



Notting Hill & Ealing
High School GDST

Sixth Form

PROSPECTUS ENTRY 2017

Life in the Sixth Form

CHOOSING
YOUR SUBJECTS

A BROADER
EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY
AND CAREERS

Contents

Welcome	3
The NHEHS Sixth Form	
Introduction	4
Sixth Form Life	5
Sixth Form Teaching	6
A Broader Education	8–10
Extra-curricular	12
Leading your School	13
Preparing for Higher Education	14
Networking	14
Careers	16
Results	17
Destinations of Leavers	17
Admissions	19
What Universities Want	20–22
Our Subjects	
Art	25
Biology	26
Chemistry	29
Classics – Latin	31
Classics – Classical Greek	32
Computer Science	35
Design and Technology	37
Drama and Theatre	38
Economics	41
English Language	42
English Literature	45
Geography	46
Government and Politics	49
History	50
History of Art	52
Mathematics	55
Modern Foreign Languages	
– French	56
– German	59
– Mandarin	60
– Spanish	63
Music	64
Philosophy and Ethics	67
Physics	68
Psychology	71



Welcome to the sixth form at NHEHS

The sixth form is not just about working hard on your chosen courses. It's also about a genuinely broad education, being part of an incredibly friendly and supportive community, making an important contribution to the leadership and development of your school and trying many new and exciting things.

Head of Sixth Form

Life in the NHEHS Sixth Form

The Notting Hill & Ealing sixth form is the perfect blend of structure and support; freedom and independence. It's a truly outstanding environment in which to learn and achieve and one in which you will be inspired to make the most of your talents.

Academic success lies at its heart with excellent teaching and individual support for each and every girl. You'll find an atmosphere of optimism and encouragement where students support each other and are supported by staff working to ensure that everyone is offered the best opportunities to flourish and succeed.

At the end of two years, into which you'll have packed more than you thought possible, you'll be informed, confident and articulate, and ready for the challenges of the next stage in your life.



“Our daughter is just about to leave Year 13 and thanks to Notting Hill & Ealing is heading for university with an open mind, broad interests and her passion for learning intact.”

Parent



Sixth form life

In the sixth form you'll be part of a tutor group and have the support not just of your subject teachers but your tutor and the whole sixth form team.

Your day will be much more your own to organise. There's no school uniform, there will be some periods in the week when you have no classes timetabled and you'll also be able to sign out in the afternoon if you have no classes or other commitments after lunch.

The Sixth Form Centre with its large, comfortable common room, sunny outside terrace, cafe and multi-gym provides you with a self-contained base and is an ideal stepping stone between school and university life. Some of your classes will take place here but much of the specialist teaching continues to take place in the main school building so you will remain fully involved in the life of the school.

“Ah frees – impossible to overestimate the delights of doing nothing very much for an hour in the common room but never underestimate their usefulness in keeping on top of your work!”

You'll experience an increase in freedom and responsibility in your academic life. You'll be expected to work more independently, carry out your own research and read around your subject. You can expect classes that offer lots of discussion, group work and opportunities to ask questions. As you rise to the challenge of this new style of learning you will be provided with plenty of guidance and support and you will soon begin to develop the confidence to work by yourself and value the flexibility and freedom.



Classes will be smaller and less formal. You will be taught by staff who are experts and love their subject, which provides depth and intellectual quality to their teaching. They have complete understanding of the demands of the examination syllabus but they will encourage you to look further, challenge the obvious, develop your own ideas and to think for yourself.

Teaching in your A Level subjects at NHEHS will provide you with the depth of subject knowledge and the academic skills you need to hit the ground running; skills such as research, essay writing, footnoting. The style of your lessons will promote collaboration and team work, analytical ability, versatility, and an awareness of the world around you. You will develop the intellectual curiosity and independence of mind that is the hallmark of an NHEHS education and which is so highly valued by top universities.

“I’ve loved my subjects. There’s such a strong rapport between us and the teachers here. They are so approachable, generous with their time and always ready with help and advice whether its with an essay, an article you want to find or when we’re in pre-exam meltdown!”







The NHEHS sixth form programme offers enrichment to every student.

As well as an extensive choice of A Level subjects and an excellent academic education the NHEHS sixth form provides rich and stimulating opportunities for you to develop a spirit of intellectual inquiry and critical thinking. This is what helps our sixthformers to become well-rounded individuals and the type of students who can contribute to a group tutorial and to university life.

Extended Project Qualification

During the course of Year 12 you will have the chance to study for the AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). The EPQ is a standalone qualification designed to extend and develop skills in independent research and project management. It is awarded UCAS points worth half an A Level and is generally regarded by universities as excellent evidence of preparation and readiness for university level work. You choose, research and develop a particular interest unrelated to your A Level specifications and then produce an individual assignment in the form of an essay, or a report or a design piece. This can be closely aligned to the degree course you are interested in.

Throughout the process you will be guided by academic staff who act as mentors and by the time you are making university applications in Year 13, you will have begun to produce work of a very high order. Your passion and interest will set you apart from other applicants when writing your personal statement or at university interviews.

“There are so many opportunities to fire their enthusiasm, broaden their horizons and give them plenty of food for thought. This helps them distinguish themselves from other candidates with similar grades in interviews and in their university applications.”

Sixth Form Tutor



Beyond the Classroom

You will find your A Level courses in all subjects made more exciting and interesting by additional lectures, visits to galleries, museums and exhibitions or courses at field work centres. Some lectures and conferences offer opportunities to explore others' ideas and collaborate with students from other schools. Many are offered through the GDST, or run by universities, publishers or examination boards.

Competitions, Olympiads and Prizes

Whether you love mathematics, biology, linguistics, design, chemistry, English, classics, art, art history or physics you will be able to join the many NHEHS sixthformers who find taking part in national competitions, university essay prizes and olympiads profoundly rewarding. Academic challenge and excitement can also be found by taking part in the academic competitions organised by the GDST for sixthformers from its schools throughout the UK. Competing in this way is always a chance to learn more about your subject and demonstrate your interest and commitment.



General Studies

In Year 12 everyone is involved in the General Studies programme which includes subjects such as Critical Thinking or Advanced Study and Research Skills which contribute to the taught element of the EPQ. Other options, such as Ethics in Science, Psychology or Literary Perspectives, are designed to broaden and enrich the sixth form curriculum. Everyone enjoys the Friday lecture programme which has featured inspirational sports men and women, speakers on medical ethics, writers, politicians, charity leaders and figures from the worlds of business and the arts.

Skills for Life

We know sixth form life with its change of pace and learning style can be a challenge, so we introduce a range of practical skills to help you make the best of these two important years. Specialist workshops cover interview skills or writing CVs, public speaking and presentation skills and there are also sessions on revision techniques, time management and student finance.



Sport and Fitness

Sport will be part of your timetable each week. You'll also have exclusive use of the multigym in the Sixth Form Centre which is a straightforward and convenient way for you to keep fit.

You'll be able to enjoy the school's fabulous new facilities for sport and dance and some of the activities you'll be able to choose from include zumba, yoga, self-defense, volleyball, badminton, basketball, football and golf. (Some of these options may involve visiting trainers or classes

at local sports clubs and attract a fee.) You will also be offered the chance to continue with hockey, netball, rounders, tennis and swimming and to take a Sports Leadership Award or to train as a Pool Lifeguard. Whatever you choose, we hope you'll find something that you'll enjoy and perhaps want to continue with after you've left school.





Extra-curricular

Wherever your interests lie – art, politics, music, drama or sport – they'll find expression here. There are dozens of clubs and societies. Some clubs are subject based, others develop a skill or interest, for example you can join the keen environmentalists, explore the past with the historians, or discuss books with the literary club.

For musicians there are two orchestras, chamber groups and ensembles, several choirs and plenty of formal and informal concerts and tours. Those with an entrepreneurial spirit will enjoy Young Enterprise which offers hands-on experience of starting your own business, developing new products and then marketing and selling them. If debating or public speaking is your thing, you can join the Debating Club and take part in English Speaking Union or Oxford Union competitions. The Politics Club, Amnesty International Group and Model United Nations Competitions also provide opportunities to develop and express your ideas and opinions.

“With the choir I’ve sung Evensong in St Georges Chapel in Windsor Castle, in fabulous baroque churches in Barcelona and lots of concerts here at school. Always a buzz and always a privilege!”

If you can't see a club or group that interests you, you'll be encouraged, and helped, to start one and many sixthformers help run the clubs and teams they join, sharing their enthusiasm and interest with younger girls.

If you are keen on sport you can try out for one of the teams in hockey, netball, rounders, tennis, cross country, gymnastics, water polo or swimming. We compete in county and London-wide competitions as well as against local schools and enjoy the added challenge of competing against other GDST schools from around the country.

Leading Your School

Notting Hill & Ealing sixthformers really do shape and lead their school and you'll be offered many opportunities for developing responsibility, teamwork and leadership skills.

Everyone shares the responsibilities of welcoming visitors to the school, helping with the organisation of events or supervising activities. There are plenty of ways to make your mark. You can get involved with the school magazine, run a club – or start one, help to produce school productions, train as a pool lifeguard, run a music group or ensemble, or share your experience or passion in assembly.

The House System, run entirely by Year 12, gives you the opportunity to make school life more enjoyable for younger pupils, through music, art, sports, debating, drama, dance and anything else you want to do. You'll be giving younger girls a chance to do more, and have fun in the process.

In Year 12, you can serve as a mentor to new girls arriving in Year 7, fulfilling a 'big sister' role, helping them settle-in quickly and to deal successfully with the challenges of their new school.

In Year 13, the year group elects a Head Girl Team who serve as an important link between students and staff and in helping to ensure the school functions smoothly. There are also opportunities to serve as Subject Secretaries who work with staff in particular areas of the school.

“I was part of the group that taught Latin to girls in the Junior School. We had a great time and even won a national competition with the film we made but what was best was sharing my love of Latin and seeing them discover what fun Latin could be.”





Preparing for Higher Education

Your tutor, the Head of Sixth, the Head of Careers and a team of experienced staff are there to guide you through the process of applying to university and to help you make the best use of the resources and support we offer. You'll be able to tap into their experience and knowledge and ensure that you make the best choices with your future academic goals and career plans in mind.

There is a specific UCAS preparation programme for all girls, with guided preparation, support and extension classes for those applying to Oxbridge or any highly competitive course such as medicine. We arrange talks by university admissions tutors to help you understand just what universities are looking for and how to make your application as strong as it can be.

We'll provide plenty of individual guidance on completing your UCAS form and writing your Personal Statement, a process which begins in the summer term of Year 12. In Year 13 there are practice interviews for everyone who needs them and plenty of help preparing for any admissions' test you may need to take.

Networking

Work experience or internships are becoming an increasingly important part of preparation for working life and essential for university applications in some subjects. While you're in the sixthform you'll be encouraged to organise work experience, and helped with practical advice on how to go about it.

As a NHEHS sixthformer you will have the particular benefit of access to the GDST Alumnae Network, the nationwide group of thousands of former Girls' Day School Trust students. This unique resource means you can ask for information from any member about their experiences of a particular course or university, or information about any career. The GDST also offers opportunities to learn about the corporate world, develop people skills and build links for potential graduate opportunities through conferences, workshops, competitions and schemes run in conjunction with global employers such as Nomura.



Results and Destinations

Results

Our girls achieve outstanding success in public examinations.

Year	A Level % A*/A/B grades	A Level % A* grades	GCSE % A*/A grades
2015	88%	25%	90%
2014	92%	27%	90%
2013	92%	28%	92%
2012	93%	28%	86%
2011	92%	33%	84%

Results for 2016 and destinations of this year's leavers can be found on the separate sheet enclosed with this prospectus, or on our website.

For 2016 results and results by subject go to www.nhehs.gdst.net



Destinations of Leavers

Our sixth formers apply successfully to university either in Year 13 or in the year immediately following their A Level examinations.

The success of an NHEHS sixth form education is shown by the extremely wide range of courses and universities our girls go on to. These include Oxbridge and the highly selective Russell Group universities.

In 2015 they went on to study subjects as varied as Medicine at Birmingham, Engineering Design at Bristol, Archaeology at Durham, Fine Art at Edinburgh, Geography and Spanish at Leeds, Economics at Nottingham, Architecture at Newcastle, History at Oxford, English Literature at Warwick and Genetics at York. In most year groups there will also be some girls who go on to an Art Foundation Course, usually at one of the London colleges, before going on to a degree course.

A full list for the 2016 Leavers can be found in this prospectus pack and you can read more on the Destinations pages of our website.

- We are not expecting significant changes to the content or level of A Levels. However, the way in which A Levels are examined is changing. Most subjects have now been 'reformed' with the last remaining subjects: maths, further maths, design technology, government and politics, history of art and Mandarin due to change from September 2017.
- The new A Level courses are linear, with examinations at the end of the two year course. The philosophy behind this change is to make more space for broader, deeper learning, with less time lost in testing.
- At Notting Hill & Ealing AS qualifications may still be available but will be taken at the end of Year 13.
- We take great care in helping you decide the exact combination of qualifications which will work best for you and most effectively support your university applications and future plans. Where we are waiting for details of changes to some courses to come through, more information will be available at the Into the Sixth evening on 4 October.

Choosing your Subjects

- Choose subjects which interest you, and which you want to study. You're likely to do better if you enjoy what you're studying.
- Do your research. At A Level you will study subjects in much more depth and there are some subjects you won't have had the chance to study before.
- Make sure you know which subjects would be advisable at A Level for any given university course (e.g chemistry and biology for Medicine; mathematics and physics for Engineering).
- For some students, it is sensible to try to include one subject which is different from the other three, to maintain breadth and contrast. Universities are increasingly looking for science students who can communicate and arts students who can think logically and are reasonably numerate. These are also the mix of skills that employers want.
- Read the course descriptions carefully and make sure you know what is involved eg course work, controlled assessment, practical examinations or fieldwork. Where possible, we have given the name of the examination board and the numbers of each of the units. You can use these to refer directly to the specification on the board's website for more detail. It has not been possible to provide examination board details for A Level subjects that are being reformed for first teaching in September 2017, as specifications for these subjects were yet to be published by the examination boards at the time of going to print. These should be available in the autumn term 2016.
- Remember there are lots of people you can ask for advice. Your form tutor, Heads of Department and subject teachers will always be happy to help.



Admissions

If you have questions about the application process please contact the Registrar, Ms Lauren Smith on 020 8991 2165 or enquiries@nhehs.gdst.net.

Entry Requirements

As a general guide we expect girls to have obtained A or A* grades in their chosen A Level subjects, with A or above in the majority of their other GCSEs.

'Into the Sixth' Evening

For girls currently in Year 11, and their parents, the "Into the Sixth" evening will be held on 4 October 2016. It offers a chance to meet subject staff, discuss A Level choices and hear from current sixthformers about life in the sixth form.

Those not already studying at NHEHS will also find the evening the best way to learn about what our sixth form can offer. As well as speaking to subject specialists you will also be taken on a tour of the school and sixth form facilities by current sixthformers, have an opportunity to meet the Head of Sixth Form and to ask any questions you may have.

Applications from External Candidates

For external candidates wishing to join us in the sixth form, entry is selective and based on an aptitude test and interviews in your chosen subjects. We will also ask for a confidential reference from your current Headteacher and predictions of your GCSE grades. We cannot process your application fully or make the offer of a place until this reference and details of predicted grades have been received. Offers of places are conditional upon GCSE grades.

Applications should be made by 4 November 2016 for entry in September 2017.

The aptitude test and interviews will take place in the week beginning 21 November 2016, with conditional offers made as soon as possible thereafter. There is some flexibility for testing and interviewing at other stages in the year. If you have missed these dates you should contact the Registrar to check what alternative arrangements may be possible.

Sixth Form Scholarships

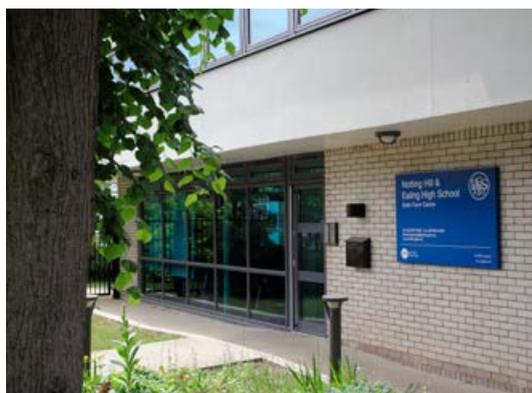
There are one or more new Academic Scholarships for the two years of sixth form study plus scholarships for achievement and potential in Music, Physical Education, Art and Drama. Both those entering the sixth form from NHEHS and from other schools are eligible for consideration.

An "All-rounder" scholarship for potential in a number of fields, including academic and general contribution to the school is awarded to a girl entering the sixth form from Year 11 at NHEHS.

Current scholars keep their scholarships until the end of Year 13 (subject to the usual conditions).

Bursaries

Means tested, GDST bursaries are also available. Families who think they may be eligible should indicate this on the application form. They will be sent details on our on-line bursary application process.





What Universities Want

For some degree courses there are essential A Level subjects and you must make sure you check your facts before you start. University websites and prospectuses will have the most up-to-date information.

The advice here is a rough guide to the requirements for particular courses at UK universities. The Russell Group Plus universities have recently advised that traditional academic subjects are seen as good facilitators for the most competitive highly academic courses. (Details are given in the Russell Group's Informed Choices leaflet which you can download from www.russellgroup.ac.uk). So, depending upon what you want to study, you may need to ensure that your choice includes at least two or even three of these subjects. If you are unsure of your choices than do discuss this with Mr Smith

University Courses – Requirements

1. Architecture – A combination of Sciences and Humanities is preferred. Mathematics with Mechanics and/or Physics is required or preferred for some courses. Art and Design may be preferable to Design and Technology. Art is sometimes a requirement and most schools of architecture prefer it. A portfolio of artwork is often requested.

2. Art – A Level Art is essential. Entry onto Art degree courses at university is usually after a one year Art Foundation course taken after completing Year 13. All applicants must prepare a portfolio of work.

3. Biology – Biology and Chemistry at A Level are essential if you want to study Biology or Biochemistry at university.

4. Chemistry – Mathematics A Level is essential for most university Chemistry courses. Some universities may require Further Mathematics.

5. Classics – Latin or Classical Greek at A Level is required, although having both will be an advantage.

6. Computer Science – A Level Mathematics is required.

7. Drama/Theatre Studies – Theatre Studies A Level is not a requirement, although it may be an advantage. English is advisable and another arts subject is helpful. Students will need to demonstrate a history of participating in drama activities both in and outside school.

8. Economics – if you want to study Economics beyond school, you need Mathematics A Level. Some leading universities, such as Cambridge expect Further Mathematics, and the LSE will require an A* in Mathematics. If you only want to go for an A Level, Mathematics is not essential.

9. Engineering – Mathematics is essential. Physics and/or Chemistry are needed depending on the type of engineering course you are applying for. Further Mathematics is usually considered an advantage for top universities depending upon the course.

10. English – English at A Level is expected. If you are going on to study English Literature or Language, it would be helpful to have a modern foreign language. A modern or classical language is required if you are aiming for Linguistics. English degree courses are highly competitive and the standard offer for most UK universities is now three A grades at A Level.

11. Environmental Sciences – For science-based courses, Chemistry and/or Biology are expected, and Mathematics is helpful. There are also ‘issue-based’ courses, for which subjects such as Economics and Politics would be appropriate.

12. Geography – Geography A Level is recommended. For some science based courses an A Level in a science or Mathematics is also a requirement, so you will need to check carefully the type of course on offer.

13. History – Although History A Level is not essential for all courses, there is strong competition for places in this subject at leading universities so it would be unwise not to be able to offer it. Other essay writing subjects, such as English or modern languages, combine well with History, as do Economics, Politics, and History of Art. Increasingly, people apply for History with a range of other subjects, including Mathematics and a science. Courses in Ancient History often ask for a foreign language. University offers are usually AAA or AAB.

14. History of Art – History of Art is important as is a modern foreign language from French, German and Italian. Leading universities such as Oxford and the Courtauld Institute also like English Literature, or History, Philosophy, and a Classical language as a supporting A Level. Some universities require 4 A Levels if two A Levels are quite similar and overlap, such as Art and History of Art.

15. Law – Applicants offering Art and Music A Levels should check whether these subjects are acceptable. Any combination is possible, but it is good to have a subject developing writing skills such as English, History, Philosophy and Ethics or Geography.

16. Mathematics – If you know you want to study Maths at university, you would be advised to take Maths and Further Maths at A Level.

17. Medicine and Dentistry – Biology and Chemistry are essential for most courses. An increasing number of universities, including Cambridge, require a third science (Physics or Maths). Top GCSE and A Level scores are demanded as there is great competition for places. Work experience is essential. You must check individual websites for details. There is a guide produced by the school for would-be Medics and Dentists, available from the Careers Department or Dr Sheldon who mentors students through the UCAS process. The school's weekly Science Forum helps prepare students for the application process from the start of Year 12.

18. Modern Foreign Languages – For French, German and many Spanish courses, the appropriate Advanced Level is required. Two modern languages at A Level are recommended for a Modern Language degree. A classical language or English or History can also be helpful. For languages not commonly studied at school, such as Russian, Italian etc, proven linguistic ability, as shown by A Levels in other languages, is needed.

19. Oriental, African or Asian Studies – A modern or classical language is needed.

20. Music – A Level Music is usually required, except in the case of music colleges, where places are offered on the strength of an audition. Applicants need to demonstrate a high level of proficiency in their first instrument, with grade 7/8 being the minimum standard. Some universities have a preference for at least one essay based subject.

21. Pharmacy – Chemistry and one or two other sciences are required for most courses. Similar for Pharmacology.

22. Philosophy, Theology, Anthropology, Politics or Social Sciences – There is no specific requirement, but an essay based A Level such Philosophy and Ethics or History would be useful to include in the mix. Mathematics may be an advantage for some Philosophy degrees.

23. PPE. Politics, Philosophy and Economics – Mathematics is stated by Oxford University to be important for the Economics element of the course and History is also stated to be useful. Generally, although there is no specific requirement, there is a preference for traditional academic subjects to complement History and Mathematics taken from the sciences, humanities or arts. Other subjects which may be helpful as a single contrast are Government and Politics, Philosophy and Ethics, and Economics.

24. Physics – Mathematics is essential if you want to take Physics at university. You can tackle A Level without it but Mathematics with Mechanics is a big help. Some universities may require Further Mathematics.

25. Psychology – Most departments prefer you to have a background in Mathematics and Biology. If you don't enjoy Biology you are unlikely to enjoy many of the Psychology courses on offer. If the degree is science based, then often two science subjects are expected.

26. Sport Science – Biology is required. Entry is very competitive at university level.

27. Veterinary Science – Veterinary schools have quite different requirements in terms of minimum GCSE passes and A Level requirements. Please check websites/Heap Guide for details. Often A Level Chemistry and Biology are required and another from Physics or Maths. Work Experience is essential. Very high A Level scores are demanded as there is great competition for places.

OUR SUBJECTS

Following government reforms the following subjects will have new A Level syllabuses from September 2017: maths, further maths, Mandarin, design technology, government and politics and history of art. At the time of going to print in August 2016, the examination boards were yet to publish the syllabus specifications for these new A Levels. They should be available in Autumn 2016 and we will publish the details when we have more information.

The details provided here include information that is already known for these subjects and details of the syllabuses for subjects which have already been reformed. Details are correct at the time of going to press.



Art

EDEXCEL – FINE ART

A LEVEL: 9FA0/01 AND 9FA0/02

“You have to think for yourself – the staff don’t tell you what to do and I think that’s quite unique.”

Art demands self-discipline, independence of mind, initiative and insight. At Advanced Level, you’ll have the opportunity to build on your creative and technical skills. Drawing, painting, printmaking, digital media, film, animation and three-dimensional work form the basis of the course. You will be encouraged to explore a range of media, to experiment freely with it and to refine your expertise. By developing curiosity and interest in all aspects of the visual world, we hope to encourage a mature and individual response to it.

We offer weekly life-drawing classes after school which you will be encouraged to attend. We arrange activities such as sketching and gallery trips, as well as an etching workshop at the London Print Studio. You will also be expected to visit galleries, museums and special exhibitions for homework.

A Level

Component 1: Personal Investigation (9FA0/01)

- Supporting studies (based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points)
- Final outcome/s
- Written study (contextual research in a minimum of 1000 words of continuous prose, comprising 12% of the total qualification)

Worth 60% of the total A Level mark.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (9FA0/02)

- Supporting studies
- Timed test (15 hours)

Worth 40% of the total A Level mark. The examination paper comes out on 1 February; you will sit the 15 hour timed test in May/June.

All examinations are assessed by your teachers and moderated by the examination board.

Beyond A Level

At the next level, entry to Art and Design degree courses is usually through a one-year foundation course but there are a few courses to which direct application can be made. There are also degrees that combine practical art with History Of Art and Art A Level is highly valued for applications to architecture courses. The subject combines well with all disciplines. The spectrum of career choices is very broad and there are many exciting opportunities that make use of creative abilities and an artistic eye. Increasingly these days, there is a demand for creative thinking and artistic technocrats in all sorts of professions.

“The studio becomes your second common room and you have to work very hard, but you have more time to do it and more freedom to express yourself.”

Biology

EDEXCEL

A LEVEL: BIOLOGY B (9BIO)



“If you want to know how you work and why you’re living – Biology at A Level gives you a taste!”

Year 12 comprises four foundation topics which embed a range of higher level biological principles upon which the Year 13 topics will then build. These will allow you to develop a much deeper understanding of the nature of the biochemistry of complex organic molecules as they combine to build the structures of the body and how enzyme activity underpins all of our metabolic processes. Cellular structures are revealed to be complex and highly organised, possessing a variety of physically and biochemically specialised organelles which interact to deliver the functions of life. The detailed examination of DNA structure reveals how this amazing molecule is able to replicate with phenomenal precision and encode and convert information for the production of new body tissues. There is also further study of the respiratory and circulatory systems and you will develop a deeper understanding of classification to allow the exploration of issues relating to biodiversity and natural selection.

In Year 13 an additional six topics extend into areas such as the biochemical processes of respiration and photosynthesis, which are revealed as complex metabolic pathways of energy transfer. There is also detailed study of microbiology and how some microorganisms act as pathogens. The roles of the nervous and endocrine systems in control are linked to mammalian adaptations for osmoregulation. The nature of modern genetics, its more complex genetic interactions and techniques utilised in genetic engineering, along with the recent advances made in biotechnology, bring students to the cutting-edge of science today. At the end of the course you will sit three

written examinations which cover both Year 12 and Year 13 topics. Paper 1 (1hr 45min) is based on topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7; Paper 2 (1hr 45min) is based on topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 & 10; Paper 3 (2hr 30min) is based on all ten topics and the core practical activities.

The practical endorsement is assessed separately to the written papers via sixteen core practical activities taken during normal lesson time across the two years. In order to facilitate this to your best advantage, we will be adopting a ‘hands-on’ approach to laboratory work, allowing you to develop a wide range of skills to a high degree of precision whilst providing opportunities for developing the type of analytical and evaluative thinking that will also be assessed in the written papers. The practical endorsement does not contribute towards the A Level grade awarded, but will be recorded as a simple ‘pass’ or ‘fail’ alongside the A Level grade.

The much more quantitative nature of sixth form Biology is reflected in the formal inclusion of at least 10% of the assessment in the form of mathematical processing in biological contexts, such as calculations of Simpson’s Diversity Index and a range of statistical tests.

Although Biology forms a natural link with the other scientific disciplines, many arts subjects also combine well with it. Biology is useful when applying for a huge range of degree courses and is at the cutting edge of topical issues in science and society such as DNA technologies, stem cell research and issues surrounding climate change. It is a science to use and enjoy and one that is increasingly essential in understanding and making sense of the modern world and our place in it.





Chemistry

AQA

A LEVEL: 7405

Chemists are involved in everything from working on new cancer-busting drugs to developing exciting new flavours for crisps; from protecting the environment to formulating new anti-aging cosmetics or new materials that will make computers work faster. You will find that the skills you develop while studying chemistry, such as team work, analytical problem solving, communication and numeracy skills will stand you in good stead whatever your future plans.

In A Level Chemistry you not only build on the skills and knowledge you developed at IGCSE (or GCSE) but will be challenged and encouraged to think about the subject in new ways. Either Separate Sciences or Double Award qualifications are suitable prerequisites.

The AQA course is designed to help you gain an appreciation of how scientific models are developed and evolve and how they are applied. It includes work which deals with the importance of chemistry in our own lives and the world in general. This might include aspects of chemistry that are often in the media such as climate change, the effect of greenhouse gases and carbon footprints. You study areas such as these to develop an understanding of the underlying chemistry and how this might be applied to provide solutions to such pressing modern issues. It also opens the door to discussions on the ethical implications of science, the benefits and risks that science brings and the ways in which society uses science to make decisions. It includes some biochemistry.



You will develop a broad framework of knowledge as well as the disciplines required to master and combine the theoretical and practical aspects of this very important and exciting science. You will develop practical skills such as making observations, collecting data, analysing experimental results and formulating conclusions. You will certainly emerge from the course with the confidence and ability to work in any science lab and will find this particularly helpful in preparing for university work.

Accompanying the A Level examinations is the practical endorsement. This is a certification that a satisfactory set of practical skills have been acquired by the student. Graded either pass or fail, the practical endorsement does not affect the A Level grade. The endorsement is almost certain to be an entry requirement to study any university science degree, Medicine or Dentistry. An assessment of practical skills will be on the UCAS reference.

A Level Chemistry is a requirement for many scientific degree courses including Medicine and Veterinary Science. However, chemistry is not just a subject for future medics. It is highly recommended for some engineering courses and is very useful for a wide range of degrees including Archaeology, Geography, Oceanography, Ecology and Environmental Studies. In the world of work, people with a background in chemistry can be found not just in research laboratories, but also in publishing, technical writing, patent law, marketing, finance and investment analysis. It is a science that can take you almost anywhere.

Classics: Latin and Classical Greek

Why Classics?

Classics at NHEHS, with its broad approach which includes foreign trips, theatre visits, museum outings and even the experience of teaching younger pupils, provides a great launch pad for the next step in your education. At A Level, you are able to choose Classical Greek and/or Latin which are highly valued courses that work well in combination with all subjects. Whatever you go on to read for your degree, you will never regret having studied Classics.

“Not only interesting and fun in its own right, but the classical world and its languages are so central to the development of our civilisation.”

Jonathan Evans, Director of MI5

CLASSICS

Latin

OCR

A LEVEL: H443

“Latin and Classical Greek are at the core of so many languages and I have really enjoyed the course.”

Latin was the language of the ancient Romans but about a quarter of the world’s population still keep Latin alive in their speech today with languages directly descended from Latin. The Romans were not only great soldiers and conquerors; they were great architects and designers, building towering structures that are still a presence in our modern world, 2000 years on. Discover more about a society which mixed love poetry with murderous gladiatorial battles through studying the Romans’ language and literature as well as exploring both the alien and the familiar within Rome’s culture and its legacy to our modern day society.

What to expect:

A varied programme introduces many aspects of the history, philosophy, art and architecture of Roman civilisation. You will be introduced to the writings of major Classical authors (e.g. Virgil, Cicero and Ovid) and study the literary, historical and political context which formed them.

We aim to develop your language skills and, as 60% of words in English are derived from Latin, you will expand your vocabulary, gain a great understanding about how language works and improve the quality of your writing. You will hone your skills in areas such as textual analysis, understanding a range of viewpoints, which will prepare you to make the most of the challenges of university and future careers. Students who have enjoyed the GCSE course, have good linguistic skills and are interested in literature will find the transition to A Level easily manageable.

Course content:

- Study of literature on prescribed authors such as Cicero’s *Pro Milone* (a speech Cicero made in defence of his friend, Milo, who is accused of murdering his enemy, Clodius, in cold blood); Virgil’s *Aeneid* (selections from this epic tale as we follow the adventures of Aeneas in his attempt to found Rome).
- Study of language involving unseen translation and comprehension – most of the grammatical content has already been covered at GCSE and the focus is on reading real Roman authors.

There is no coursework.

More than just a language:

Latin at A Level combines well with a range of arts subjects or provides a balance for would be scientists. University admissions tutors value this qualification highly, and the linguistic, literary and analytical skills it fosters. To have Latin A Level, without a doubt, adds weight to your university application and the skills you learn will benefit you, whatever path you choose.

“I just loved Cicero, it is really different to other literature and it is great to see its similarity and differences to our own.”

CLASSICS

Classical Greek

OCR

A LEVEL: H444

“The combination of languages, literature and history is great.”

Greek is the language of the stories that have shaped our world. Heroines and heroes, gods and monsters, revenge and betrayal. These elements form part of the myths and legends that have captivated generations – all derived from Greek literature. In addition, Greek drama created theatre and much of ‘entertainment’ as we know it today. The Greeks gave us tragedy where a man who murders his father goes on to marry his mother, while also bringing us comedy, art and being the first to ask important philosophical questions like ‘what is virtue?’ and ‘how do I lead a good life?’

What to expect:

The structure of the course is similar to A Level Latin in providing a mixture of the history, philosophy, art and architecture of Greek civilisation. You will be introduced to the writings of major Classical authors (e.g. Homer, Plato, and Euripides) and study the literary, historical and political context which formed them.

We aim to develop your intellectual skills via independent learning. Discussion is positively encouraged. We also aim to develop your skills in literary appreciation and your ability to analyse form, register, human emotion and more. As you delve deeper into your understanding of Greek, you will continue to enhance your critical eye for detail and the nuances inherent within languages. Students who have enjoyed the GCSE course, have managed the demands of starting Greek from scratch and are interested in literature will find that the A Level course allows much more time for consolidation and wider study.

Content:

- Study of literature with prescribed authors such as Sophocles’ *Antigone* (Antigone faces a tough choice about whether to obey the city or her family); and Plato’s *Apology* (Socrates, while facing the death penalty, argues why his teachings are not guilty of corrupting the youth of Athens.)
- Study of language involving unseen translation and comprehension – most of the grammatical content has already been covered at GCSE and the focus is on reading real Greek authors.

Join in a conversation that’s been running for 3000 years...

Classical Greek is studied in very few schools and quickly sets you apart for university admissions and any future career. The logical skill in decoding a language in a different alphabet, combined with the ability to analyse literary works of numerous genres, makes the investment in studying Classical Greek a rewarding achievement and a surprisingly marketable one.

Greek is the language of the stories that have shaped our world.

Heroines and heroes, gods and monsters, revenge and betrayal.





Computer Science

AQA

A-LEVEL: 7517

In today's world computers are part of just about everything that touches our lives; from the cars we drive, to the movies we watch, to the ways businesses and governments deal with us.

Whether you want to be a games designer, work in the film special effects industry, develop the latest financial prediction algorithm, or just want to understand how computers work and how to code, studying computer science will provide you with valuable knowledge and problem solving skills.

Computer Science is about designing algorithms to solve problems. This is a course with an emphasis on abstract thinking, general problem-solving, algorithmic and mathematical reasoning, and scientific and engineering-based thinking. The qualification has been designed for students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where knowledge of Computer Science would be beneficial. There is a clear distinction between this course and A Levels in ICT and Applied ICT and it has been written to avoid any overlap of subject content.

You can expect a course which covers problem solving, computational thinking, programming, data representation and computer organisation and architecture. Be prepared for a practical element such as on-screen examinations and writing computer-based programmed solutions.

You will also be required to undertake an individual project (the so called 'big project') which is worth 20% of the A Level marks. This will test your ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve a practical problem chosen by yourself and one which has a real end-user. It's as much a learning

opportunity as an assessment, requiring you to work independently over an extended period, extending your programming skills and deepening your understanding of computer science.

You will need a logical mind to succeed at Computer Science and ideally have an A* or A in Maths and Physics (A*A* or AA in Double Science). You do not need any prior knowledge of, or qualification in, Computer Studies.

If you are interested in Computer Science and its many applications and are, or have the potential to be, great at problem solving, lateral thinking or systematic thinking, A Level Computer Science is an exciting option going well with subjects such as Mathematics and/or Further Mathematics especially for those students who intend to go on to study Computer Science at university. It also combines well with Economics (several universities offer courses that combine Economics or Finance with Computer Studies) or Maths and a Science (Chemistry or Physics).

NB You'll need access to a Windows PC or Laptop at home or a MAC that can run Windows 7 or later so that you can install the free programming software.





Design and Technology

NEW A LEVEL COURSE

“I really like how independent the design and making aspects of the course are when you get into sixth form.”

Product Design is both a creative and an academically rigorous subject at A Level and offers an invigorating, challenging and high quality creative experience. Lessons are interesting and relevant to women in the increasingly technological world we live in, and motivate students to solve design challenges with an emphasis on the production of functional, useful and beautiful products.

During the course you will create a portfolio of projects, the best of which are selected for assessment. In comparison to GCSE, where the main focus is to design a product, the A Level course focuses on identifying and solving problems in the world around us. You will also try out new techniques such as rapid prototyping, graphic products and batch production.

You will be taught in small groups which allows for personalised teaching, so students get a tailored course structured around their specific interests and future career plans. Possible project themes include furniture, graphics, architecture or electronics. The theoretical content is assessed through examination at the end of the course, some of which is essay-based. Topics include commercial production and industry, sustainability (including ethics and conservation), the philosophy of design, technological advance, material science, project management (including critical path analysis and Six Sigma), enterprise and marketing.

The skills taught throughout this course are applicable to a wide range of careers including product design, graphic design, engineering, applied sciences, architecture and cultural history. It also teaches you vital transferable skills such as marketing, project management and analytical thinking. These are highly desirable at university and beyond, and will also support your performance in other A Level subjects or your EPQ. Depending on your career aspirations, this A Level combines well with science subjects, art and history, economics and maths.

The course requires independence, self-discipline, and a proactive approach to learning and development. If you consider creative and technical thinking amongst your skills, you are likely to excel in this course. Students with an A/A* in DT GCSE, or in both Art and Physics, will usually do well in the course.

“DT is a really enjoyable subject. It’s so fulfilling to see your work progress from 2D to 3D.”

Drama and Theatre

EDEXCEL

A LEVEL: 9DR0

We follow the Edexcel A Level course which engages students through encouraging creativity and, focuses on work which reflects twenty-first century theatre practice.

A Level Drama and Theatre will enable you to push boundaries and work within a strong framework which fosters an ethos of experimentation. It is an academic subject which can be combined with a variety of subjects for entry into higher education.

The new Drama and Theatre A Level shifts emphasis to the work of key influential practitioners and knowledge rooted in a clear understanding of theatre context. This is an exciting change and one that we are embracing in the department. We believe that this course will stimulate our students and engage them in a collaborative force that explores ideas and issues in depth and where they can take risks, helping them to become independent women who will indeed effect change.

COMPONENT 1	COMPONENT 2	COMPONENT 3
<p>Devising</p> <p>Devise an original performance.</p> <p>Use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli.</p> <p>Performer or designer routes available.</p> <p>Students record and evaluate their exploration and rehearsal process in creating their devised piece as well as the final performance.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>40% of A Level</p> <p><i>Assessment: Autumn /Spring term of Year 13</i></p> <p><i>Internally assessed and externally moderated</i></p>	<p>Text in Performance</p> <p>A group performance/design realisation of one key extract from a performance text.</p> <p>A monologue or duologue performance/design realisation from one key extract from a different performance text.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>20% of A Level</p> <p><i>Assessment: Autumn /Spring term of Year 13</i></p> <p><i>Externally assessed by a visiting examiner</i></p>	<p>Theatre Makers in Practice</p> <p><i>Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation:</i> One extended response question from a choice of two requiring students to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen.</p> <p><i>Section B: Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text:</i> Students answer two extended response questions based on an unseen extract from the performance text they have studied.</p> <p><i>Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text:</i> One extended response question from a choice of two using chosen text. Students will demonstrate how their re-imagined production concept communicates ideas to a contemporary audience.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>40% of A Level</p> <p><i>Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes</i></p>





Economics

EDEXCEL

A LEVEL: 9ECO

“Economics is a stepping-stone for everything in life.”

Economics is a new subject for most Year 12 students. Consequently, you may not be sure what it encompasses, nor how it may relate to future studies.

We all want to lead a full and exciting life, but unfortunately find that we do not always have the money or time to do all the things we have in mind. As individuals, we have to decide how to allocate our scarce resources to satisfy our unlimited wants and needs. A body of economic principles and concepts has been developed to explain how people and businesses react in this situation. Choices must be made and the consequences of these choices for individuals, firms and the national economy are studied in the social science of economics.

Economic problems examined during the course include:

- What are economic resources and how should we manage them?
- Should a firm cut or raise prices to make more money?
- Are consumers truly rational?
- What can psychology teach us about economic decisions?
- Which is better: a big firm or a small firm?
- How can the problem of climate change be tackled using economic incentives?
- Why do countries trade with each other and what are the benefits and costs of trade?
- How can governments and central banks influence the economy?



- Why are some countries poor and others rich?
- How do financial markets work and should we regulate them?

Whether you are planning to study it at university or not, studying economics is valuable. It is well-regarded by many university departments as a cross-curricular subject because it combines social analysis with scientific method and it requires students to apply their understanding in the formation of a coherent argument. The course also includes quantitative skills which are applicable in many academic disciplines and professional settings. Aside from being an excellent preparation for further academic study, it is an extremely useful course in preparation for adult life.

While there is a significant body of new knowledge to be learned, you'll also gain the skill of applying that knowledge to real world situations. We bring the subject alive with an annual trip to the City to visit various institutions, including the Bank of England and trips further afield to China and New York have provided students with memorable insights into these vital and vibrant economies.

Current affairs form a large part of our discussions and students report a real satisfaction at feeling able to understand what they hear and read in the news. Since economics is a subject with many conflicting ideas, you'll have the opportunity to form and defend your own view on economic matters – useful skills at any stage of life!

“Economics inspired me to look at the world around me from a different perspective.”

English Language

AQA

A LEVEL:7702

“My mind has really been opened to how flexible and powerful language can be.”

As the dominant language in the modern world, communication through English governs the media, advertising, law and business.

In working towards an English Language A Level you'll learn about both the past and the present of the language. You'll be encouraged to explore how it is used to communicate through spoken and written texts, ranging from marketing and television to children's books and the Internet. The different variations of the English language will be analysed, developing your understanding and appreciation of English in all its contexts.

This course offers the opportunity to study language in all its forms. As well as analysing different styles of writing, you will be investigating the distinctive quality of spoken interaction, language change over time and child language acquisition.

For example you may be asked to consider:

- If the way we speak affects social perceptions
- If gender affects our communication style
- Whether technology influences communication
- Language diversity and change.

“Studying English Language is so much more than producing your own original writing – it blends genuine creativity with rigorous linguistic analysis.”

There is scope for creative writing inspired by real life style models alongside analytical commentary. You will also undertake a piece of individual, research-based coursework which makes up 20% of the A Level mark and is completed by the end of the Autumn Term of Year 13.

An English Language A Level is highly regarded by universities, providing a solid grounding for continued study at degree level. Degree programmes in English Language or Literature, Creative Writing, History, Politics, Journalism and Law, are all possible routes into higher education. As well as being compelling in its own right, this subject offers transferrable skills such as research, data collection, and creating and redrafting personal writing. These make it a useful introduction to many courses and careers.

Whether you fancy being a speechwriter, a barrister or you just love language and would like to be a more persuasive communicator, this course will be invaluable.





Developing your own project ideas

- Give yourself enough time to experiment a lot, rather than simply jumping at the first idea.
- Generate lots of ideas of inquiry then pick the two or three that you like best and explore them further.
- Keep an open mind and explore the role that science plays in the most interesting questions.



English Literature

OCR

A LEVEL: H472

“There’s more independent thinking; you get the chance to explore things in greater detail, reading around different people and places, making it less of an exam topic, and more of an interest you are developing.”

English Literature is an exciting and challenging A Level subject. It is both thought-provoking and immensely rewarding from an academic and imaginative perspective. There are numerous opportunities to think independently, discuss and argue literary and critical opinions, whether it be in the context of a class discussion, a presentation or an essay. This development of analytical thinking, and willingness to consider different interpretations and listen and respond thoughtfully to other students, is an ideal preparation for the seminar style environment you are likely to encounter at university.

You will have the opportunity to study texts drawn from drama, prose and poetry in great detail. Not only will you explore the psychology of characters but you’ll also look at the motives of writers and the political, social and historical contexts in which texts were written and read. In-depth study of what is widely considered Shakespeare’s greatest play, *Hamlet*, perfectly complements the Jacobean revenge tragedy, *The Duchess of Malfi* studied in Year 13. Students will work towards comparing Webster’s play with Chaucer’s hilarious and bawdy *The Merchant’s Tale*. Wide reading of Gothic literature will embed a nuanced understanding of the genre in preparation for the comparative and contextual study paper. The variety of literature studied spans all the way to post-2000 literature in the comparative coursework.

“Small classes mean that everybody has the chance to contribute their point of view. It is a completely different class dynamic; everyone really wants to learn and contribute.”

Discussion based lessons will place an enormous emphasis upon the importance of independent reading and we frequently attend the theatre and literary conferences. A wider reading enrichment group is run for our Year 12 students and there is a detailed preparation programme to support our Year 13 students who are applying to do English at university. Finally, we offer a range of exciting theatre trips which, in the past, has included *’Tis Pity She’s a Whore* and *The Changeling* at the Sam Wanamaker Theatre; *King Lear* at the National Theatre and *Frankenstein* at a BFI screening.

Coursework is started in the Summer term of Year 12 (close study of a drama text) and completed in the Spring term of Year 13, a 2000 word essay comparing Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road* and a selection of T.S. Eliot poetry. The two pieces combined make up 20% of the A Level marks.

English Literature is a highly respected course which develops sophisticated analytical skills. These will prove to be invaluable in your personal and professional lives, whatever your future plans. As well as the possibility of studying English itself, students also find English A Level useful for entry to a wide variety of other degree courses, such as Law, Politics, History of Art, and Anthropology.



Geography

EDEXCEL

A LEVEL: 9GEO



“A background in geography is useful. Excellent field trip.”

In A Level Geography we address a number of pressing topical questions. These include:

- Why do some tectonic events develop into disasters?
- How can the coastline be managed to meet the needs of everyone?
- What are the impacts of globalisation for countries, different groups of people and cultures?
- Do some places need regenerating?
- How does water insecurity occur and why is it becoming such a global issue in the 21st century?
- Why do human rights vary from place to place?
- What are the impacts of globalisation on international migration?
- What impacts and influence do superpowers have?

Geography is a flexible and changing subject which covers a wide range of issues and ideas. It requires a range of approaches and is involved with the future as well as the present understanding of our planet, offering a balance of human, physical and environmental topics which are frequently interlinked.

Geography uses a wide diversity of resources and allows you an opportunity for independent research. You will study both physical processes and landscapes including tectonic hazards, the water and carbon cycles and climate change. In addition, human challenges and opportunities including globalisation, superpowers and development will also be covered.

Individual research, analysis and investigation of both quantitative and qualitative data is expected at A Level. A wide variety of digital and statistical skills will be taught so that you can present and analyse

data collected both in the field and in the classroom. This culminates in an independent investigation worth 20% of the overall mark which allows any topic of the specification to be researched and presented as a 3,000–4,000 word written report. Research begins at the end of Year 12 and the final project is due at Easter in Year 13.

Opportunities to study in the field are essential to studying geography at this level. There are four days of compulsory fieldwork in the summer term of Year 12 (currently to Devon).

The department also offers extracurricular trips abroad. Recent trips have included residential trips to India and Iceland during the Easter holidays. Both were enjoyable and ‘geographically successful’. Others are planned in 2016–17 which to relate to the new examinations.

Students who are prepared to work hard and carry out personal research will enjoy this course. Most will usually have achieved an A or A* in GCSE Geography although students who have not taken the GCSE will be considered.

The subject is especially attractive to those who want to maintain strong links with the ‘real world’ past, present and future both inside and outside the classroom. It combines well with arts, science or other humanities subjects. It allows you to develop a wide range of useful skills which can be applied in the work place. A Level geographers have pursued varied university courses and careers, a range which can only increase with the world’s growing environmental concerns.

“A very broad subject, with great variety, so you are sure to find many things that you enjoy!”





Government and Politics

NEW A LEVEL COURSE



“This is useful knowledge that will be relevant for the rest of your life.”

The surprise outcome of the EU Referendum in June 2016 has provoked a number of big questions that are sure to keep the political experts debating for years to come. What are the implications of the vote to leave the European Union, after a membership of over forty years? Will the new Prime Minister be able to negotiate a successful deal in Europe, whilst maintaining enough support amongst the general public? How will the Labour Party respond to these dramatic events and will they ever be able to heal their internal divisions? If you were engrossed by the unfolding drama of the 2016 EU Referendum, then Government and Politics at A Level could be for you.

This engaging, dynamic and topical subject is taught within the History and Government and Politics Department, currently by two teachers who share the syllabus. It is a completely separate subject from History, though many students take both at A Level, as the two subjects are complementary but distinct. This year’s cohort at Year 12 is the biggest group we have seen for a number of years, reflecting the growing interest in the subject at A Level.

The course looks at how people are politically represented in Britain, and how far they participate in politics. We consider how government works – for example, how does parliament work, and how well does it represent people’s interests? What exactly is the British constitution, and does it need to be reformed?

The new A Level has increased content, including voter behaviour, constitutional history and the role of the media. We will examine the key ideas and thinkers that have shaped the modern world, including conservatism, socialism and liberalism. We currently

study American politics alongside British politics, which allows us to compare and contrast the two political systems. With a changing political landscape evident in the USA with the rise of populist leaders such as Donald Trump, the subject has never before been so absorbing.

Government and Politics at A Level develops critical thinking skills, equips you with an understanding of complex ideas that go to the heart of human behaviour, and provides a sceptical framework with which to view the actions and views of decision-makers. Like History, it allows students the chance to develop the analytical skills and critical awareness which provide useful preparation for degrees in a variety of courses in the humanities and social sciences.

You will get opportunities to put what you learn into practice. As leaders and promoters of Politics within the school, you can spearhead campaigns to encourage more young people to be interested in the topic. We recently held a Mock Referendum, in which A Level Politics students played a leading role, representing the various viewpoints in front of the whole school. There will be similar opportunities in the future.

Beyond university, the study of Politics could lead to a number of different careers, as it is highly regarded by employers in different fields. During the most recent General Election, it was exciting to see a former NHEHS Government and Politics student working behind the scenes in the BBC ‘spin room’ during the debates, where she was representing the Green Party as its Press Secretary.

“You develop opinions on issues that you didn’t have opinions on before.”

History

OCR

A LEVEL: H505

“History is what I look forward to more than anything else.”

History A Level students at Notting Hill and Ealing are curious, self-motivated and independent learners. Many choose this subject because they want to learn more about the world they live in. Like all young people in the twenty first century they are bombarded by information, with traditional media outlets competing with the range of diverse commentary on social media. It has become difficult to separate fact from fiction in this ‘information age’. Therefore History students at NHEHS are taught to read with a critical eye; using analytical and evaluative skills to uncover bias and get to the crux of an issue.

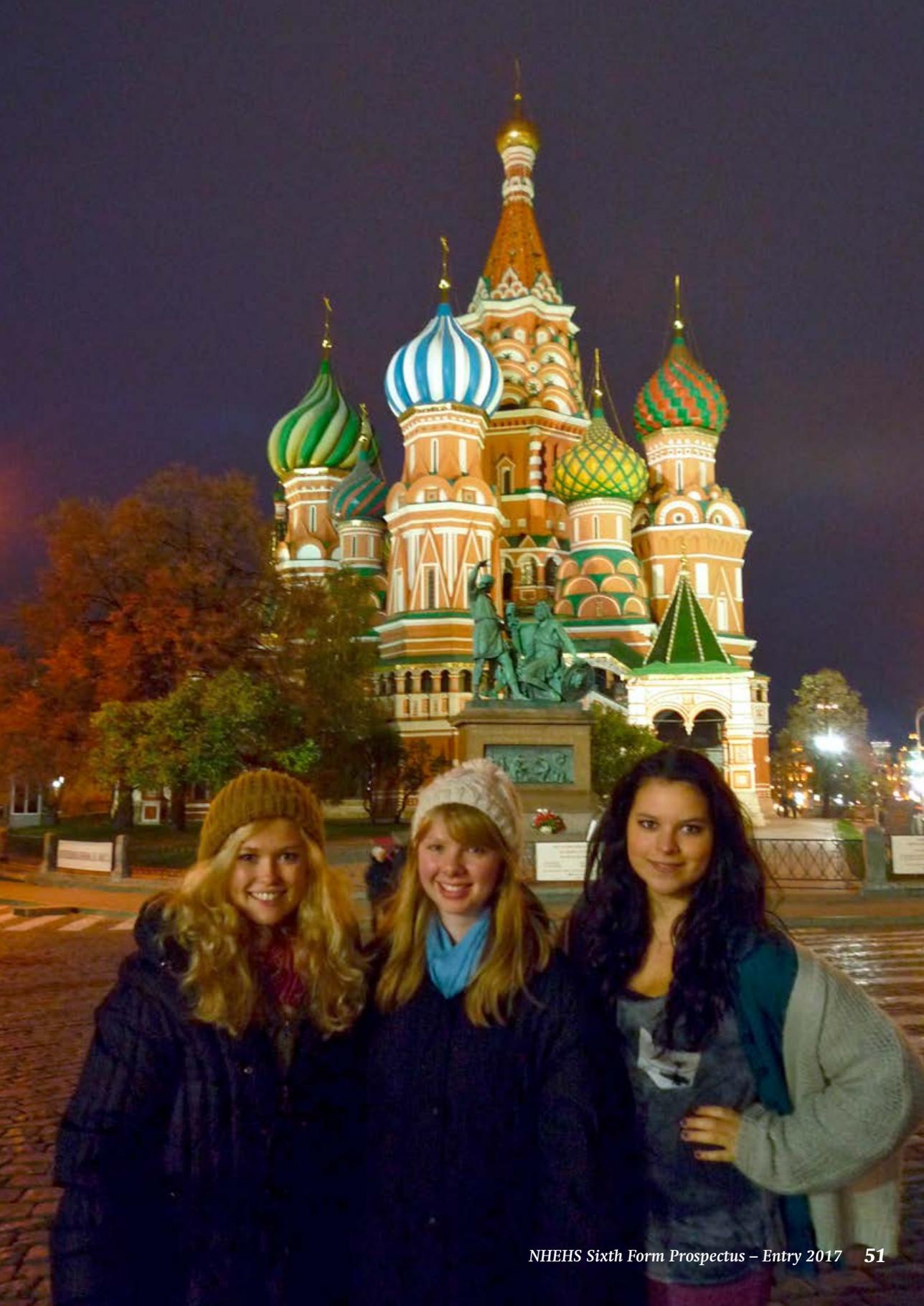
It is no coincidence that some former NHEHS History students have gone on to write for national newspapers and magazines, as the skills gained in the study of History are invaluable for constructing meaningful and persuasive arguments. Other former students have gone on to careers in law, politics and banking. In fact, History is a subject desired by employers in a range of different fields. Many careers rely on individuals who can handle complex information, and can present their findings in a methodical and rational manner.



A Level History offers a real opportunity to study major themes and issues over extended time periods as well as looking in depth at more detailed events. We are teaching the OCR specification, which allows for a wide range of coverage. The overarching theme of the course is ‘The Making of Modern Europe, 1774–1997’. Within this period, we are teaching units on the ‘French Revolution and Napoleon 1774–1815’, ‘Russia and its rulers 1855–1964’, and ‘Churchill and Britain 1930–1997’. You will also write a Topic Essay, the independent coursework module. Especially valued as preparation for university research, this unit comprises 20% of the A Level mark and is to be completed by the Spring Term of Year 13.

You will discover that History is more than just writing essays: you will need to use a range of skills and will experience a wide variety of learning activities in lessons. If discussion, analytical writing and developing ideas and arguments appeal to you, and you are willing to commit yourself to independent reading and research, then History could be the subject for you.

“History helps you to be able to analyse views on the world in a time when it’s becoming more and more difficult to distinguish between fact and opinion.”



History of Art

A NEW A LEVEL COURSE

“We have plenty of opportunities to see paintings which we have analysed in detail in class in the flesh during visits to galleries in London. It’s always a great thrill to see the brushstrokes of a great artist at close range.”

For centuries, art has recorded the style, culture, politics and satire of the day. By studying History of Art you will have the opportunity to explore the different contexts in which great artworks were created while also improving your visual literacy through a sustained analysis of international art and architecture.

History of Art is recommended to those who enjoy History and English but also wish to explore visual culture and language. It combines well with Modern Languages and Art, and can even give an interesting dimension to students studying scientific subjects. As often as possible, you will learn in museums, galleries and historically important buildings, as well as on trips overseas – recently, students have visited Paris, Florence, Madrid, Nice and Rome.



In Year 12 you will acquire an awareness of art historical terms, concepts and issues, besides developing the ability and confidence to express and communicate your knowledge and make critical judgements on key works of art. You will learn the principles of visual analysis by studying a selection of Western and non-Western painting, sculpture and architecture, ranging over a period of more than 2,500 years, from Classical Greece to the present day (500 BC–AD 2017).

We will also adopt a thematic approach towards our study in the first year. You will investigate developments in art across the globe and connections between movements and periods before and after 1850 in relation to such key themes as Nature, War, Identities and Journeys.

In the second year of the A Level we will turn our attention to two historical periods, researching in detail the key movements, concepts, artists, contextual factors and related developments in specific places and across a clearly bonded time frame. For example, we will study contemporary art and architecture in Britain and the USA between 1960 and 2015. You will learn about late Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Minimalism, Post-Modernism and the Young British Artists, focusing on exciting new art forms including performance, video and installation art, and ever-topical issues such as feminism, political protest, race and gender identity.

Many of our students have pursued their love of History of Art at university and have found that a good knowledge and understanding of the subject is valuable in a number of different careers. The commercial world of the twenty-first century is highly visual and the marketing and advertising world is constantly seeking the visually aware. More directly related careers include museum work, conservation, teaching and research.

THE WESTON CAST COURT

“I have found it fascinating to learn how an artist’s vision of the world can reveal so much about the society in which he or she lived.”





Mathematics and Further Mathematics

NEW A LEVEL COURSE

“Maths has gone well with my other two subjects which are arts subjects with essays, so it makes a change, especially when revising.”

You enjoy logical thinking and you derive satisfaction from problem solving. You want to find out more about how Mathematics is used in the real world, and would like to delve more deeply into the mathematical ideas introduced at IGCSE (or GCSE) level.

Algebra, trigonometry, and sophisticated number work are all part of the Pure Mathematics course. These are joined by either work on probability and statistics, or the exploration of mechanics.

Here are just a few examples of where all this can take you:

- Differential equations are used when studying population growth.
- Complex numbers, involving the square root of -1 ($\sqrt{-1}$), are used routinely by engineers.
- Statistical testing is used widely in the study of psychology.
- Proof by induction is a powerful tool which is incorporated in the study of logic.

“As long as you keep up and on top of the work, A Level maths is fun and satisfying – especially when you get the answers right!”

These examples illustrate that mathematics complements other A Level choices. It is a natural choice to support all science subjects, as well as humanities or social sciences such as geography, economics or psychology.

If you are considering applying for a university course involving mathematics (or if you really love the subject and are good at it), then you should think seriously about studying Further Mathematics, which leads to an extra A Level qualification. It is an entry requirement for most mathematics-related degrees.

For A Level Mathematics we will study for three compulsory 2 hour papers. One of these papers will be solely Pure Mathematics whilst the other two papers will consist of a mix of Pure, Statistics and Mechanics.

For A Level Further Mathematics we will study for four 1½ hour papers. Two of these papers will be compulsory Pure Mathematics whilst the other two will be chosen from Statistics, Mechanics, Decision or Further Pure Mathematics.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

French

EDEXCEL

A LEVEL: 9FRO/01, 9FRO/02 AND FRO/03

“To know a different language is to possess a second soul.” (Charlemagne)

The study of French at A Level aims to give you the ability to use the language well in real contexts.

You will find yourself building on your GCSE skills, but also moving into topic areas that are stimulating and challenging, where you are no longer just talking about yourself, but about society, France and the French-speaking world.

The jump from GCSE to A Level is a considerable one, and an integral part of the course is a rigorous revision and extension of your knowledge of French grammar



and vocabulary. From the outset there is a great focus on oral competence, and you will have regular conversation sessions with the French assistants. You will be encouraged to develop the ability to read authentic texts in French.

A knowledge of France and its culture feature strongly at A Level and in virtually all university French courses. You will discover aspects of French and Francophone culture through literature, film and music which are all part of the course. In Year 13 you will complete independent research on a topic of your choice to present in the oral examination. This is an excellent opportunity to deepen your understanding of French culture and to explore an aspect of the French speaking world. In addition to your studies we offer you opportunities to boost your language skills and your confidence by encouraging you to participate in the regional debating competition, go on a short bi-annual trip to France and encourage you to make your own arrangements to visit or do work experience in a French-speaking country.

As well as opening up the delights of French literature, cinema and culture, studying French can be the key to well paid employment. It is one of the world's most widely spoken languages with 169 million speakers, some 44% of whom are our close neighbours in Europe and who have strong commercial links with the UK. It is also a highly prized language skill should you wish to follow a career in the arts, education, translation, politics or international development.

“You learn about issues in France as well as how to express your opinions on a wide range of topical and controversial subjects.”





MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

German

EDEXCEL

A LEVEL: 9GN/01, 9GN/02 AND 9GN/03

Maybe you loved Jutta Jentsch in ‘Sophie Scholl’ and want to see more of her films. Maybe you agree with the ‘Wise Guys’ and want to learn German rather than Denglish. Maybe you want to see whether ‘The Reader’ was an accurate adaptation of Schlink’s novel or perhaps you simply love the challenge of German word order. There are all kinds of reasons for continuing to study German at A Level.

Though there is still plenty to learn, your GCSE studies mean you have already covered much of the grammar needed for A Level. However, you will express and debate your own ideas and views on a whole variety of contemporary issues which will take you far beyond the confines of GCSE. You might find yourself discussing various attitudes to immigration, how different types of media affect society or learning about the German education system or the reunification of Germany.

Literature, film and music are all part of the A Level course. Alongside the topic work, you will learn how to discuss films in German and will watch a variety of recent German cinema hits. The choice of literary texts is wide; the current A Level German class are reading *Der Vorleser* by Schlink, which opens up the debate about Germany’s recent past. In Year 13 you will complete independent research on a topic of your choice to present in the oral examination, which is an excellent opportunity to study an aspect of a German speaking country which really interests you.



“You soon get used to hearing and using more sophisticated German.”

German complements many other subjects. Languages are highly regarded by employers as well as universities and learning German will allow you to develop many useful transferable skills. Above all, you will have a chance to share your passion with a very enthusiastic department within small and highly individualised teaching groups. Many of our recent students have gone on to study German at university, either on its own or in combination with other subjects.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Mandarin

A NEW A LEVEL COURSE

“I have seen the quality, complexity and fluency of my written work improve and am making progress mastering the intricacies of the spoken language. Combine these skills with a chance to learn more about a fascinating culture, and I am sure that studying Mandarin has been a really good investment for my future.”

The course is designed to enable you to survive in a Chinese environment be it in a future business or leisure context, or as stepping stone for university courses in Chinese or Chinese Studies.

An integral part of the course is a rigorous revision and extension of your existing knowledge of Chinese. This will be done quite formally and build on the skills developed at GCSE, through the use of text books and websites, and also informally

through the exploration of Chinese culture in literature, film and music. This cultural aspect of the course is further developed through the regular exchanges and cultural trips to China organised by the Department, taking advantage of cultural experiences available here in London and working with native speaker teachers and language assistants.

The course will continue to develop your ability to understand and respond in writing to written Chinese and you will also become more proficient at writing in Chinese yourself. You will study a set text or film and answer questions on it, in Chinese, as part of the written examination. Themes for the course include social issues and trends and these provide the opportunity to learn more about Chinese culture and society. Focused, independent research, for which you will need to read extensively in Chinese using a variety of sources such as books, magazines, newspapers and the internet, will form the basis of your work for the oral examination.

With a booming economy, a growing presence on the world stage and an increasingly outward looking stance, China now crops up everywhere and in almost every field, from engineering to international diplomacy; journalism to science; architecture to trade. Cultural considerations feature strongly at A Level and whether or not you intend to continue studying the language at university, A Level Chinese will be of huge value in developing a fund of CQ (cultural intelligence) and the capability to relate and work effectively within this fascinating culture.







MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Spanish

EDEXCEL

A LEVEL: 9SP/01, 9SP/02 AND 9SP/03

“Spanish is a big step up at A Level, but it really doesn’t take long to adjust and it’s worth it when you realise how much progress you make.”

Learning Spanish at A Level will give you the opportunity to deepen your understanding of Spanish and Latin American cultures as well as develop your listening and reading comprehension skills to a high level. You will learn how to communicate accurately and effectively both in spoken and written Spanish. You will be also able to debate and express complex opinions in Spanish and will have the opportunity to work independently using a variety of resources including newspapers, magazines, films and literature.

In Year 13 you will carry out an independent research on the topic of your choice to present in the oral examination. This will enable you to delve further into a certain aspect of the Hispanic world which you are passionate about and will allow you to become a truly independent learner. The course not only covers literature, film and topical issues but also enables you to learn about Spain’s history. In order to boost your speaking skills you will have a weekly oral lesson with one of the Spanish language assistants discussing current affairs and the course content.

In addition to your studies there are plenty of opportunities for you to gain confidence expressing yourself in Spanish. Indeed, we encourage you to participate in the regional Spanish debating competition, complete work experience in Spain or go on a biannual trip to Spain over a long weekend.

As well as being the language of Spain and most of Latin America, Spanish is now spoken extensively in the USA. Studying the language is vital for a proper understanding of Spain, Latin America and its people but it will also give you access to this exciting and dynamic culture. Language skills are increasingly prized by employers. The languages most in demand include Spanish. The CBI is keen to point out the growing need for language skills in UK businesses and to emphasise the competitive edge that they give to candidates competing for the best jobs.



Music

EDEXCEL

A LEVEL: 9MU0

Music at A Level will appeal to those who enjoy performing and composing and who want to develop their listening skills and gain a better understanding of music.

You do not need to have taken GCSE Music. As long as you are a strong performer and like a challenge you'll enjoy this course.

Your time will be divided between performing, composing and analytical work and you can expect to work well beyond the exam syllabus. For the written exam, you'll learn how to listen in detail to music. This part of the course is built on a series of set works and you'll look at all kinds of music to give you as wide an understanding as possible of a given area of study. The areas of study for the new specification are:

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Music for Film
- Popular Music and Jazz
- Fusions
- New Directions.



Studying music for A Level equips you with the tools for a lifetime of musical enjoyment.

You shouldn't be surprised if you're brought to a greater understanding of the harmony used in Baroque counterpoint through looking at the chord structure of a Beatles song. Throughout the course you will develop your aural dictation skills and find that the use of music technology is encouraged for performing and composing. Full access to the recording studio will enable you to work on creative projects with industry standard equipment.

Assessment:

Component 1: Performing

A public performance of one or more pieces, performed as a recital. Externally assessed. 30% of the qualification. Performances must be recorded after 1 March in the year of certification and all materials for assessment submitted to arrive by 15 May in the year of certification.

Component 2: Composing

Externally assessed. 30% of the qualification. Two compositions, one to a brief set by the exam board (at least 4 minutes duration) and one either free composition or also to a brief (at least 1 minute duration). Total time across both submissions must be a minimum of 6 minutes and maximum 8 minutes. Must be recorded after 1 March in the year of certification and all materials for assessment submitted to arrive by 15 May in the year of certification.

Component 3: Appraising

Written examination: 2 hours. 40% of the qualification.

The Department has links with various arms of the music profession including recording engineers, cathedral organists, publishers and conductors. You'll be encouraged to experience live music as much as possible and attend a master class in performance practice. You'll also be given the opportunity to perform a concerto in one of the school's public concerts.





Philosophy and Ethics

EDEXCEL

A LEVEL: H573/01, H573/02, H573/03

There are three elements to this course

- Philosophy of Religion
- Religion and Ethics
- Developments in Religious Thought.

Philosophy of Religion looks at such abiding questions as “Does God exist?”, “Can the existence of God be proved or disproved?” and the perennially thorny “If God is good, why is there evil in the world?”

Students will consider whether – if God does indeed exist in the first place – He(?) can reveal himself to humans and if so, how can we meaningfully talk about a being that is so completely different from everything else with which we are familiar? We also look at the nature of humankind – are we simply material beings or is there something non-material that perhaps distinguishes us from animals?

Ethics involves the study of ethical theories, the relationship between religion and morality and also involves a study of applied ethics. Here you may find your ethical standpoints challenged and you will find yourself considering your ethical views and crucially reflecting upon why you hold the perspectives that you do.

In addition to a range of ethical theories, including Kant, Natural Law and Utilitarianism, students also look at ‘practical’ or applied ethics. These include medical matters and business ethics. We also look at the conscience and even consider whether we are truly entitled to view ourselves as ethical beings at all – perhaps our actions are determined, leaving us no meaningful choice and therefore, presumably, no moral responsibility.

Developments in Religious Thought explores religious beliefs, values and teachings in a systematic study of key concepts within the development of Christian thought. We will consider Jesus as a teacher of wisdom and a liberator, providing an insight into both traditional and contemporary Christian theology. The changing roles of men and women, pluralism and secularism are also studied, along with how developments in belief have influenced and been influenced by developments in philosophy, politics and study of religion.

This A Level combines very well with the other humanities such as history, geography and English and also with psychology or theatre studies. In addition, if studied alongside sciences like mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology, it offers breadth to your chosen curriculum.

The subject lends itself to stringent debate, and lively discussion. You do not need to have taken Religious Studies at GCSE; you do however need to have an enquiring mind, and to be prepared to work hard whilst tackling ultimate questions.

Assessment: There is no coursework.

“Philosophy and Ethics open many doors into one’s point of view and make you aware of the uncertainty of the world surrounding us. As in Plato’s analogy of the cave, we stop looking at the shadows on the wall and walk into the light.”

Physics

AQA

A LEVEL: 7408

“I never expected physics to challenge my mind to this extent, and it was so much fun.”

“Physics has allowed me to stretch my mind and think differently about the way the world works.”

If you are considering studying physics at A Level, you might identify with some of the following statements:

- I enjoy finding out about subatomic particles, quantum physics, black holes or some other mind-blowing aspect of the universe.
- I like logical thinking and prefer understanding concepts to learning loads of facts or writing essays.
- I want to understand the world around me: from the microscopic scale to the vast dimensions of the universe, from rainbows to aeroplanes.



In Year 12 you will study roughly half of the content of the full A Level. The topics covered are measurements and their errors, particles and radiation, waves, mechanics and materials. In Year 13 you also cover circular and simple harmonic motion, thermal physics, fields, capacitance and nuclear physics. Additionally, there is an optional topic which is chosen from astrophysics, medical physics, engineering physics, turning points in physics and electronics.

The A Level is assessed through three examination papers. Paper 1 will examine the content studied in Year 12, with the addition of periodic motion. It will last two hours and be worth 34%. Paper 2 will examine the remaining content. It will also last two hours and be worth 34%. Paper 3 will examine all content through questions on data analysis and with a practical context. It will also assess the optional topic. It will last two hours and will be worth 32% of the A level.

In order to gain a qualification in Physics you will also need to complete a Practical Skills Endorsement, which is non-examined and assessed by your teachers. It involves completing a minimum of 12 key experiments across the course.

Physics A Level will allow you great flexibility in your future choices and the skills it develops can open doors to an incredibly wide range of career paths. It fosters the skills of logical thinking, working independently and expressing oneself clearly and concisely. These are in much demand in areas other than physics, so studying physics is likely to enhance your performance in other subjects too. When applying for university, A Level Physics is highly regarded as preparation for a huge range of subjects. For engineering, architecture or medical physics, it is an important foundation and usually a requirement.



“I’ve really enjoyed physics this year because it teaches you to think as opposed to only remembering facts.”



Psychology

OCR

A LEVEL: H567

“This is a subject that gets more interesting as you begin to see how everything you’re learning about theory, experiments, methodology and ethics fits together.”

Psychology is the scientific study of brain and behaviour and is based on experimental research. It is a very broad subject as we investigate everything to do with how and why humans behave the way they do, whether that is why they have committed a crime (Forensic Psychology) or how best to define and treat mental disorders (Clinical Psychology); whether it's how people behave when given unlimited power (Social Psychology), or what brain activity is related to different stages of sleep (Biological Psychology).

We will be following the OCR course which, consists of three units; unit 1: research methods (worth 30%), unit 2: psychological themes through core studies (worth 35%) and unit 3: applied psychology (worth 35%). In research methods students will become familiar with the four main techniques for collecting and analysing data. In the second unit they will study ten key themes looking at classic and contemporary studies. This will help them understand the debates within psychology. Finally students will see how these techniques and research can be applied in areas such as mental health, criminal psychology and child psychology.

There is no coursework in psychology A-level although students are expected to carry out their own small scale practical activities and then reflect on how these experiences have furthered their understanding of psychology. Unit 1 will require students to design their own study based on the stimulus material provided in the exam. Unit 2 will involve recall of the various studies they have learnt as well as short essays

evaluating these studies and the approaches used. Unit 3 will involve longer essay answers requiring students to demonstrate their analytical skills based on how and when research should be used in psychology.

In order to help students further understand applied psychology there will be a curriculum trip to the Royal Courts of Justice and a working mental health unit. Both these visits allow students a first-hand experience of applied psychology, showing them how useful a psychological insight can be in the real-world and demonstrating the issues that are faced and overcome on day-to-day basis by professionals in the field.

Psychology will give you a broad skill set that prepares you for higher education and a wide range of potential careers. A Level Psychology complements other A Level choices such as biology, maths, English language, philosophy, geography and economics. Beyond the sixth form, for those who take psychology at university, it can open doors to careers as varied as advertising, marketing, journalism and law. With postgraduate study, you could go into a career within psychology, such as counselling, educational psychology, clinical psychology or forensic psychology.



Girls' Day School Trust

Notting Hill and Ealing High School is part of the GDST (Girls' Day School Trust). The GDST is the leading network of independent girls' schools in the UK, with nearly 4,000 staff, and 20,000 students between the ages of three and 18. As a charity that owns and runs a network of 24 schools and two academies in England and Wales, it reinvests all its income in its schools. Founded in 1872, the GDST has a long history of pioneering innovation in the education of girls, and is the largest single educator of girls in the UK and the UK's largest educational charity.

Fees, School Policies and Other Important Information

Fees, terms and conditions, policies and other important information can be found in the Senior School Prospectus or on our website www.nhehs.gdst.net

This information is believed to be correct at the time of publishing, but it may change and is not part of any contract between parents and the GDST. It should be read in conjunction with the other information sent out to parents with the prospectus brochure.

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