thermal energy, nuclear decay, oscillations, astrophysics and cosmology.

Unit 6: Experimental Physics

Students are expected to further develop the experimental skills and the knowledge and understanding of experimental techniques that they acquired in Units 1 and 2 by carrying out a range of practical experiments and investigations while they study Units 4 and 5.

How will I be assessed?

The International Advanced Level physics course is completed through the Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Physics (IAL). The Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Physics comprises six units and contains an International Advanced Subsidiary subset of three IAS units. The International Advanced Subsidiary is the first half of the International Advanced Level course and consists of Units 1, 2 and 3. It may be awarded as a discrete qualification or contribute 50 per cent of the total International Advanced Level marks. The full International Advanced Level award consists of the three IAS units (Units 1, 2 and 3), plus three IA2 units (Units 4, 5 and 6) which make up the other 50 per cent of the International Advanced Level. Pupils wishing to take the full International Advanced Level must, therefore,

What are the entry requirements?

We recommend that candidates who are beginning this course should have previously completed a Cambridge IGCSE course in Physics or the equivalent and have attained Grade C or above.

Future opportunities?

Physics is a challenging and interesting subject which is essential not only for those who want to study Physics at a higher level, but also for those who wish to obtain other degrees such as Engineering, Electronics and Meteorology.

Course Title: AS and A-Level Biology

Course code: Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Biology (XBI01); Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Biology (YBI01)

Why study Biology at A-Level?

The aims of the International Advanced Level in Biology enable pupils to develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, Biology including an Appreciation of how society makes decisions about Biology-related issues and how Biology contributes to the success of the economy (medicines, cures for diseases, sustainable products) and society (conservation, environmental protection...)

Developing essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of Biology and how they relate to each other and to other areas of science. Topics include: Genetics, Disease, Forensic Science, Human Physiology, the Brain and Nervous System, Biochemistry, Environment and Evolution, Stem Cells...

What will I learn?

The International Advanced Level Qualification in Biology **requires** pupils to:

- Apply scientific knowledge and processes to unfamiliar situations
- Analyse and Evaluate scientific knowledge and processes.
- To assess the validity, reliability and credibility of scientific information.

Recognise, recall and show understanding of scientific knowledge.

What are the entry requirements?

Pupils who would benefit most from studying an International Advanced Level in Biology are likely to have a Level 2 qualification such as an International GCSE in Biology at grades A*–C.

Future Opportunities?

The IAL is demanding and should appeal to anyone with a keen interest in the subject and who wishes to pursue further studies involving the subject after school (Biomedical, Dentistry, Medicine, Sports Science, Environmental, Veterinary Medicine, Physiotherapy, etc.)

Course Title: AS and A-Level Chemistry

Course code: Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Chemistry (XCH01); Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Chemistry (YCH01)

Why study Chemistry at A-Level?

The aims of the Edexcel IAL in Chemistry are to encourage pupils to:

- Develop enthusiasm for Chemistry, including developing an interest in further study and careers in Chemistry
- Acquire deeper knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject, such as inorganic, organic and physical Chemistry and how they relate to each other.
- Appreciate the contribution of chemistry to the success of the economy and society and stimulate awareness on contemporary environmental issues
- Encourage critical thinking by combining ideas across the curriculum, emphasising on the links with other sciences.

What will I learn?

In the first year we study inorganic and organic chemistry and then during the second year we concentrate on certain aspects of advanced inorganic, further organic, organic synthesis and physical chemistry. The International A-Level in Chemistry compliments the other sciences and develops critical thinking, a quality required for further studies at University.

What are the entry requirements?

It is strongly recommended that pupils who wish to study International Advanced Level Chemistry, have completed the International GCSE in Chemistry (or an equivalent Level 2 qualification) at grades A*–C.

Future Opportunities?

The IAL in Chemistry is addressed to pupils with a genuine interest in the subject, who wish to pursue further studies at University in the fields of Chemistry, Environmental Science, Dentistry, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Sports Science, Forensic Science, Engineering, etc.

Course Title: Literature in English

Course code: Cambridge International AS and A-Level Literature in English (9695)

Why study Literature in English at A-Level?

Advanced level study in Literature is an exciting and challenging endeavour. Through the study of a wide variety of texts from different periods, forms and genres, learners develop a lifelong understanding of literary ideas, gain knowledge of ways in which literary works are structured and cultivate an enjoyment of literary texts that will hold them in good stead when it comes to being accepted by employers and universities.

In their lessons, students will interact with sophisticated literary ideas and precepts, as well as acquire essential critical thinking skills. Class discussions, presentations, research-based activities and essays will prepare pupils for the academic demands and independent learning approaches of higher education.

What will I learn?

AS - For the AS, students will study two units: Poetry & Prose and Drama. Texts include an anthology of poems from the sixteenth and early seventeenth century, Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton and *Absurd Person Singular* by Alan Ayckbourn.

The AS syllabus aims to develop an appreciation of literature in English in a wide range of texts, which will result in informed personal responses. Analytical oral and written communication skills will be honed throughout, and an understanding of how close reading may contribute to personal development will also be cultivated.

A2 - For the A2, students will study two more units: Shakespeare and other pre-20th Century texts and Literature from 1900 to the Present. Texts include Shakespeare's *Othello*, *Selected Poems* by John Keats, *Selected Stories* by Katherine Mansfield and Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*.

The A2 syllabus will build on and develop the knowledge and skills gained during AS, but will also introduce learners to schools of literary criticism.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by 100% examination. Each unit counts for 50% of the total mark of the AS, or 25% of the total mark for A-Level.

Questions are either general essay responses, or passage based.

Examinations are closed text.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade B or above in GCSE English Literature.

Future Opportunities?

Education, Publishing, Librarianship, Journalism, Medicine and Law are just some of the fields available for Literature students to pursue careers in.

Course Title: Business

Course code: A-Level Business (9609)

The study of Cambridge International AS and A-Level Business allows learners to take the first step towards a career in private or public organisations or progress with confidence to a degree in Business and Management related subjects.

A Cambridge International A-Level counts as a double-credit qualification and a Cambridge International AS-Level counts as a single-credit qualification within the Cambridge Diploma award framework.

The syllabus has been developed with the consultation of leading higher education institutions to ensure learners get a firm grasp of key Business concepts and develop the necessary skills for success at university.

It includes:

- The capacity to analyse activities of business organisations and their response to the changing environments
 - An understanding of how effective management creates successful organisations
 - The opportunity to realise how organisations engage in financial practices to create stakeholder value
 - Development of knowledge that relates to strategic planning and decision-making to ensure success
 - A solid foundation for further study
-

Course Title: Art, Craft and Design

Course code: A-Level (9AD0)

Course code: AS-Level (8AD0)

What will I learn?

Advanced level Art aims to develop the ability to appreciate the visual world; respond in a personal and creative way and communicate this through Art. It prepares pupils for employment and/or further studies beyond A-level Art and Art related courses.

The titles of study for Art, Craft and Design are fine art, graphic communication, textile design, three-dimensional design and photography. All titles explore practical and critical/contextual work through a range of processes and media. Drawing techniques will be on aspects of visual investigation and used for the development of ideas.

In lessons the skills developed will be a working knowledge of materials, processes and techniques. Imaginative powers and critical abilities will be developed experientially.

Lessons will involve drawing/photographing various stimuli for the formation and development of visual ideas. You will practice various techniques and then experiment to extend and apply these skills. This creative process is annotated to interlink practice and critical thinking, e.g. noting what makes Modern Art Modern, and takes the form of visual diary to record the journey.

How will I be assessed?

AS-Level - There are two components in this course which are to be completed in 1 year. Component 1 weighs 50% of the total qualification and is a personal investigation. This incorporates two major elements: supporting studies and practical work. Component 2 weighs 50% of the total qualification and is an externally set assignment. This incorporates preparatory studies and a 10-hour period of sustained focus.

A-Level - There are two components in this course which are to be completed in 2 years. Component 1 weighs 60% of the total qualification and is a personal investigation. This incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work, and a personal study. Component 2 weighs 40% of the total qualification and is an externally set assignment. This incorporates preparatory studies and a 15-hour period of sustained focus.

What are the entry requirements?

Art GCSE at grade C or above. The best foundation of success in Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE in Art is a good grade at GCSE. However, this isn't the requirement. If you have aptitude for the subject, if you are creative or 'good at drawing' you may have the basic skills to succeed. However, this course is not an easy option and you should be prepared to work hard at developing your abilities. You should have an understanding of the basic elements of art: colour, tone, form etc, and also some understanding of the place of art and design in the world, its history and its purpose. Above all, you should have an interest in creating and understanding art and the determination to develop that interest.

Future opportunities?

There are many careers in Art and Design. You may wish to take an Art AS or Advanced GCE in Art for its own sake or perhaps to form the basis of a future specialist interest or as part of a range of other subjects. You might wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of Art and Design or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in such fields as advertising, marketing, design, architecture, publishing and media. The study of art can also help you develop transferable skills you can take into any career or job.

Course Title: Government and Politics

Course code: Edexcel AS-Level Government and Politics (8GPO1)

Why study Government and Politics at AS-Level?

The course at AS-Level is fully focussed on the UK Political system and develops all pupils understanding of how decisions are made. It gives pupils the opportunity to explore one of the oldest modern political systems and to learn key components of the political system. The knowledge and understanding gained within the course are applicable in many other subject areas like history etc. The skills of essay writing, debate, discussion are continually developed in order to increase the engagement of pupils and of course prepare them for the formal examination at the end of the course.

What will I learn?

Unit 1: People and Politics

- Democracy and Political Participation
- Party policies and ideas
- Elections
- Pressure Groups

Unit 2: Governing the UK

- The UK Constitution
- Parliament
- The Prime Minister and Cabinet

The Judiciary and Civil Liberties

How will I be assessed?

There are two public examinations of 1 hour and 20 minutes each which assess each unit. They are sat in May/June and each unit examination represents 50% of the final grade.

What are the entry requirements?

All pupils must have 5 A*-C grades (Including English and Maths) with a B grade in a relevant subject e.g. History, English Literature etc

Future Opportunities?

Currently the course only runs at AS-Level and is a strong additional subject for pupils to have alongside full A-Levels when applying to University. This is especially the case for those applying to Humanities and Social Science based course like Law, History, etc.

Course Title: Cambridge Psychology Syllabus

Course code: Cambridge International AS and A Level Psychology (9698)

Why study Psychology at AS/A Level?

The study of Cambridge International AS and A Level Psychology is an introduction to and further development of the ideas and precepts rooted in the steps towards undergraduate study Psychology. As such, it is treated as a university-preparatory subject. The Cambridge International A Level counts as a double-credit qualification and a Cambridge International AS Level counts as a single-credit qualification within the Cambridge AICE Diploma award framework.

The syllabus has been developed with the consultation of leading higher education institutions to ensure learners obtain a firm grasp of key Psychology concepts and develop the necessary skills for success at university.

It includes:

- The ability to analyse ideas of major Psychological theories and organisations and their response to their changing environments;
- An understanding of how Psychology is crucial to modern organizational frameworks and networks;
- The opportunity to blend the liberal arts practice of modern Psychology to other subjects of study for career paths, including Sociology, Anthropology, Biology, and Developmental Philosophy;
- A solid foundation for further study of Psychology at the undergraduate level.

What are the entry requirements?

The syllabus suggests that candidates are not expected to have Psychology studies previously but the school recommends that learners have a good standard of written and spoken English in order to complete the course.

