



NOTTING HILL & EALING
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST

Sixth Form

Prospectus Entry 2021

Life in the Sixth Form

Choosing your subjects

A broader education

University and careers



NOTTING HILL
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GUILD SCHOOLS TRUST

SIXTH FORM C

Contents

Introduction from the Head of Sixth Form	02
Our Sixth Form Team	04
Sixth Form Life	06
Beyond A Levels	06
NHEHS Sixth Form Core Components	08
Inspiring Academics	10
A Levels	11
Additional Short Courses	11
Academic Enrichment	12
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	12
Competitions, Olympiads and Prizes	14
Above & Beyond	16
University Preparation – UCAS and Beyond	17
Careers Pathway	18
Lecture Series	19
Support from NHEHS and GDST Alumnae	20
NHEHS Spirit	22
Extra-Curricular	23
Leadership Opportunities	26
External Partnerships	29
Community Outreach and Charity initiatives	29
Student Wellbeing	30
Sport and Fitness	31
Connected	32
GDST	34
Across the Network	35
Choosing your Subjects	36
Results and Destinations	38
Admissions	39
What Universities Want	40
Our Subjects	43
Art	44
Biology	47
Chemistry	48
Latin	51
Classical Greek	52
Computer Science	55
Design and Technology	56
Drama and Theatre	59
Economics	60
English Language and Linguistics	63
English Literature	64
Geography	67
History	68
History of Art	71
Mathematics	72
Further Mathematics	74
French	77
German	78
Mandarin	81
Spanish	82
Music	85
Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE)	86
AS Level Physical Education	88
Physics	91
Politics	92
Psychology	95
Additional Short Courses	96



The Sixth Form at NHEHS represents the two most interesting and exciting years of your school journey. It is a vibrant and welcoming community in which we value you as individuals. Whatever your interests, you will be supported and challenged to be the best that you can be in all areas of school life.

An introduction from the Head of Sixth Form

I believe that our Sixth Form is characterised by the pursuit of academic excellence within a framework of superb pastoral care. We will help you develop a life-long love of learning as we seek out opportunities to take you far beyond the confines of the specification. We will encourage you to embrace academic debate and scholarship, to read widely and to shape your own curriculum. We will nurture curiosity and freedom of thought and you will relish the increased independence that is afforded to you. Alongside this, you will be enabled to set up your own clubs and societies and to take part in our extensive extra-curricular programme.

The Sixth Form is a time during which you will be making some big decisions about your future and we are here to guide you as you look ahead to the next stage in your education. Our bespoke programme of Higher Education support means that you can be confident when making applications to universities in both the UK and abroad. Our team of experts will ensure that you are well prepared at every stage of the process.

Our Sixth Formers are compassionate and caring, committed to making a difference in the community around them. There are a wealth of opportunities for you to get involved in, from volunteering in Kenya for the Mango Tree project, to attending a global STEM conference, completing your gold DofE to running a school club and mentoring younger students. As the leaders of the school, you have a genuine input into how it is run; we will listen to your ideas and seek to implement and support your initiatives.

Whatever your interests, in our Sixth Form you will be able to carve out your own path and, on leaving will have been equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to make a difference in our rapidly changing global landscape.

I look forward to welcoming you.

Miss Lianne Aherne
Head of Sixth Form





Your Sixth Form Team

We have an experienced and knowledgeable Sixth Form team to guide and support you on your NHEHS Sixth Form journey. You will quickly get to know them and they are always available to help. Each member of staff has a dedicated area of responsibility as follows:



Lianne Aherne

Head of Sixth Form

Miss Aherne is responsible for the academic development and pastoral care of all of the girls in the Sixth Form. An experienced Head of Sixth Form, Miss Aherne is highly experienced in supporting students towards ambitious academic goals, in a warm and inspiring environment.



Rebecca Irwin

Senior Deputy Head

Mrs Irwin has overall responsibility for the day-to-day running of the school, and works closely with the Head of Sixth Form on shaping the development of students in Years 12 and 13. A former Head of English and former Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Irwin has extensive knowledge of the University Admissions process, and has helped many a student find clarity about their personal statement.



Madeleine Copin

Deputy Head, Academic

Ms Copin oversees the academic life of the senior school. She works with the Sixth Form team to ensure that every student has a balanced academic programme which will enable her to fulfil her aspirations for life beyond school. A former Head of Mathematics, Ms Copin is an expert in university applications to STEM fields.



Laura Snook
EPQ Coordinator

Dr Snook oversees the Extended Project Qualification, leading our EPQ supervisors who will guide and support the selection and development of unique EPQ projects. For many students, these projects are the academic highlight of their time in the Sixth Form.



Marie-Helene Collins
Director of University Admissions

Mrs Collins provides guidance on all university applications, both in the UK and abroad. She has extensive expertise of the University Admissions process, and is a great source of wisdom on what University Admissions tutors are really looking for – beyond the information available on websites.



Catherine Parr
Head of Careers

Miss Parr provides support around potential career choices, employment and further educational opportunities. She speaks to every student individually during the course of their time in the Sixth Form, helping them to identify guidance and work experience, and often linking students up with enthusiastic alumnae willing to offer internships.



Adam Livings
**Academic Partnerships
Coordinator**

Mr Livings leads a programme that enables Sixth Form students to critically engage in academically rigorous and inspiring opportunities with partner schools and higher education institutions.



Clemency Woolner
**Assistant Head, Teaching and
Learning**

Ms Woolner oversees Research Week in the Summer Term of Year 12, when each girl selects and completes an independent research project related to her chosen area of university study, which will later become the foundation of her personal statement. She oversees Sixth Form student tracking, the hidden system by which any potential issues are identified and dealt with. Finally, she is the brains behind the infamous “prep club”, which helps students in Year 13 organise their revision for examinations.



Elisa Cagnino
World Ready Lead

Ms Cagnino coordinates a programme of events that will help you leap into the real world with skills, confidence and with an understanding of both the opportunities available to you and how to navigate an increasingly complicated world. This wide ranging programme involves everything from social events with boys schools, to helping students acquire a deep understanding of financial issues.



Mahsa Chalabi

NHEHS Alumnae

A Levels: Maths, Economics and Psychology

University: Bristol

Course: Social Policy with Criminology

“I remember the constant laughter in the common room, sitting on those black sofas and talking about anything and everything. Lessons also became more fun, even though they became harder, and as there were smaller classes the bond between students and teachers got stronger. The teachers at Notting Hill are truly amazing, they make the school what it is and they are what I truly miss the most!”

Sixth Form Life

Life in the Sixth Form is an exhilarating time of academic and personal independence. We seek to foster a life-long love of learning and this means that lessons are lively and more seminar-like in nature. You will be in small classes enabling relaxed discussions and debate. You will have the opportunity to explore topics in-depth and should expect to broaden your knowledge as teachers take you far beyond the confines of the A Level specifications.

The Sixth Form is a time of transition. Your day will be much more your own to organise and you will have your own Sixth Form Centre with its large, comfortable common room, sunny outside terrace, café and gym to provide you with a base to relax and study. It is the ideal preparation for university life. There is a tangible buzz and energy in the Sixth Form Centre as girls come together during the day.

Beyond A Levels

Your chosen A Level subjects will, of course, be where much of your time and focus lies in the Sixth Form. However, beyond excellent grades, the top universities and the most competitive courses are looking for students who are well-rounded intellectually, who can work independently and who have ideas and are able to express them.

We also know that you are looking to expand your knowledge around your subject, gain new skills, increase awareness of the world of work, develop your interests outside school and make great friendships and have fun along the way.

So that each of you can best demonstrate and showcase these skills and attributes, we have developed a Sixth Form Programme that will give the freedom to create your own unique NHEHS Sixth Form experience.





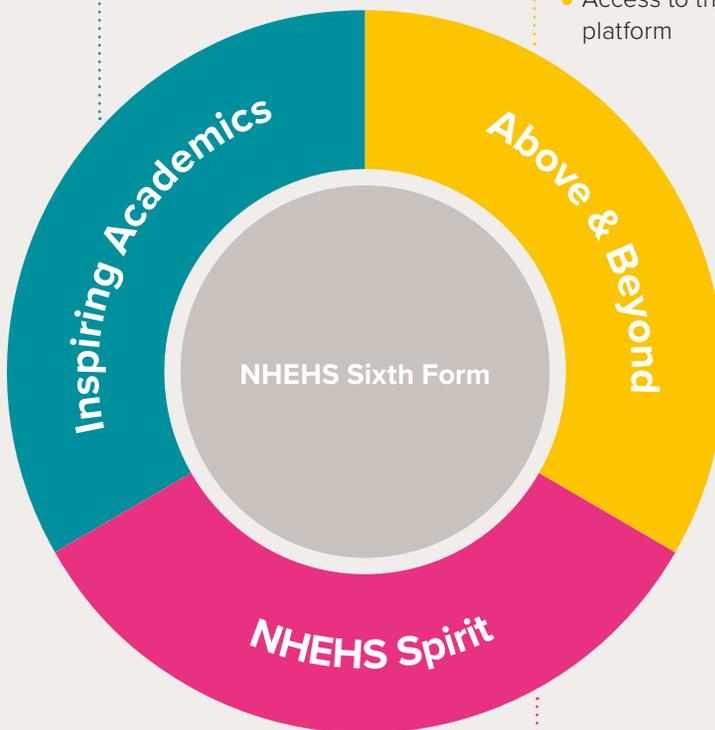
NHEHS
Sixth Form
has three
core
components:

Inspiring Academics

- 3 A Levels* (*a 4th in exceptional cases)
- Additional short courses (GCSEs, Languages, Mini MBA, creative courses)
- Academic Enrichment
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- Competitions, Olympiads and Prizes

Above & Beyond

- University preparation – UCAS and beyond
- Lecture series
- Careers Pathway
- Mentoring and careers support from NHEHS alumnae
- Access to the global GDST network and GDST Life platform

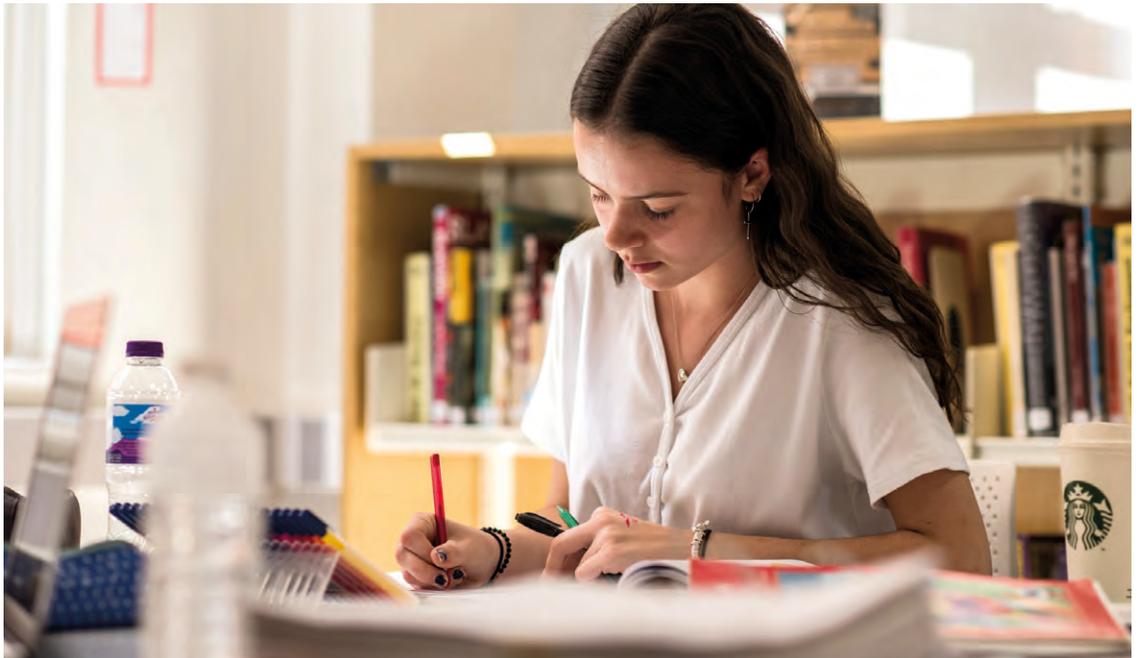


NHEHS Spirit

- Extra-curricular activities
- Leadership programme
- External Partnerships
- Community outreach & charity initiatives
- Student wellbeing
- Sport & Fitness

Inspiring Academics

- 3 A Levels* (*a 4th in exceptional cases)
- Additional short courses (GCSEs, Languages, Mini MBA, creative courses)
- Academic Enrichment
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- Competitions, Olympiads and Prizes



A Levels

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 discussions, 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 inspiration and you will value the flexibility and freedom as you become increasingly independent.

You will be taught by staff who are experts and love their subject, which provides depth and intellectual quality to their teaching. They have a 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. The style of lessons will really help you develop the depth of subject knowledge and the academic skills you need for A Level. However, they will also promote collaboration and teamwork, analytics ability, versatility, and an awareness of the world around you; the very skills which will also help you to hit the ground running on your chosen university course.

Additional Short Courses

Alongside your A levels, you can take an additional short course that can complement your studies or interests. You can take on a new language, study photography, or develop your leadership skills. These courses are completed in Year 12, on half the timetable of A level courses. You can read more information about the courses we have on offer at the back of the subjects section.

Academic Enrichment

To give you a powerful advantage when applying for universities, an academic enrichment course runs for an afternoon a week throughout Years 12 and 13. In the autumn of Year 12, an exciting menu of elective options allows you to tailor your studies to your interests by selecting two short courses, introducing you to academic study beyond the curriculum. From the spring term, a range of longer courses is offered covering the breadth of academic disciplines. These courses go completely beyond A Level specifications, and allow you to explore unusual topics: this will both help you to confirm what it is you wish to study beyond school, and also deepen your subject knowledge. In the autumn term of Year 13, the programme is deliberately tailored to help prepare for university admissions tests and interviews, complementing the rest of the UCAS programme. Finally, in the spring term of Year 13, a programme of Life Skills will make sure that you're completely ready for university study and life beyond school.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) – Optional

In addition to your three core A Levels, you will have the option to undertake an EPQ. This is a 5,000-word report and subsequent presentation on a subject of your choice. The EPQ is the equivalent of half an A Level, and helps to develop research skills, time management and a whole host of other skills that will be invaluable at university.

We recommend that all students consider taking the EPQ. It is an excellent way to demonstrate passion for your subject and the skills and perseverance to see a project through to completion, key attributes looked for by both universities and employers.

Recent research topics included:

Would incorporating 5G into (fully autonomous) cars make them safer and what are the benefits and problems that this brings?

To what extent can musicals reflect political issues?

To what extent could modern day society function properly without the idea of money?

Is mental strength or physical strength more important to succeed in rugby?

To what extent is criminal behaviour a significant component in psychopathy?



Your final project, which is completed in Year 12, can be closely aligned to the degree course you are interested in. You will be guided throughout by academic staff who act as mentors and supported by a taught programme which provides an introduction to the independent study and research skills you will need.



Sarah Brooks

NHEHS Alumnae
A Levels: French, Spanish,
Geography
University: Durham
Course: Geography

“

Why go elsewhere
with these results and
facilities?

“Amazing staff give you much more independence and responsibility which helps grow confidence and you feel more able to learn and contribute. You are also able to explore a subject more deeply and focus on what you enjoy about it.”

Good Schools Guide





Connie Goring-Morris

NHEHS Alumnae

A Levels: Art, Geography, English Literature

University: Sussex

Course: History of Art

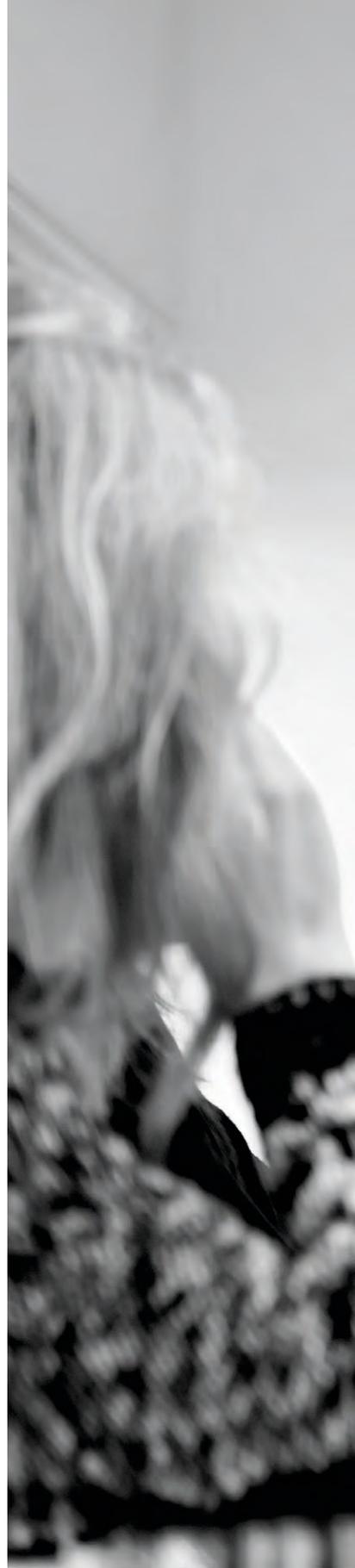
“These are the years when the culture of NHEHS really takes hold. Free periods help you manage your time, you take more control and manage your work load. You can take on more responsibility for things within the rest of the school and really mature in a friendly environment.”

Competitions, Olympiads and Prizes

Almost every subject will offer an opportunity to join the many NHEHS Sixth Formers 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 Sixth Formers from its schools throughout England and Wales.

Competing in this way is always a chance to learn more about your subject and demonstrate your interest and commitment and add another dimension to your university application.





Above & Beyond

- University preparation – UCAS and beyond
- Careers Pathway
- Lecture Series
- Mentoring and careers support from NHEHS alumnae
- Access to the global GDST network and GDST Life platform



University Preparation – UCAS and Beyond

Our Director of University Admissions will guide you through the process of applying to university and to help you make the best use of the resources and support we offer. This support is highly personalised to ensure that you make the best choices with your future academic goals and career plans in mind and we use all the skills and knowledge at our disposal to help you identify the course which is the best fit for you.

In addition to the timetabled lessons of Academic Enrichment, there is a specific UCAS preparation programme for all girls with plenty of guided preparation and support. Support includes:

- extension classes for those applying to Oxbridge or other competitive courses
- talks by university admissions tutors
- practice interviews, with both internal and external interviewers
- GDST-run courses, providing help for specific university entrance tests
- an individual subject mentor to guide you through applications

We also provide tailored support for US and other overseas applications, including visiting speakers from US universities.



Hafsa Malik

NHEHS Alumnae

A Levels: Biology, Chemistry, Maths

University: Barts and The London

(Queen Mary University of London)

Course: Dentistry

“During the UCAS process, teachers who had known me for years were able to give me really valuable personalised advice and support which I remember to this day.”



Careers Pathway

The NHEHS Careers Department has a dedicated careers room and provides you with advice and a wealth of university and careers information. The Head of Careers timetables individual meetings with each girl and will help you to access extra support via our careers register of parents, NHEHS Old Girls and the GDST Alumnae Network, all of whom can put you in touch with people willing to offer advice on a one-to-one basis on specific careers. We also arrange Skype networking sessions with alumnae. We'll make sure you're up-to-date with information on careers events in and around London. If you are considering a year off, visits from gap year representatives will help you make your plans and we can point you in the direction of other sources of information on working or studying abroad and voluntary work.

An unrivalled source of inside knowledge, advice and contacts is provided by the biennial NHEHS Careers Convention. This event is organised by the Parents' Guild and mobilises the considerable resources of the Notting Hill & Ealing parent body and former NHEHS students. Over 80 occupations and professions are represented and the evening offers you the opportunity to speak to senior people and share their enthusiasm for the work they do. In alternate years, we provide a skills evening, allowing you to practise job interviews, hone your CV, and work with employers on other tasks to give you confidence for your future plans.

All girls have a lifetime access to Morrisby, which will help throughout university and beyond. In addition, the GDST organises conferences, workshops, competitions and schemes run in conjunction with global employers such as Nomura, Barclays and Rolls Royce which offer opportunities to learn about the corporate world, develop people skills and build links.

Lecture Series

Everyone in Years 12 and 13 comes together for the Tuesday lecture programme which has featured inspirational sportsmen and women, speakers on medical ethics, writers, politicians, charity leaders and figures from the worlds of business and the arts. The list of speakers regularly features a number of NHEHS alumnae which adds an extra dimension and level of interest. Half the lectures are arranged by the Head of Sixth Form and half by students themselves. As subject representatives, you research, contact, invite, brief and host your chosen speaker.



Kinda Savarino

NHEHS Alumnae

A Levels: Maths, History, Spanish

University: London School of Economics

Course: Politics

“You can get more involved in things you want to do. I was Social Services Rep and I really enjoyed getting involved with that side of the school – if anything I wish I’d done more of that sort of stuff.”

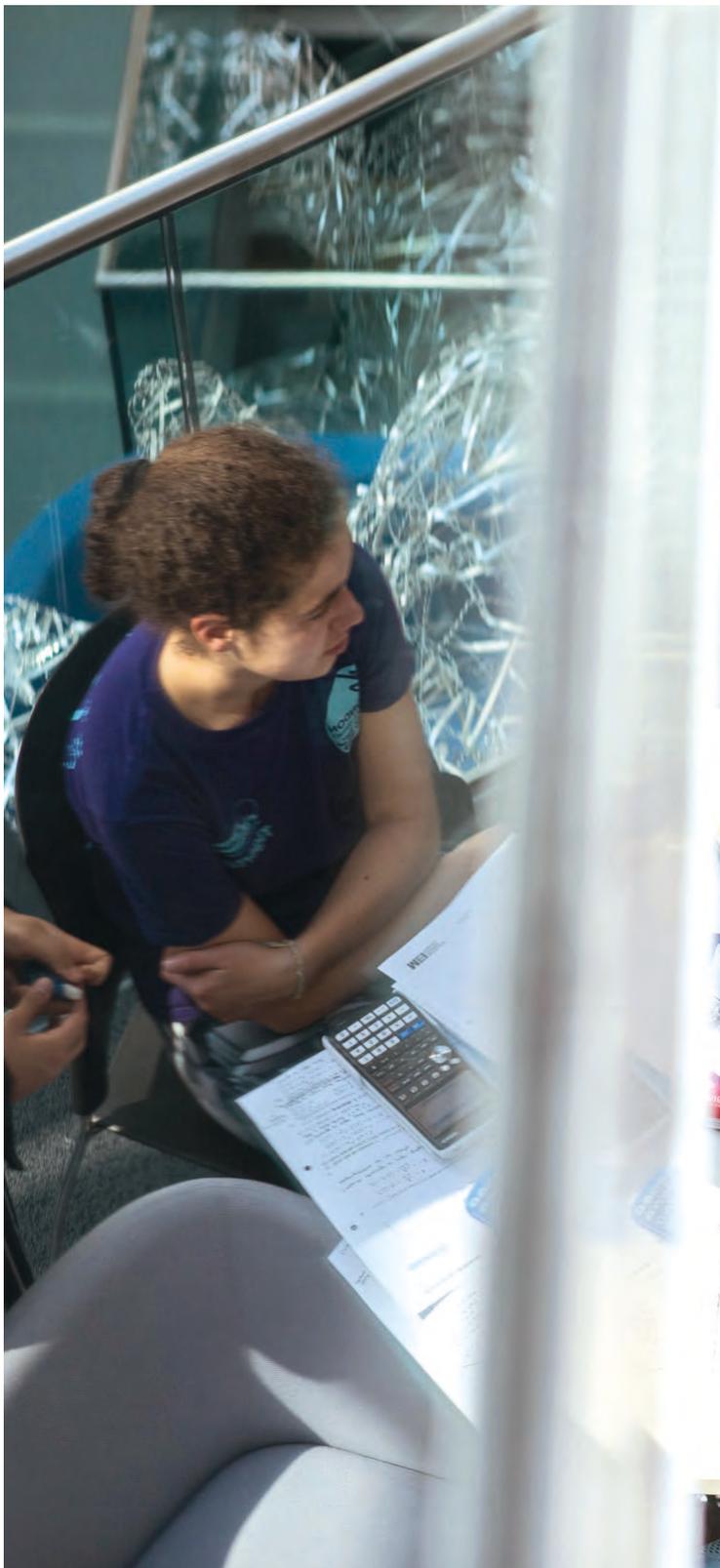


Support from NHEHS and GDST Alumnae

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 Sixth Form you'll be encouraged to organise work experience, and offered practical advice on how to go about it.

As an NHEHS Sixth Former, you will have the particular benefit of access to the NHEHS Alumnae network, from those who have just embarked on a university course to those already established in successful careers. One thing they all have in common is their friendliness, approachability and willingness to share their experiences and knowledge with other NHEHS girls. Whether you want the low-down on a particular university, want to know what your favourite subject is really like at university level or are looking for work experience or an internship in a particular field, they are there to help. We run a number of networking events each year, so that Sixth Form students and alumnae can hear from those working in different fields, and make useful contacts.

You will also have access to GDST Life an online platform which connects you with the global alumnae community of the Girls' Day School Trust, putting you in touch with over 70,000 former students of GDST schools. With the help of the GDST's Alumnae team, you will be able to reach out to this powerful group, to help you develop your career.





NHEHS Spirit

- Extra-curricular Activities
- Leadership Programme
- External Partnerships
- Community Outreach & Charity Initiatives
- Student Wellbeing
- Sport and Fitness

Extra-Curricular Activities

Wherever your interests lie – art, politics, music, drama or sport – they'll all find expression here. There are close to 100 clubs and societies that you can take part in.

Some clubs are subject based and designed to deepen academic interests that have been piqued, while others develop a skill or interest. You can join the other keen environmentalists studying the problem of single-use plastics, compete against bridge and chess masters, dissect sharks and squid, explore the past with the historians, delve into the chemistry behind cooking, or discuss your

favourite books in the various literary clubs. The Engineering in Education scheme offers budding engineers the chance to work on real life projects with professional engineers while those with an entrepreneurial spirit will enjoy Young Enterprise, which offers hands on experience of starting your own business. If debating or public speaking is your thing, you can join the Debating Club and Speaking Societies 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.

Clubs that have been run most recently which Sixth Formers can take part in:

Aeronautics	Flamenco Dancing	Netball Select
Amnesty International	Flute Ensemble	Netball Shooting
Art Club	Foreign Book Club	Off The Shelf
Art Surgery	Foreign Films	Philosophy
Backstage Pass	Geography Soc	Photoshop
Badminton	German Soc	Piano 8 Hand Club
Barnum Rehearsals	Gymnastics	Rock Band
Bluestockings	Hans Woyda	Rowing
Bmat Prep	Harmony Choir	Running Club
Bridge Beginners	History Masterclass	Science Crest & Dissections
Bridge Improvers	Hockey GK Training	Senior Choir
Chamber Choir	Horrible Histories	Senior Football
Chamber Orchestra	Intermediate Dance	Senior Literary Forum
Chinese Cartoons & Games	International Cuisine	Session Orchestra
Classics Masterclass	Investor Challenge	Skype Club
Cloud 9	Jazz Band	Strength & Conditioning
Coup Club	Journalism Club	Symphony Orchestra
Crafty Sew And Sew	Kickboxing	Taekwondo
Creative Writing	Knit And Knatter	Tai Chi & Chinese Cooking
Cricket	Korean Club	Tech Club
Dead Poets Society	Languages & Careers	The Breakfast Book Club
Debating Soc	Languages Club	Trampoline Club
Duke of Edinburgh	Lego Robotics	Uni Prep Sessions
Drama Club	Life Drawing	Violin 4et
Design and Technology Club	Lotions, Potions & Kitchen Chemistry	Waterpolo Select
Ealing Teen Read	Lower School Chamber Choir	Wind Band
Eco Group	Maths Breakfast	Y10-13 Hockey
Enigma Club	Maths Cypher Challenge	Y11-13 Senior Waterpolo
Etymology Club	Medsoc	Y9+ Swimming Squad
Exploring Psychology	Music Theory	Yoga
Fencing	Myth Writing Competition	

Three of our most popular areas of interest are in Sport, Music and Drama. If you are an enthusiastic sportswoman, you can be part of one of the schools' many senior sports teams. We have teams in hockey, netball, cricket, rounders, tennis, cross country, gymnastics, water polo and swimming, and compete in national, county and London-wide competitions as well as against local schools. We also enjoy the added challenge of competing against other GDST schools from around the country in a number of rallies and fixtures.

For the keen dramatists amongst you, we have a raft of opportunities for you to develop and showcase your talents. Whether you prefer being centre-stage or behind the scenes controlling the backstage area with technical precision, we put on a large full scale production once a year to get involved with as well as numerous smaller scale productions. Sixth Formers also run a drama club for the younger years to hone new talent as well as help run the House Drama competition.

For the musically gifted, we have a huge swathe of ensembles, choirs, bands, acapella groups, trios and more to regularly rehearse and perform with. As well as developing your playing with expert tuition and guidance, we also love to see performances from beginners and experts alike with regular informal atrium performances, assembly concerts, formal evening concerts and house music competitions to take part in.

A key feature of the extra-curricular life of the school is the ability of Sixth Formers both to lead many of the school clubs, and also to introduce new ones. If you can't see a club or group that interests you, you'll be encouraged, and helped, to start one. In recent years students have been responsible for starting up fashion shows, a student-run MUN Conference, Feminism Club, a three-day Film Festival, Dissection Club, Gardening Club and an acapella choir.





“

Curate a fashion show, learn to fence or develop your debating skills, there is something for everyone.



Leadership Opportunities

Notting Hill & Ealing Sixth Formers 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. If you have an idea of a club, event or a publication which does not exist, you can bring it to life.

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, 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. You can also 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 12 all students become Subject Representatives, taking the lead in the extra-curricular life of the school.

In Year 13, the year group and staff elect a Head Girl Team and a Captain of Sport who serve as an important link between students and staff in helping to ensure the school functions smoothly. Each of you will be encouraged to explore leadership opportunities that interest you and support your future career pathway. Every step of your Sixth Form journey you will be given the chance to innovate and lead.





Sukhpreet Gahunia

NHEHS Alumnae

A Levels: Biology, Chemistry,
English Literature

University: Peninsula Medical
School (Universities of Exeter
and Plymouth)

Course: Medicine

“We were always taught to aim high, be confident and have a good work ethic, which I definitely took with me to university and I found helped me a lot. But there was time for endless extra-curricular opportunities which improved our confidence and broadened our horizons.”

“

There are real opportunities to innovate and lead and we will support you every step of the way.





“

You will make valuable connections and have a strong sense of purpose.



External Partnerships

The Sixth Form gives you the opportunity to branch out with new connections beyond the school. As a subject representative, you can host conferences for students from other schools, and meet up with these students for debates, discussions and talks. We have connections with schools both near and far, whether as part of our Year 12 Symposium series with boys from Harrow School, or across the GDST network.

There are also a range of international links to be involved in. Alongside overseas trips run by departments, girls can spend the summer of Year 12 volunteering in Western Kenya, as part of our relationship with the Mango Tree charity, while our new link with the Academy of Notre Dame de Namur in Pennsylvania draws us into events linked to America and schools across Asia and South America.

Community Outreach and Charity initiatives

There is a real sense of purpose in the Sixth Form. Not only do girls enjoy their studies, they are very keen to give back – not just to the school – but to local, national and international charities. If you are keen to raise money or awareness for a particular charity or cause, you will undoubtedly find several others keen to muck in and make things happen. This could be anything from sponsored walks, the Ealing Half Marathon every autumn or a cake sale (always very popular with students and staff alike!). You may already be involved with charitable initiatives as part of your Duke of Edinburgh programme, and this will be supported and encouraged.

Closer to home, Sixth Formers have the opportunity to work in the local community with Ealing-based charities, including working with Ealing Mencap on the Digital Developers Project, volunteering with Ealing Age Concern at Greenford Community Centre and participating on a weekly basis at a local primary school with their reading programme.

Student Wellbeing

We are committed to promoting the wellbeing of every girl in the Sixth Form; helping you to understand how to live happy and healthy lives. Our tutor system (whereby you meet regularly with your tutor both as an individual and as a member of a small group) is at the heart of ensuring that your needs are met. We believe that listening is an important skill and we seek to foster this through strong links between year groups; an example of this is our 'Big Sister' mentoring scheme which is led by the Year 12s. We have a strong and responsive PSHCEE programme in which we encourage discussion about important topics including positive mental health and this is supplemented by visits from external agents. You are also able to access our counselling team confidentially should you need to. We think it is important to recognise that we all face challenges at different points of our lives and we help you to develop the skills which will help you to face and overcome these.

Departing Sixth Formers always make mention of the caring, fun and supportive friendships made at NHEHS – in fact, we know of many alumnae who have kept in touch for well over 50 years, such is the spirit of togetherness shared by the NHEHS girls. This sense of teamwork and mutual support is fostered from the very first day of term in Year 12 with fun team-bonding experiences held in school. Regular events and activities are organised for and by Sixth Formers, ranging from a trip to the theatre or bowling alley to picnics in the garden on sunnier days. You will certainly experience a Sixth Form like no other at NHEHS – where you will discover that it is possible to excel academically and have fun at the same time!





Sport and Fitness

Sport and fitness will be part of your timetable each week. You'll also have exclusive use of the fitness room in the Sixth Form Centre which is a convenient way for you to incorporate exercise in your daily routine. You'll be able to enjoy the school's fabulous facilities for sport and dance and you'll be offered the chance to continue with activities such as netball, hockey, football, water polo, cricket, rounders and tennis, as well as being given the option of experiencing a wider range of activities such as zumba, yoga, kickboxing, trampolining, badminton and volleyball. The school is also able to offer some offsite activities, including golf and use of a fitness centre. Whatever you choose, we hope you'll find something that you will enjoy and want to continue with after you've left school.

Above all, the choice is yours as to which sports and fitness activities to you pursue; the programme is designed around you.

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THINKING OF A GAP YEAR?

•What about the Vine trust?

ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE WILDERNESS

INSPIRE & ENGAGE YOUR STUDENTS

Winning the Best Course

Support your students

HEAT INSULATION

Girls' Day Schools Trust

NHEHS is one of the founding schools of the GDST. 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 3 and 18. As a charity that owns and runs a network of 23 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.

The GDST enables connections across its family of schools with special themed days where girls from all GDST schools get the chance to learn together. Recent examples include the GDST 'Inspiring Females' event held at Chelsea Football Club, an NHEHS hosted Film Festival and a 'GDST Day of Languages' held at NHEHS, in which girls were challenged to work together to produce short films and plays in modern languages.

The GDST boasts a diverse alumnae network of over 70,000 women (the largest of its kind in the UK), many of whom regularly meet to network and support each other and current GDST pupils with career and university advice.



Across the Network

At GCSE and A Level, GDST pupils outperform not just the general population of schools, but those from the rest of the independent school sector:

- GDST pupils taking degrees in medicine = 5 times the national average for girls
- GDST pupils taking degrees in engineering = 2 times the national average for girls
- GDST pupils undertaking a language degree = 2 times the national average for girls
- Over 45% of GDST students take at least one science at A Level and 39% take maths
- 6.4% of GDST students gain a place at Oxford or Cambridge
- Over 69% of GDST students gain a place at a Russell Group university
- Cross-trust prizes and scholarships available exclusively to GDST students each year.

Few schools in London can rival the sheer volume of educational opportunities available to girls as at NHEHS.

Good Schools Guide



Choosing your Subjects

All A Levels and Pre-U Courses are two-year courses: this provides space for broader, deeper learning, with lots of time for students to play a full role in the leadership and extra-curricular activities on offer at the school.

The structure

With very few exceptions, students at Notting Hill and Ealing study three principal subjects. Over the years, we find that for the majority of students, this number of A Levels provides appropriate time for the completion of an EPQ in Year 12, and the development of leadership and volunteering skills. It also corresponds to the standard offer made by Universities, which is 3 A Levels.

There are two exceptions to this pattern:

- Further Mathematics counts as a full A Level and is a popular choice of fourth subject for students studying Maths A Level who also enjoyed success in Add Maths in Year 11. This is an accelerated course and therefore still leaves students with time in the school day for independent study and other activities.
- Exceptionally, some students may opt for a full fourth A Level subject about which they are passionate. This must be agreed with the Academic Deputy, and will only suit students who are willing to commit significant extra time to their studies. A fourth A Level is not a mechanism for putting off a decision about principal subjects.



“

The A Level courses left me feeling prepared academically for my first year at university.

Alongside their three subjects, students can also opt to study one of four Short Courses:

- A Photography Qualification (1 year)
- The mini MBA (1 year)
- Italian GCSE (1 year)
- Sports Science AS (2 years)

Good ways to make your choices

You should choose subjects which interest you, and which you want to study: students invariably do better when they take this route. Remember that successful Sixth Form study involves working independently above and beyond what you are taught in class, and therefore you really do need to be motivated to learn the subject in its own right.

Remember that if you enjoyed a subject at IGCSE and were good at it, this is a good indication that that sort of subject area will suit you in the Sixth Form. If you want more detail, do read course descriptions and, if in doubt, look at textbooks in the library! These will give you an indication of the material you will be studying.

Do remember to be ambitious about engaging with traditional subjects: Languages, Literature, and Pure Science all provide an excellent foundation for many unconnected future pathways.

A word of caution

Whilst it can be helpful to know which subjects are “requirements” for specific university courses, this can lead students to make the wrong choices. For instance, students who are only opting for Physics because they wish to become Engineers, but who do not thrive on the study of Physics, may find that University Engineering is an unhappy experience for them later on. Students who opt for History A Level solely in the pursuit of a Law degree may struggle to engage with the technical aspects of the course. Therefore, students who are successful are those who find the confidence to study subjects that they love and are good at, and find University pathways which build on these skills and interests.



Remember that there are a University pathway for any set of skills, and many courses out there which you will not necessarily have heard of (from MORSE to HSPS and EES...!), but which our experienced team can help you discover.

And for some detail...

Read the course descriptions carefully and make sure you know what type of work you will be involved in. We have given the name of the examination board and the course code and you can use these to refer directly to the specifications on the board’s website if you wish to.

And finally... speak with us!

We take great care in helping you decide the exact combination of qualifications which will work best for you and most effectively support your future plans. 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, as will Ms Copin or Miss Aherne.



Sacha Parkinson

NHEHS Alumnae

A Levels: English Literature,
Geography, Psychology

University: Cardiff

Course: Human Geography

“The tutor system and support with personal statements was great. You get it all done and sent off promptly so you don’t stress about it at the last minute near to the deadline.”

Results and Destinations

Results

Our girls achieve outstanding success in public examinations.

Year	A Level % A*/A/B grades	A Level % A* grades
2020	90%*	34%*
2019	84%	23%
2018	94%	26%
2017	86%	20%
2016	90%	33%

*2020 grades were Centre Assessed Grades

Some of our external applicants like to get an indication of our GCSE examination results. In 2019 we achieved 89% A*/A grades.

Destinations of Leavers

The success of our university preparation programme 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 (typically over 85% of candidates in any year). In most years 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 apply for a degree course.

The overwhelming majority of our students secure places at their first choice institution. In 2020 they went on to study subjects as varied as: Biomedical Sciences at Bath; Modern and Medieval Languages at Cambridge; Mathematics at Durham; Architecture at Brighton; Physics at Oxford; Psychology at Kings College London; Spanish and History at Edinburgh; Veterinary Science at Bristol to English at UCL.

For a full list of the 2020 Leavers, please take a look at our Destinations pages of our website.

Admissions

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

Entry Requirements

As a general guide we expect girls to have obtained 9s or 8s in their chosen A Level subjects, with 7 or above in the majority of their other GCSEs.

Applications from external candidates

For external candidates wishing to join us in the sixth form, entry is selective and based on written assessments and interviews. We will also ask for a confidential reference from your current school and predictions of your GCSE grades. We cannot process your application fully or make an offer of a place until this reference and details of predicted grades have been received. Applications should be made by 2 November 2020 for entry in September 2021.

All external candidates will sit 30-minute written papers in each of their chosen A Level subjects, in the week beginning 16 November 2020 (apart from Art, which is assessed on portfolio). Following the written papers, we will then select the girls we wish to invite back for interview. Offers will then be made based on performance in the written papers and interviews, and on the school reference, including GCSE predicted grades. Offers are conditional upon GCSE grades obtained in the summer exams.

There is some flexibility for testing and interviewing at other stages in the year. If you have missed these dates, you should contact the Admissions department 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, as well as scholarships for achievement and potential in Art, Drama, Music and Sport. Both those entering the sixth form from NHEHS and those applying from other schools are eligible for consideration.

External candidates interested in applying for any of these scholarships should indicate this on their online registration form, and they will then be sent the relevant scholarship form to complete. Candidates applying for Academic Scholarships may be invited to sit a special scholarship paper. Candidates for Art Scholarships will be assessed on their portfolio, while candidates for Drama and Music Scholarships will be invited for audition. Sport Scholarship candidates may be invited into school for assessment or the Director of Sport may arrange to observe candidates in an external setting (such as a match), dependent upon the sport(s) they are offering.

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

GDST bursaries are also available. These are means-tested and can provide up to 100% assistance with the cost of the school fees. Families who think they may be eligible should indicate this on the online registration form. They will then be sent details of our online 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 UCAS website is also very useful.

This advice is a rough guide to the requirements for particular courses at UK universities. The Russell Group Plus universities have advised that traditional academic subjects are seen as good facilitators for the most competitive highly academic courses, details are given on the Russell Group's Informed Choices website: informedchoices.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, then do discuss this with Mrs Collins.

University Course Requirements

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.

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.

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

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

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

COMPUTER SCIENCE A Level Mathematics is required.

DRAMA/THEATRE STUDIES Drama 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.

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.

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 preferred for top universities depending upon the course. Design and Technology is another option for a 3rd A level.

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES For science-based courses, Chemistry and/or Biology are expected, and Mathematics is helpful. There are also 'issue-based' courses, for which Geography or Economics or Politics would be appropriate. Entry requirements for Environmental Sciences courses vary across institutions so careful checking is essential.

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.



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.

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.

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.

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

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 – there are virtual alternatives where ‘live’ work experience might be limited due to social distancing measures. You must check individual websites for details - The Medical Schools’ Council has useful comparison guides and resources. There is a guide produced by the school for would-be Medics and Dentists, available from the Careers Department, and students will be supported by senior members of staff in Biology and Chemistry. The school’s weekly Science Forum helps prepare students for the application process from the start of Year 12.



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 and so on, proven linguistic ability, as shown by A Levels in other languages, is needed.

ORIENTAL, AFRICAN OR ASIAN STUDIES
A modern or classical language is needed.

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.

PHARMACY Chemistry and one or two other sciences are required for most courses. Similar for Pharmacology.

PHILOSOPHY, THEOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY, POLITICS OR SOCIAL SCIENCES There is no specific requirement, but an essay based A Level such Philosophy and Ethics, Government and Politics or History would be useful to include. Mathematics may be an advantage for some Philosophy degrees.

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.

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 require Further Mathematics.

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.

SPORT SCIENCE Biology is required. Entry is very competitive at university level.

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



Art

AQA

FINE ART: 7202

What makes Art great?

Art demands self-discipline, independence of mind, initiative and insight. At A Level, you will 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 different materials, techniques and processes, to experiment freely 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.

What does the course cover?

A Level Art allows you to develop an exciting and extensive range of creative and technical skills. You will also gain a strong understanding of historic and contemporary visual art practice, through supporting contextual studies. Unique to studying Art at A Level, you build up a very personal and continually evolving body of practical work, guided and supported by your teachers. Individual exploration and development of your personal skills and creative directions is a special aspect of this subject.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

The Art department is a bustling, creative and nurturing environment. The Studios are open daily, and for some become an extension of the Sixth Form common room. There are weekly life drawing lessons, and open studio sessions, throughout the year. A Level artists are able to join a number of visits to galleries and workshops. We regularly visit the John Soane's collection, Pallant House Gallery, Cass Sculpture Foundation and other London galleries. Our bi-annual residential trip to Venice, viewing both the historical collections and architecture of the city alongside the Venice

Biennale, is always well-attended and thoroughly enjoyed. Students are also able to attend a day's practical etching workshop at the Thames-Side Print Studios, producing a range of professional print outcomes.

What are the attributes of successful students of Art?

A successful Art A Level student embraces challenge and takes risks. Open to trying new materials, techniques and processes, they fully immerse themselves into the creative process.

Why do students love Art?

“Art at A Level is when you first begin to establish yourself as an artist. The combination of a variety of skills instilled in you from lower down in the school, and increased contact time with your teachers, allows you to take more creative risks. I feel as though, at A Level, you have even more freedom and scope than ever before and this is what enabled me to discover what I enjoy most about art, namely textiles. As a result, I have been able to delve deeper into this passion and have thoroughly enjoyed creating a body of work of which I am extremely proud.”

“Creativity is critical thinking and without it how are you going to open up and ask harder questions? Art opens up those... possibilities to think beyond what we already know.”

Catherine Opie, artist



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



Biology

EDEXCEL

9BIO

What makes Biology great?

Although Biology forms a natural link with the other scientific disciplines, it also works well alongside many arts subjects. 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 making sense of the modern world and our place in it.

What does the course cover?

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 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 can 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. You will also develop a deeper understanding of classification to allow the exploration of issues relating to biodiversity and natural selection.

In Year 13 the additional six topics extend into areas such as the biochemical processes of respiration and photosynthesis. There is also detailed study of microbiology and how some micro-organisms 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.

The practical endorsement of the course is developed through 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 analytical and evaluative thinking.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

The Biology representatives run lots of activities and clubs for the younger years, including dissection club and CREST club, which helps develop leadership and organisation skills. The department provides exciting opportunities including reading lists and essay competitions. It also directs pupils to summer schools and work experience, and each year takes students to the New Scientist Live talks.

What are the attributes of successful students of Biology?

Successful biologists are scientifically literate, numerate and able to apply themselves to complex and detailed theories. They study beyond their specification and are well-read in subject knowledge around their subjects. They seek out challenge in all of their lessons and outside of school. Using the 'Independent Study Booklet,' a passionate biologist takes up opportunities outside of school, from lectures to biology competitions. Finally, the best students are highly organised about ensuring that they regularly review the material and commit terminology and processes to memory throughout the course. There is a solid amount of content in the course, and students are happier and more confident when they learn it as they go, enabling them to make deep and interesting connections.

Why do students love Biology?

"I love Biology because it is such a unique subject to study. It allows you to understand the complexity of living things and how everything interacts together in the environment."

Chemistry

AQA

7405

What makes Chemistry great?

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 materials that will make computers work faster. Chemistry is cutting-edge and chemists are pioneering and innovative.

What does the course cover?

In A Level Chemistry you not only build on the skills and knowledge you developed at IGCSE (or GCSE) but you will be challenged and encouraged to think about the subject in new ways. The course is divided into three parts: Organic, Physical, and Inorganic Chemistry.

The A Level 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. 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, and the ways in which society uses science to make decisions.

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 exciting science. You will develop practical skills such as making observations, collecting data, analysing experimental results and formulating conclusions.

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. In the world of work, people with a background in Chemistry can be found not just in research laboratories, but also in patent law, marketing, and investment analysis. It is a science that can take you almost anywhere.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

Each year, Year 12 and 13 students participate in the Chemistry Olympiad and Cambridge C3L6 competition. Girls in these year groups also run the hugely popular Lotions and Potions club. Students in Year 12 visit New Scientist Live and many attend evening lectures at Imperial and UCL.

What are the attributes of successful students of Chemistry?

To succeed in A level Chemistry, you must be inquisitive and curious, able to work accurately, and have a genuine interest in the 'whats' and 'whys' that explain why matter behaves the way it does. Whilst it is not essential to study Maths A level in conjunction with Chemistry, many students do.

Why do students love Chemistry?

"I enjoy A Level Chemistry because we do such a wide variety of work, both theoretical and practical, and it's very satisfying seeing how all the different elements of Chemistry work together to produce the world around us."





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

Latin

 OCR

 H443

What makes Latin great?

Discover more about a society where words are power and power is everything.

Explore both the alien and the familiar within Rome's culture and its legacy to our society today. Latin at A Level combines well with a range of arts subjects or provides a balance for would be scientists. This qualification is highly valued by University admissions tutors for the linguistic, literary and analytical skills it fosters and adds weight to a university application. A Level Latin presents a varied programme which introduces many aspects of the history, politics, law and art of Roman civilisation. The skills you will develop will benefit you in whatever path you choose.

What does the course cover?

The language half of the course includes unseen translation of both prose and verse passages from Latin into English and learning how to write stylishly in Latin. Most of the necessary grammar has already been covered at GCSE.

The literature component involves the in-depth study of verse and prose literature. The verse selection comes from Virgil's Aeneid Book 12, where students finally reach the end of Aeneas' epic journey and immense battle to find a 'New Troy' in Italy. The prose selection comes from Cicero's Pro Cluentio and Tacitus' Annals. Here we see one of the world's most successful lawyers passionately defend Cluentius against charges of killing his own father, and Tacitus' reflections on the early years of the reign of Tiberius, where scheming and treachery are rife and wine and mushrooms are no doubt laced with poison.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

The Classics department offers an extensive programme of extra-curricular opportunities. Our Sixth Form students are able to volunteer to teach Latin in local primary schools as part of the Minimus Project, with our aim of fostering a love of all things ancient in students of all ages. Students of Latin A Level attend the Harrodian Sixth Form Conference for lectures from leading academics, which complement their reading in class. The Classics Masterclass offers students the opportunity to research their own areas of interest and share these with their peers. Our Sixth Form students also run the Junior Classics Club, sharing their love of the subject with the younger girls. We also hope to be able to offer an overseas visit.

What are the attributes of successful students of Latin?

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.

Why do students love Latin?

"Latin and Greek have changed the way I look at words. Now when I am reading, I can see the history of a word, and understand how it came to exist. I can spot references to ancient texts and see why the author might have used them. I find myself questioning the way I speak and the grammar that I use. I am eternally grateful that I chose to learn Latin and Greek because I would not be the person I am today without Classics and without the people I have met through studying Classics."

Classical Greek

OCR

H444

What makes Classical Greek 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 and art. The Greeks were also the first to ask important philosophical questions like ‘what is virtue?’ and ‘how do I lead a good life?’. 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.

Classical Greek can be studied equally successfully in combination with Latin or as a stand-alone option. Unlike in Years 10 and 11, classes take place as part of the normal school day.

What does the course cover?

The language half of the course includes unseen translation of both prose and verse passages from Greek into English and learning how to write stylishly in Greek. Most of the necessary grammar has already been covered at GCSE.

The literature component involves the in-depth study of verse and prose literature. The verse

selection comes from Homer’s *Odyssey* Book 1, where students meet Odysseus’ son Telemachus and learn about his difficulty in coping with his father’s twenty-year absence and the 108 men who have moved in and are trying to marry his mother, Penelope. The prose selection comes from Thucydides’ *Histories*. Here we meet Alcibiades as he faces the consequences of the scandalous ‘mutilation of the herms’ on the eve of his doomed expedition to Sicily.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

The Classics department offers an extensive programme of extra-curricular opportunities. The Classics Masterclass offers students the opportunity to research their own areas of interest and share these with their peers. Our Sixth Form students also run the Junior Classics Club, sharing their love of the subject with the younger girls. We also hope to be able to offer an overseas visit.

What are the attributes of successful students of Greek?

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.

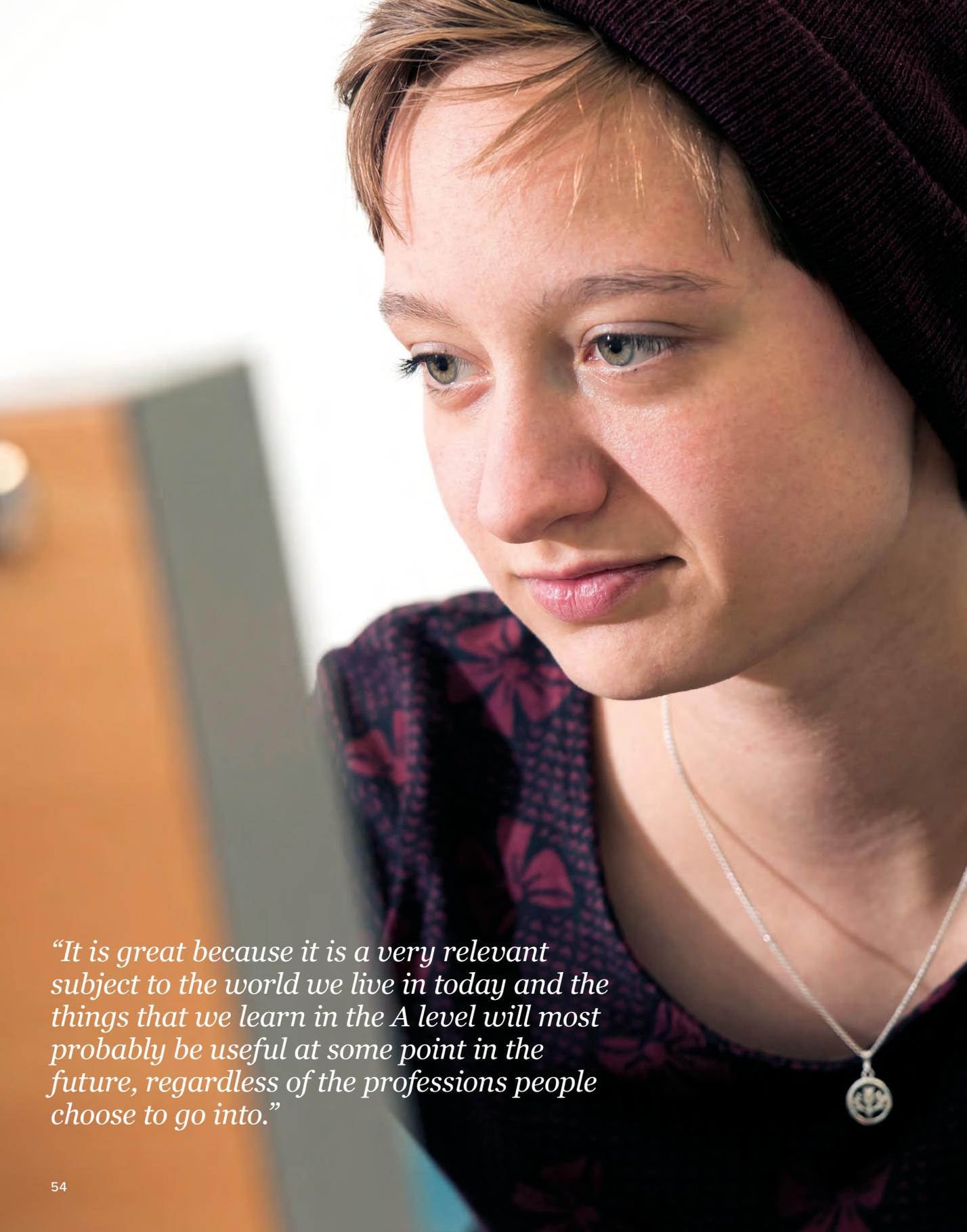
Why do students love Greek?

“I love Greek A Level because of the variety of work we do; both the satisfying intricacies of the language and the content of our set texts make the course so interesting!”

“The A Level is a great mix of language, culture and literature, it’s a subject that integrates so much into it”



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



“It is great because it is a very relevant subject to the world we live in today and the things that we learn in the A level will most probably be useful at some point in the future, regardless of the professions people choose to go into.”

Computer Science

OCR

H446

What makes Computer Science great?

In today's world, artificial intelligence, self-driving cars, robots, cyber security and Big Data are seldom out of the headlines. Computer Science is the subject that encompasses all these exciting areas and an A Level in the subject will equip you with a good insight into these topics.

What does the course cover?

Computer Science is about designing algorithms to solve problems. This is a course with an emphasis on abstract thinking, general problem-solving and algorithmic and mathematical reasoning. The qualification has been designed for students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where problem-solving skills are highly valued.

In the first component of the course, students are introduced to the internal workings of the Central Processing Unit (CPU), as well as the processes of data exchange, software development, data types, and various adjoining legal and ethical issues.

The second component builds the first to include computational thinking and problem-solving. It covers what is meant by computational thinking (thinking abstractly, thinking ahead, thinking procedurally etc.), problem solving and programming, and how algorithms can be used to describe and solve problems.

In the final component, students apply the principles of computational thinking to a practical coding project. They analyse, design, develop, test, evaluate and document a program written in a suitable programming language. The project is designed to be independently chosen by the student and provides them with the flexibility to investigate projects within the diverse field of computer science. We support a wide range of languages.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

Our A Level girls are active outside of the classroom too! They have helped run the Lego Robotics club where we won the Regional Finals, and assisted girls from KS3 and KS4 develop their coding, acting as 'coding mentors.' We also run visits to leading edge multinational companies such as PricewaterhouseCoopers.

What are the attributes of successful students of Computer Science?

Computer Science students should enjoy problem solving, have a real curiosity for the workings of software and hardware and most importantly have a tenacious attitude to their studies.

Why do students love Computer Science?

“Computer Science is a really important subject, especially in a world where technology is the future. It greatly helped me develop a deeper understanding of a huge range of things to do with computers, technology and more – knowledge which is becoming increasingly useful. I've learnt to apply the skills learnt from computer science to a great variety of things which I would never have been able to do before. My favourite part would be the coding in python, as this is what started my love for computer science – you are constantly learning how to do new things and develop your code even further.”

“Computer Science is one of my favourite subjects because it is so varied! I can be creative in my coding while still applying mathematics and logic into the theory behind computing.”

Design and Technology

OCR

H406: PRODUCT DESIGN

What makes Design and Technology great?

Product Design is a creative and academically rigorous A Level subject, offering students an invigorating and challenging creative experience centred on real-world design challenges.

What does the course cover?

During the course, you will undertake a range of skills-based projects before completing the major NEA (non-examination assessment) project. The skills-based projects consist of short designing and making tasks, which encourage you to learn theory content and experiment with a range of new techniques. When completing the NEA, you will have the freedom to pick your own major project theme, seeking user and stakeholder feedback to inform the development of your final product.

The course sees students adopt the working practices of professional designers by following an 'iterative process'— a methodology based on research from the University of Cambridge's "Designing Our Tomorrow" initiative. The theory content is assessed through two examinations at the end of the course, which include some essay-based questions. Combined, these are worth 50%. The NEA makes up the remaining 50% of your overall grade. Students derive huge satisfaction from seeing their creative ideas progress from 2D to 3D and ultimately turn into functional and desirable products.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

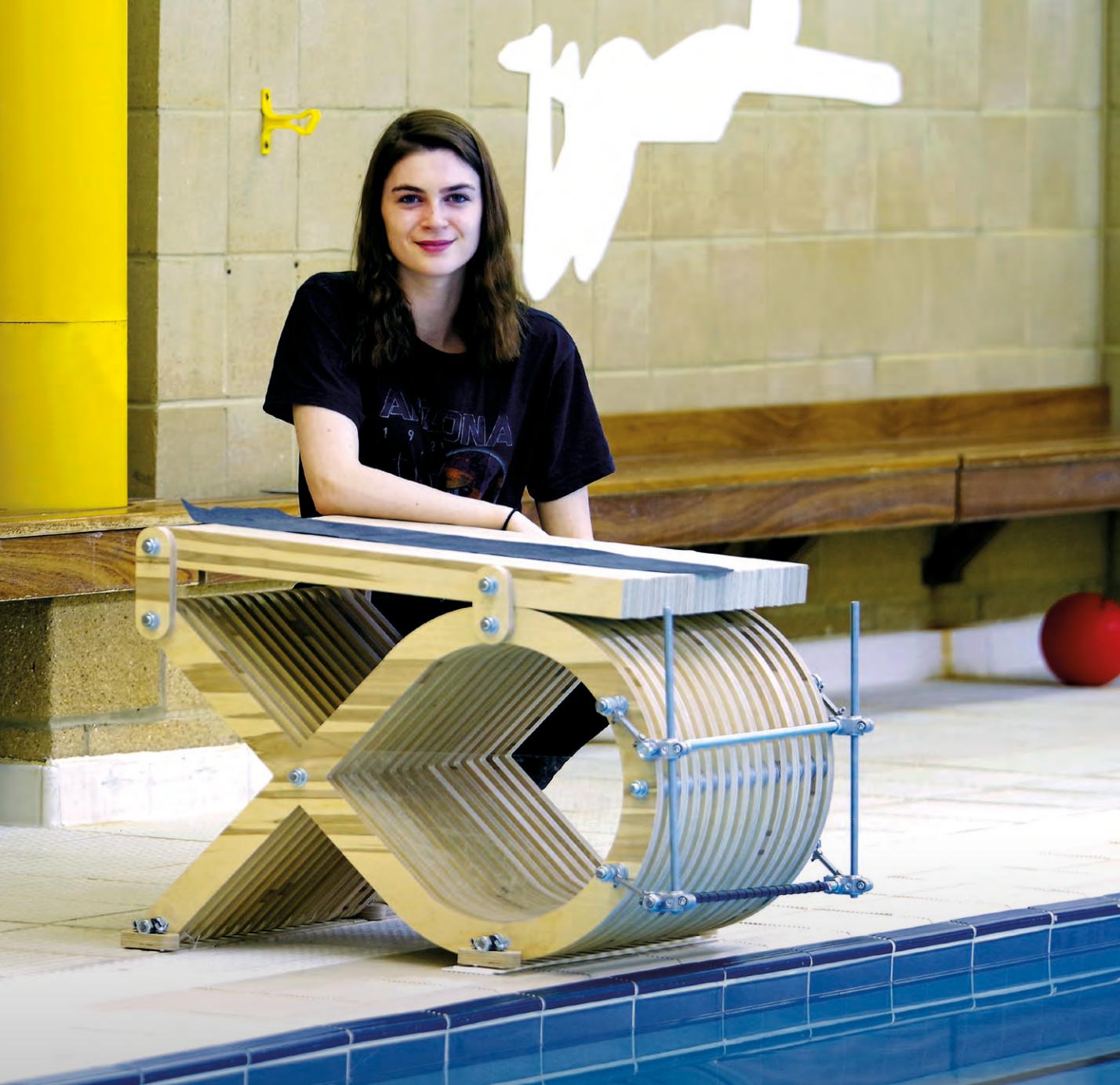
Learning outside the classroom is supported with a variety of trips, including a visit to the London Design Festival. We embrace STEM activities and many of our students participate in Engineering schemes, including the Engineering in Education Scheme. Our students also enter a range of national competitions, such as the Triumph Design Awards and the Technology Design and Innovation Challenge (TDI). We promote independent learning and encourage students (particularly those wishing to pursue Product Design at University) to use their skills and knowledge to create a design portfolio based on personal projects.

What are the attributes of successful students of Design & Technology?

The course requires independence, creativity, innovation, self-discipline, and a proactive approach to learning. As product design processes and materials are constantly developing, you will always find new and exciting opportunities to learn, discover and create. The majority of our students go on to study engineering, product design and architecture however, the skills taught are also applicable to a wide range of other careers. The subject also teaches vital transferable skills, such as project management and analytical thinking.

Why do students love Design & Technology?

"Since Year 7, I've never been in any doubt when choosing Design and Technology as a career path. In my opinion, DT is the only A Level that can make a difference in people's lives."



“Something unique to DT is its real-life application and being able to see the relevance of what I’m learning in everything around me. I really enjoy the freedom to explore what we’re most interested in and that we are able to use our individual strengths and other A Level subjects to influence what we create.”



*“Theatre and drama
can unlock the use of
imagination, intellect,
empathy and courage.
Through it, ideas,
responses and feelings
can be expressed
and communicated.
It carries the potential
to challenge, to question
and to bring about
change”*

*Jude Kelly OBE,
Artistic Director of the South Bank*

Drama and Theatre

EDUGAS

A690U

What makes Drama and Theatre great?

A Level Drama and Theatre is a challenging and demanding discipline both intellectually and artistically. It enables students to be creative, push boundaries, take risks and work within an ethos of experimentation.

“Imagining what it is like to be someone other than yourself is at the core of our humanity. It is the essence of compassion, and it is the beginning of morality.” Ian McEwan

Drama prepares pupils for a world that is increasingly team oriented and allows them to explore emotions, to acquire tolerance and to develop the empathy to navigate contemporary life. Drama promotes divergent and critical thinking, as well as honing skills in team building, decision-making, problem solving and leadership. The performance elements allow students to develop presentational skills and public speaking.

What does the course cover?

We follow the Edexcel course which engages students through encouraging creativity and collaboration, focusing on work that reflects innovative twenty-first century theatre practice. Students will gain a knowledge of history of theatre, key influential practitioners, challenging set texts, critique of live theatre as well as practical skills in performance, theatre design and directing.

There are 3 assessed components to the course:

Devising – Students collaborate to create, design and perform an original piece of theatre. This is examined in performance alongside a 3000-word portfolio documenting the devising process.

Performance of text – Students perform/design a group/monologue/duologue to an external examiner.

Written examination – This comprises the study of two contrasting set texts from the perspective of a performer, director and designer. They will see,

analyse and evaluate a range of live theatre in performance, answering questions on contemporary theatre practice.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

Contemporary theatre is an integral part of the course and students will go to see a wide range of genres and styles of theatre throughout the A level. Workshops with external practitioners are vital in extending the range of opportunities and skills across the performing arts disciplines. Students are encouraged to participate in additional theatre activities and supported to audition for prestigious companies such as National Youth Theatre.

What are the attributes of successful students of Drama and Theatre?

There is no typical Drama and Theatre student. Some are committed to pursuing a career in the creative industries whilst others combine Drama and Theatre with subjects some might have traditionally seen as incompatible. What unites them is a passion for the subject and a determination to be creative, self-starting, dynamic individuals.

Why do students love Drama and Theatre?

“The Drama A Level course is fantastic. The curriculum encompasses so many aspects of theatre, charting how it has developed throughout history and been shaped by society, as well as giving us a strong grounding in our knowledge of all the different theatre departments (performance, lighting etc). I have always loved studying Drama as it allows me to be creative and bold in my thinking. It is also fundamentally collaborative, and nothing beats the wonderful group dynamic in a drama lesson.”

“I take drama not just for the content but the skills it teaches like confidence and independence.”

Economics

EDEXCEL

9ECO

What makes Economics great?

Possibly, without realising, you are already an active part of the global economic system: whether you are buying the latest technology manufactured in China, paying more for flights at weekends, or questioning why the government has so much debt.

Studying Economics will help you understand why prices fluctuate, where your taxes go, how government legislation can push people to change their spending habits (or not), why some companies dominate their market, how global or societal changes like climate change and ageing can have an impact on a country's economy, why people fight for resources, and why certain economies grow faster than others.

What does the course cover?

In the first year, you will be introduced to the basic economic problem of scarcity, unlimited wants, and how the market allocates scarce resources. You will consider the government's role in managing the economy and how it achieves the macroeconomic objectives of economic growth, reducing unemployment, and equality in the distribution of income.

In the second year, you learn about the economics of business behaviour. For example, you will study how firms make price and output decisions and how the behaviour of one firm is affected by the actions of another. You will also study global economics and consider issues such as trade, globalisation, and development.

Furthermore, you will learn about the role of banks and financial markets in the global economy. Throughout the course you will develop knowledge of the main economic trends over the past 25 years and be able to compare recent and historical economic

events. You will also be introduced to different economic thinkers and look at how these thinkers have influenced economic policy and debate.

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!

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

You will have the opportunity to take part in competitions such as The London Institute of Banking & Finance Student Investor Challenge, the Young Enterprise Company Programme, as well as the Royal Economic Society's essay competition. There will be the chance to attend an inspirational day of economics at the annual Economics in Action student conference in addition to hosting visiting speakers in school. A successful trip to New York was run in 2020, which we hope to be able to deliver again in the future.

What are the attributes of successful students of Economics?

Economics involves the analysis of quantitative data and evidence, so sound mathematical ability is required to study economics successfully. Students should also have an interest in the workings of individual industries and the policy decisions of governments, as the A Level looks at both of these. Economics helps you understand more about the world around you and students will be expected to keep up-to-date with economic changes and trends, so an interest in watching or reading current affairs is important.

Why do students love Economics?

“The skills I have developed through studying Economics are incredibly versatile and can be employed in a wide range of subjects. It enables us to focus on real life – to apply theory in real life situations to help us better understand why we make everyday decisions.”



“Economics enables you to gain a deeper insight into the way in which countries and people make decisions, and combines elements of maths, geography and psychology. The varied nature of the subject means it’s never boring.”



“In an era of ‘fake news’, being able to understand the power of language has arguably never been more important.”

English Language and Linguistics

AQA

7702

What makes English Language and Linguistics great?

English Language and Linguistics is very much in the here and now. It is constantly evolving, and by its nature this means that studying it is a dynamic and highly relevant option. As the dominant language in the modern world, communication governs our media, advertising, law and business. In an era of 'fake news', being able to understand the power of language has arguably never been more important.

A highly regarded subject by universities, English Language and Linguistics develops many transferable skills such as research, data collection and close analysis. The subject and skills complement many subjects, particularly Psychology, History, Politics, English Literature and Languages. Degree programmes in Creative Writing, Journalism and Law are all possible routes into higher education.

What does the course cover?

Throughout the course, we study how and why the English language has developed in the way that it has. This includes:

- Language diversity (including race, gender, occupation, region)
- Language change over time
- Child Language Development
- Text variations and representations

Analysis of data sets of various forms is essential; this includes: spoken transcripts, webpages, articles and multi-modal pieces like children's books. We also consider linguistic theories and debate the merits of the various sides of the argument.

One of the most exciting elements of the course is the independent investigation, where you are free to choose any topic that inspires you and undertake practical research. Previous projects include: how

language of YouTube vloggers has changed over time; perception and reception of UK regional accents; and a comparison of the slang used by teenagers in the UK and USA. There is also an original writing coursework piece based on a style model.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

The Linguistics research field is rapidly growing outside the classroom. We participate in A Level conferences – and hosted our first conference last year. We regularly invite guest speakers from universities to talk about aspects of their own research (Oxford, Cambridge, Southampton, Newcastle, Lancaster) on topics ranging from forensic linguistics to computer generated languages. These enriching opportunities, coupled with access to external competitions and using resources from places like the British Library make this course an exciting prospect.

What are the attributes of successful students of English?

There is not one 'type' of English Language student, and those who have studied this course have gone on to read degrees in subjects as varied as English, Psychology, Medicine, History and Music. There is essay writing and discussion in this subject, but the main requirement of someone to be successful in English Language and Linguistics is to be curious. Do you find yourself asking why things are the way they are? Or do you wonder how some people are moved by the words of others? To be prepared to ask probing questions, and to challenge your own ideas, will really help.

Why do students love English Language and Linguistics?

"I love how diverse it is, from studying accents across the UK, to analysing politicians' tweets! It is a subject which encompasses so many elements of modern society... I have loved the opportunity to study Language Diversity, which ranges from looking at social class, age, gender and even the influence that pop culture has on language..."

English Literature

OCR

H472

What makes English Literature great?

There are numerous opportunities to think independently, discuss and argue literary and critical opinions. This development of analytical thinking, and willingness to consider different interpretations and listen and respond thoughtfully to others, is an ideal preparation for the seminar style environment you are likely to encounter at university. You will develop sophisticated analytical skills which will prove 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. English opens many doors, and does not close any.

What does the course cover?

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.

There are two main exam units on pre-1900 literature and the Gothic genre respectively. The texts you will study in depth are:

- Hamlet (Shakespeare)
- The Duchess of Malfi (Webster)
- The Merchant's Prologue and Tale (Chaucer)
- Frankenstein (Shelley)
- The Bloody Chamber and Other Stories (Carter)

There are also two pieces of coursework to complete: a close-reading piece and a comparative essay. These pieces of work have a focus on the 20th and 21st century and cover poetry, prose and drama.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

Discussion-based lessons will place an emphasis upon the importance of independent reading and we frequently attend the theatre and literary conferences. Recent sixth form trips included lecture days on the Gothic and Shakespeare, and students have attended Chaucer study days hosted by the Ashmolean Museum and Oxford University.

There are Senior Literary Forum seminars run by staff in the department, which encourage discussions on texts as varied as John Donne's poetry to Rhys' Wide Sargasso Sea. Meanwhile, our Sixth Form students run 'Bluestockings' masterclasses, where those applying to read English at university deliver presentations on areas of literature that inspire them. We regularly host visiting lecturers from top universities and have author visits. Recent theatre trips have included Hamlet at the Globe Theatre, King Lear at the National Theatre, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead at the Old Vic and The Duchess of Malfi at the Almeida Theatre.

What are the attributes of successful students of English Literature?

A successful English student should be one who enjoys reading widely and engaging in discussion about their opinions on books. The idea of sitting and reading should feel a treat rather than work! There are essays to complete, so being able to write in a clear and logical way is important; your teachers will help you with this moving forward. Being prepared to contribute and listen to others are hallmarks of a strong English student.

Why do students love English Literature?

"I really enjoyed how discursive and open the lessons are, as they lead to a really relaxed and open environment for sharing ideas. One of my favourite things was that we all frequently got the opportunity to research and present on areas that we had a particular interest in. When we studied the Gothic, we all gave presentations on our favourite Gothic texts, giving us the chance to exchange our passions."

“English Literature is an exciting, dynamic and highly respected course. It is thought-provoking and immensely rewarding from an academic and imaginative perspective.”



“Geography is one of the most relevant, up to date and valuable subjects you could choose to study. It provides the freedom to explore complex issues and helps to make sense of the world around us.”



Geography

EDEXCEL

9GE0

What makes Geography great?

A Level Geography offers students the chance to critically engage with some of the most pressing challenges of today, including polarising geopolitical views, pandemics and rapid climate change. Through these topic areas, students develop skills in analysis, evaluation and creative problem solving which support their studies in other subjects as well. The wide-ranging and interdisciplinary nature of Geography particularly adds breadth and perspective to other humanities and science subjects as well as providing the skills for a wide range of university degree options. Beyond the classroom, exciting fieldwork opportunities allow students to put theory into practice and test their ideas in real world scenarios. These trips are both academically and socially rewarding, and all future travels beyond school will quickly become Geography field trips!

In summary, Geography is not just about gaining an understanding of where places are. It's about being open minded, outward looking and ultimately bringing ideas and people together. Put simply, if you want to learn more about the world, study Geography.

What does the course cover?

The course covers a broad range of current issues and is split evenly between physical and human geography topics. Geographers ask big questions including:

- Is a world with no borders a dream or a nightmare?
- What is the future of energy?
- Has social media changed the world?
- What is the future of globalisation?

In Year 12, during the Autumn and Spring terms, you will study Tectonic Processes and Hazards, and Landscape Systems, Processes and Change, with students studying either Glaciated Landscapes and Change or Coastal Landscapes and Change.

Students then study Globalisation and Shaping Places, with students studying either Regenerating Places or Diverse Places. In the Summer term, you will complete an independent Investigation and Fieldwork trip. In the Autumn and Spring terms of Year 13, we cover the Water Cycle and Water, and the Carbon Cycle and Energy. We also cover Insecurity and Superpowers, and Global Development and Connections, where students study either Health, Human Rights and Intervention or Migration, Identity and Sovereignty.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

The Geography department offers an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities to enrich student learning. Residential trips are offered throughout the course and recently these have included visits to Iceland and Switzerland. Local trips to Epping Forest and central London further allow students to apply their learning from the classroom to the real world.

To allow students to network and enhance their synoptic and critical thinking skills, the Geography department organises and hosts their own lecture series from leading professionals and universities, which local schools are also invited to attend. This runs alongside a programme of evening lectures at the Royal Geographical Society and subject conference days in London. The Geography and Conservation Society also offer leadership opportunities for Sixth Form students. This involves organising and delivering lectures to younger students and designing projects that raise the profile of Geography across the school.

What are the attributes of successful students of Geography?

Successful geographers have an interest in the world around them and enjoy engaging critically with current affairs. Students who like debate and forming their own opinion will also enjoy this course.

Why do students love Geography?

“I love geography as you learn how to tackle some of the most prevalent issues facing the world today. It is engaging and ever changing allowing you to stay on top of global current affairs...”

History

OCR

H505

What makes History great?

Young people in the twenty-first century 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, as a History student at NHEHS you will be taught to read with a critical eye; using analytical and evaluative skills to uncover bias and get to the crux of an issue.

What does the course cover?

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. 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.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

You will have the opportunity to play a role in the school's History Society, which organises a variety of events. We have hosted a variety of expert speakers in the last year, speaking about a range of topics from the Black Death to Siberian exile

under the Tsars. We also organise an annual History Convention, which this year tackled the theme of Britain's colonial history and the debates that surround it. There is also a regular History Masterclass which encourages students to deliver their own presentations on topics of interest to them.

What are the attributes of successful students of History?

The best History students are curious, self-motivated and independent learners. 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.

Why do students love History?

"I love studying History at NHEHS because of the brilliant resources available to me and the outstanding teaching which has cultivated my analytical skills on how to assess history. The courses chosen have been incredibly enjoyable and the teachers are always willing to help no matter what."

"Studying History enhances your ability to think critically about what happened in the past, and how this shapes the lives of people in the present."





“Art History is the best! It has become the hub that unites all of my other A Level subjects, as there are so many different ways to explore an artwork!”

History of Art

EDEXCEL

9HT0

What makes History of Art great?

If artworks are a product of our culture, it is through them that we can unlock past worlds, deciphering what people thought, believed and imagined, as well as better understand our present moment.

Art History is the study of the history of visual culture from Ancient temples such as the Parthenon, to Contemporary site-specific installations such as Ai Wei Wei's Sunflower seeds. This is a history that is diverse and multicultural, that explores the Benin Bronzes alongside the Italian Renaissance. Art History can be thought of as an umbrella subject in its ties to other subjects, not only History, but also PRE, English and Politics. We will draw upon all of these subjects in order to ask challenging questions, to understand why certain artworks and buildings from the 'Mona Lisa' to Frida Kahlo's self-portraits have had such enduring popularity. With millions of images and videos posted on Instagram daily, visual literacy has never been more important.

What does the course cover?

The course covers artworks and architecture from across the globe, ranging over a 2,500 year time period. We study a number of case studies within two themes (Nature and Identity) and two historical periods: the Renaissance in Florence, Venice and Rome (1420-1520) as well as the Contemporary period in Britain and American post-1960.

There is also an 'unseen' Visual Analysis course in which we learn key visual literacy skills. For each of our case studies, be it a painting or a photograph, we examine it in terms of its materials and techniques, its subject matter, its patronage and historical context.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

There will be the opportunity to participate in Art History seminars, debates and conferences at other local schools such as the 'West London Art History Cafe', at Harrow School and further afield for instance at Heathfield School, Ascot. There are also yearly events organised by the Association of Art Historians such as the 'Ways of Seeing Conference' held last year at the National Gallery. Students are encouraged to enter competitions such as the SPoKE filmmaking competition, ARTiculation and 'Write on Art'.

As often as possible, you will learn in London museums and galleries as well as on trips within the UK and overseas, such as a trip to Venice last year.

What are the attributes of successful students of History of Art?

There is no one type of successful Art History student but you must enjoy essay-writing and examining artworks and buildings. Art History complements other A Levels whether humanities or sciences. Artworks can be approached scientifically, mathematically even, as well as from a historical perspective.

Why do students love History of Art?

"I loved studying History of Art because it made me look at the world and culture around me with a more informed and analytical gaze, allowing me to really appreciate and understand the world around me in a way I didn't before."

Mathematics

EDEXCEL

9MA0

What makes Mathematics great?

Mathematics is profoundly beautiful, exciting and incredibly important to our lives.

What does the course cover?

The laws of Mathematics govern the world around us and by studying the subject at A level you will begin to see some of these applications. As well as developing your numeracy, algebra and graphical skills, Mathematics A level will help hone your ability to problem-solve and hence is highly regarded by employers and universities.

Algebra, trigonometry, and sophisticated number work are all part of the Pure Mathematics course. These are joined by work on Probability and Statistics, and 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.
- Proof by induction is a powerful tool which is incorporated in the study of logic.
- Statistical testing is used widely in the study of psychology.
- Applications of forces, links strongly with Physics, and allows us to model the dynamics of the world around us.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

There are several competitions you can participate in at Sixth Form:

- Who Wants to be a Mathematician – an international competition
- The Senior Team Maths Challenge – a fun team competition with a variety of rounds
- Hans Woyda – compete as a team with Year 9 & 11

In Year 12 you will attend a Maths in Action day in London which involves a series of lectures given by experts in their field telling us about the many applications of Mathematics in the real world. Past examples include: “Maths in a Spacesuit”, “Fighting Disease with Mathematics”, “Bad Stats: What they don’t tell you on the news”, “The maths of weather and climate” & “How to build a 1000mph car”.

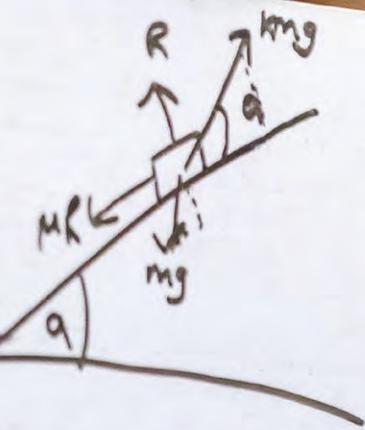
What are the attributes of successful students of Mathematics?

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 GCSE level. You are dedicated to putting in the practice and not afraid to push yourself harder. The course will suit students who are confident with the more algebraic aspects of the mathematics covered in Years 10 and 11 (algebraic fractions, the sine and cosine rules, and surds, for example).

Why do students love Mathematics?

“I love Mathematics A Level because it’s so logical and nothing beats the feeling of getting a question right! I also love the real-world applications that you begin to explore; the addition of applied Mathematics allows you to really understand how important Mathematics is in our everyday life.”

“Mathematics really encourages curiosity and creative thinking as you get to play with different approaches to a problem that all come out with the same answer. It underpins just about everything we do and studying it at A Level allows you to elegantly explore the links between new content and other concepts you’ve understood for years.”



$$\tan \alpha = \frac{3}{4}$$

$$\sin \alpha = \frac{3}{5}$$

$$\cos \alpha = \frac{4}{5}$$



$\sin \alpha = \frac{3}{5}$
 $\cos \alpha = \frac{4}{5}$
 $\tan \alpha = \frac{3}{4}$

Further Mathematics

EDEXCEL

FMO

What makes Further Mathematics great?

Further Mathematics provides enjoyable, more challenging material and the chance to explore more sophisticated and interesting mathematical ideas. 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.

What does the course cover?

As well as building on calculus, proof and many other topics, Further Mathematics allows us to explore some new areas of Mathematics including:

- Complex numbers, involving the square root of $\sqrt{-1}$, are used routinely by engineers.
- Matrices, involving solving systems of equations or describing transformations, these are used in computer graphics.
- Probability generating functions, used by actuaries to calculate risk
- Elastic collisions, used to model the movement of a snooker ball

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

Alongside the opportunities listed for Mathematics you will also have the chance to compete in the gruelling Mathematical Olympiad for Girls and, for those that are interested, the UKMT Senior Mentoring Scheme.

What are the attributes of successful students of Further Mathematics?

You love mathematics for mathematics sake; you are interested in how topics link together but are equally happy to work through a problem merely for the satisfaction of solving it. You find yourself outwardly exclaiming when you discover a new piece of beautiful mathematics and you regularly read about the subject more widely.

The course will suit students who are extremely fluent with the more algebraic aspects of the mathematics covered in Years 10 and 11 (algebraic fractions, the sine and cosine rules, and surds, for example), and are confident with the work done in Additional Mathematics.

Why do students love Further Mathematics?

“I absolutely love studying Further Mathematics at A Level, because it is a fulfilling and extremely satisfying subject, and I honestly just feel so happy when I’m doing Mathematics. Studying Mathematics and Further Mathematics has really helped me learn to focus, apply myself and be curious. I also love to see how maths applies to pretty much everything in the world, and helps makes sense of the unknown – as Galileo said, ‘it’s the language of the universe!’”



“The best thing about studying Further Mathematics at A Level is that you genuinely never get bored. There is always something harder to put your mind to and there is always a challenge for you to solve. You can feel how your mind is being stretched every day.”



Will you join us on a journey like no other? From the windswept shores of Martinique to the grand boulevards of Paris, A Level French takes you on a journey into the beating heart of the French speaking world.

French

EDEXCEL

9FRO

What makes French great?

You will go beyond the guidebooks to explore a rich and fascinating cultural heritage; you will go beyond the stereotypes to evaluate the impact of past events, societal shifts and the influence of globalisation, while charting the shifting currents of free-thinking, protest and joie de vivre. Your linguistic competence will flourish, taking you beyond grammatical proficiency to a life-long love of the language. Finally, our hardworking team of experienced and knowledgeable teachers and French Language Assistants will go the extra mile to support you every step of the way. Venez avec nous!

What does the course cover?

You will study the topics of Family, Education, Music, Media, Festivals and Traditions, Immigration and The Resistance. Building on your prior knowledge, you will develop your language in all four skills and will be introduced to more complex grammar in a systematic way. In Year 13, you will complete an independent research project on a topic of your choice.

You will have a weekly lesson with one of our native speaker French Language Assistants. Finally, alongside your linguistic and cultural studies, you will study a set film in Year 12 and a set work of literature in Year 13.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

A level linguists are actively encouraged to take on leadership positions and to run the many enrichment events that are offered in the department, such as Languages Week, GDST Languages Festival, French Film Club. We also have an exchange programme with a school in Paris. Girls enter national competitions, such as 'Les Joutes Oratoires' run by the French Institute and the essay writing competition run by ISMLA. Finally, there is a programme of preparation for competitive university courses, which, in recent years, has proved highly successful.

What are the attributes of successful students of French?

You will need a keen interest in all things French, a positive and curious mind-set, a strong work ethic and a willingness to proactively and independently develop your language learning, for example through the regular learning of vocabulary. Students who embrace the plethora of opportunities for leadership, trips and enrichment are particularly successful in this subject.

Why do students love French?

“Learning French is always an exciting experience. It creates endless opportunities for the future, and I particularly love delving into the rich culture and history of France. The language is brimming with beautiful words; I can’t wait to successfully talk to locals in fluent French.”

German

EDEXCEL

9GN/01, 9GN/02 AND 9GN/03

What makes German great?

Germany is by far the largest European economy, and proficiency in this language will provide students with a competitive advantage when seeking employment after graduation. A Level German will equip you linguistically to explore and appreciate classics by Kafka, Nietzsche, Hesse and Goethe in their original form; it will enable you to evaluate the past and present when exploring the German mind-set over and above the usual stereotypes; it will allow you to shape your thinking when debating societal and ethical issues on immigration, emancipation and the influences on our environment. Our department is committed to offer a bespoke learning experience that goes beyond the set curriculum and our experienced team of native speaking teachers and assistants will support you on your journey to master this unique language. Join the Zeitgeist movement!

What does the course cover?

You will study topics on the Environment, Education, World of Work, Music, Media, Festivals and Traditions, Immigration and Reunification. Building on your prior knowledge, you will develop your language in all four skills and will be introduced to more complex grammar in a systematic way. In Year 13, you will complete an independent research project on a topic of your choice. You will have a weekly lesson with our native German Language Assistant. Finally, alongside your linguistic and cultural studies, you will study a set film in Year 12 and a set work of literature in Year 13.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

A level Germanists are offered many opportunities to take up leadership positions by running departmental clubs such as the German Society

or German Booster club or lead whole school events such as the Stephen Spender Prize competition, Languages Week, GDST Languages Festival or the Languages and Careers event.

Students are encouraged to enter national essay writing and translation competitions, such as the German Olympiad, DAAD writing competition, the Stephen Spender Prize, the Goethe Institute and ISMLA competition. We have established a collaborative partnership with Germanists at Greenford High School and are in the process of launching joint projects with Harrow School as well as online partnerships within the GDST community. Pupils are expected to spend time in a German speaking country and are supported by the department to apply for a scholarship at the UK-German connection programme. The German department has a successful track record preparing for competitive university courses by offering a bespoke and rigorous programme.

What are the attributes of successful students of German?

Being interested in all things German is a given, but successful students also form positive learning habits. This means being proactive by seeking out learning and leadership opportunities, being organised and creative when revising vocabulary and grammar or leading clubs, and building resilience by learning from mistakes. Making mistakes is, of course, part of learning, but what counts is how you grow from there. Acquiring a growth mind-set is key when studying another language.

Why do students love German?

“Taking German at Sixth Form has been an eye-opener for me. The lessons have certainly widened my horizon, enriched my areas of interest and allowed me to grow in my language as well as leadership abilities. For example, discussing the influence of mass media or women’s emancipation through films by Margaretha von Trotta from the era of the New German Cinema is highly engaging and motivational.”



“German is the language of poets and thinkers and takes you to the heart of modern European culture, after English it is the most widely spoken language in Europe.”



“I enjoyed seeing the quality, complexity and fluency of my writing work improve and I am making progress mastering the intricacies of the spoken language.”

Mandarin

CAMBRIDGE ADVANCED EXAMINATION BOARD

9778 CAMBRIDGE PRE-U CHINESE

What makes Mandarin great?

The Cambridge Pre-U Mandarin Chinese syllabus equips learners who are learning Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language with the skills to survive in a Chinese environment.

The syllabus also provides a stepping stone for university courses in Chinese and Chinese studies. As well as allowing learners to develop their language skills, the syllabus fosters an awareness of Chinese culture and history. The official language of the People's Republic China (PRC) is Mandarin, therefore, this syllabus only requires knowledge of this language. In Writing, simplified characters, again prescribed in the PRC, are used.

What does the course cover?

Over the two years, the focus on Listening, Reading and Writing components is to develop proficiency in contemporary, vernacular Mandarin Chinese. Students study a set of topic areas including Family, Young people, Education, The Media, Work and Leisure, and Equality of opportunity. In Year 12, the syllabus will look at Modern Chinese history starting from the Xin Hai Revolution in 1911 to the formation of the PRC in 1949 and beyond, alongside Mandarin language learning. In Year 13, the syllabus will cover Chinese literature, mostly fiction, with more advanced use of language, such as idioms, embedded into the lessons.

For Speaking, you will complete an independent research project on a topic of your choice. There will be a weekly oral lesson with a native language assistant who will offer plenty of opportunities to practise Mandarin.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

All Pre-U Mandarin students are encouraged to take on leadership roles and to proactively run subject clubs for KS3 and KS4 students. There is an excellent selection of NHEHS clubs such as Chinese Calligraphy club, Chinese Book and Film club and Chinese Cooking club. In addition, there are also GDST wide competitions and activities relating to language learning. Externally, NHEHS participates in the annual HSBC speaking competition, ISMLA Original Writing completion, The Stephen Spender Prize and the GDST Anne Hogg Modern Foreign Languages prize.

From this academic year, there is also a new initiative to collaborate with Harrow School's Y12 boys on activities that will support the development of language learning.

What are the attributes of successful students of Mandarin?

You will need a keen interest in all things Chinese, a positive and curious mind-set, a strong work ethic, attention to details and a willingness to proactively and independently develop your language learning, for example through the regular learning of vocabulary. Finally, students who embrace the plethora of opportunities for leadership, trips and enrichment are particularly successful in this subject.

Why do students love Mandarin?

"I love that there are so many diverse areas to study within the course. I loved learning about the history of 20th century China and studying a novel alongside learning the language. I really enjoy how interactive all our lessons are, allowing us to get a feel for speaking and understanding the language as we learnt it."

Spanish

EDEXCEL

9SP0

What makes Spanish great?

From the rhythm of Flamenco in Andalucía to the alluring landscapes of the archipelago of Tierra del Fuego in Argentina, you will embark on a unique journey. Your ability to speak the language of Cervantes to an advanced level will enable you to communicate with the 400 million speakers worldwide, and it will bring other academic benefits as well. Our team of experienced teachers and Spanish language assistants will be here to help you open every door along the way.

What does the course cover?

You will study the topics of Family, World of Work, Tourism, Music, Media, Festivals, Immigration, The Spanish Civil War, the Francoist period and the Transition to Democracy. You will build on your prior knowledge and develop your four language skills harmoniously. Furthermore, in Year 12, you will study one film in depth and in Year 13 one Spanish book and you will carry out an independent research project on a topic of your choice, which will enable you to delve deeply into an aspect of the Hispanic world. In order to boost your speaking skills, you will have a weekly oral lesson with one of the Spanish Language Assistants to discuss issues of interest related to the course.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

We encourage you to participate in a myriad of events which will boost your confidence in Spanish – the GDST Languages Festival, the annual Spanish debating competition, the biennial trip to Spain, the Spanish Club led by Sixth Form-Spanish representatives, the essay writing competition run by ISMLA and the ‘Oxford Flash Fiction Competition’. You will also be given the opportunity to take on a leadership role, in a team of A Level Spanish representatives, and showcase your love of the subject across the school.

What are the attributes of successful students of Spanish?

You will appreciate the cultural diversity of Spanish-speaking countries, have a strong work ethic and you are proactive about reading beyond the syllabus and keen to learn exciting new vocabulary and grammar. You will be eager to embrace the extracurricular opportunities at our school. Our department also designs a programme for competitive university courses which has been very successful in recent years.

Why do students love Spanish?

“I love Spanish for a number of reasons. Firstly, not only does it widen your opportunities for work by enabling you to converse with a wider range of people, but it also helps when travelling. Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, with Spanish-speaking countries having a history steeped in a rich culture of music, dance and architecture. Another benefit is that learning a language has shown to improve your memory, vocabulary and communication skills.”



“Studying A Level Spanish will not only give you the chance to deepen your knowledge of an exciting language; it will enable you to delve deeply into a different and exciting way of life.”

“...the department encourages us to grow into confident musicians and allow us to take on leadership roles, bonding with and inspiring younger year groups through a shared passion for music.”



Music

EDEXCEL

9MU0

What makes Music great?

Music at A Level is a fantastically diverse subject to study. It requires a multitude of skills and an active interest in Music that goes beyond the prescribed exam specification.

At Notting Hill and Ealing, we will support students of all musical backgrounds to develop their musicianship, their performing, their creative output, and their listening and historical understanding of music. Small classes allow for personalisation of teaching and learning, and many students also opt for an EPQ in the subject too.

What does the course cover?

Students will study three main components: Performing, Composing/Harmony and Appraisal. Each of these modules are delivered in different ways (some one-to-one, some group sessions, individual listening) and strengthened by opportunities to perform, to workshop, to attend professional masterclasses, and to get acquainted with new genres and works through trips to concerts at the London concert halls.

Students will study 18 set works spanning from 1650 to the present day. These set works are important for their genre and style, and are a great starting point for accessing a whole new world of music – prompting the girls to explore the links between composers, genres, and types of work. Students will not only deepen their understanding of music and develop their ability to write about music, but, most importantly, will learn how to critically analyse the music itself, a skill that will support their love of music going forward.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

The Music Department is a lively hub of music making and A level Music students are expected to take a leading role. Girls are encouraged to come up with their own initiatives and to action them. Whether it be setting up their own ensembles, writing their own pieces for these groups, or taking on the responsibility of providing music for assemblies, the girls are fully supported in trying new things out. Beyond our own 120-seat school recital hall, where a formal termly concert takes place, our students have enjoyed recent performances at prestigious venues such as St. Martin-in-the-Fields and The Royal Festival Hall (with the Bach Choir). We have also benefited from choral and orchestral workshops with ensembles such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and Blossom Street Singers – to name but a few. Some of our girls here at Notting Hill and Ealing go on to study Music, both at university and conservatoires.

Why do students love Music?

“Being able to turn this wishful idea of mine into a reality showed me how much everyone in the department is respected, open to new ideas and supportive of what you want to achieve.”

“Each voice is heard and ideas are followed through. Examples of this include the cappella club, wind band and atrium concerts which have all been set up by students. We can demonstrate our passion for music through many things like creating clubs, in our music assemblies, performing or even just decorating some of the boards round the music department.”

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE)

OCR

H573

What makes Philosophy, Religion and Ethics great?

PRE A Level is a must for all curious minds who want to consider the big questions which have shaped human thought for thousands of years, in a hope of bringing about a better understanding of who we are and how we ought to live.

PRE combines very well with a whole range of subjects, complementing themes covered in history, politics, classics and psychology, or providing a welcome contrast to maths and other sciences. It enables you to research information from a wide variety of sources and will help you develop key analytical skills. You will be exposed to a range of alternative points of view and you can expect stringent debate, and lively discussion to be prominent features of the course.

What does the course cover?

There are three elements to this course:

- Philosophy of Religion
- Religion and Ethics
- Developments in Christian 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?” You consider how – if God does indeed exist – we can 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, including Kant and Utilitarianism, the relationship between religion and morality and a study of applied ethics, including sexual ethics and business ethics. We look at the conscience and even

consider whether the word ‘good’ has a fixed meaning or is simply a social invention of mankind. Developments in Christian Thought explores key theological issues that have challenged the Christian church over the last few hundred years. We will consider Jesus as a teacher of wisdom and a liberator, the influence of Marxism on Liberation Theology and the beliefs and action of Dietrich Bonhoeffer in response to Nazism. Feminist theology, pluralism and secularism are also considered, informing the study of the relationship between religion and society.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

Each year we attend an external A level conference, specifically designed for that year group. These conferences are highly interactive and involve lectures, debate and essay planning. We also host a number of external speakers in school and you will be encouraged to invite in leading academics to help you explore new areas of this fascinating discipline.

What are the attributes of successful students of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics?

Whilst you don’t need to have taken RS/RE at GCSE, it is crucial that you come to the course with an inquisitive mind and appetite for debate. PRE involves engaging with original philosophical arguments and critiquing them within your wider understanding. Successful students take time to consider the wider implications of a position and draw this into a balanced and reasoned analysis. Strong essay writing skills and perseverance will stand you in good stead!

Why do students love Philosophy, Religion and Ethics?

“One of our current Yr13 students says, “Cogito ergo sum”? More like ‘Cogito ergo FUN!!!”



“I love PRE because it gives me an outlook on the way others view morality and determine what is right and wrong, in relation to the world, the way it works and the way it was created. PRE also allows me to have an insight on opposing and similar thoughts which allows me to develop my own view on the world with the support of philosophers’ views.”

AS Level Physical Education

OCR

H155

What makes Physical Education great?

Have you ever wondered why some athletes thrive under pressure, whereas others perform poorly? Are you interested in the anatomy of the human body and how it can move in the complex way it does? Have you noticed the divide in media coverage for women's sport compared to men's, and wanted to understand why this exists?

This subject tackles all of these thought provoking questions as well as giving you the opportunity to learn outside of a classroom, putting into practice psychological theories, nutritional plans and analysis of your own performance, in your chosen sport.

What does the course cover?

The AS Level in Physical Education has been designed to allow learners to develop the relevant knowledge, understanding and skills in both an academic and practical setting. Pupils will study a variety of topics including Exercise Physiology; Applied Anatomy and Physiology, the Biomechanics of Sports Performance, Technology in Sport, Skill Acquisition, Sports Psychology, and Sport and Society, as well as looking to improve their own individual performance, analysis and evaluation skills in their chosen activity.

The examined components (70% of the course) will provide the knowledge and understanding which underpin the practical component (30%). The practical component includes both oral analysis and performance, as either a performer or a coach, and sports which can be chosen can be found on the OCR website.

This course will be taught over two years, with pupils sitting the AS examination in the second year of their sixth form. The course provides a strong underpinning if you wish to study

a Sports Science, Psychology or a Biological degree at university. Learners will also develop the transferable skills that are in demand by Higher Education and employers in all sectors of industry.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

Given the nature of Physical Education, opportunities outside the classroom are embedded into the course. There are some lessons which will also be taught in a practical setting. Whether this be going down to the sports hall to map out the movement of blood through the heart with cones, going into the dining room to make nutritional protein balls, or taking to the Astro to test your VO₂ max. There are also several occasions where visiting expeditions are on offer, for example, the BodyWorks in central London and there are opportunities to attend organised lectures in school on topics such as nutrition and sports psychology.

What are the attributes of successful students of Physical Education?

A successful student is firstly, passionate about sport and regularly involved in sport themselves. They must want to develop knowledge and understanding of the scientific factors that underpin performance in physical activity and sport and want to analyse, evaluate and improve their own performance. They should have an interest in Biology, Physics and Psychology and be committed in their approach to reading around the subject area.

Why do students love Physical Education?

"It's amazing to be able to explore how our bodies function in order to perform in sport and learn how to apply your knowledge of biology, physics and psychology into improving in your sport. I find it fascinating and I'm really enjoying it!"



“It’s amazing to be able to explore how our bodies function in order to perform in sport and learn how to apply your knowledge of biology, physics and psychology into improving in your sport.”



C28

WHERE DID IT GO?

A DAY WITHOUT FRICTION
By Dennis Hohl

C27

“I love Physics because it’s the perfect combination of maths and the real world. Physics allows you to understand everything around you and gain a wider knowledge for a great variety of things.”

Physics

EDEXCEL

9PH0

What makes Physics great?

Physics is the fundamental science that deals with fundamental laws of nature: why things happen the way they do, all over the universe, from the very small subatomic particles to the very large galaxies, and everything in between.

It equips you with problem-solving skills, analytical skills and allows you to start to explore the realm that Physics has an influence over, from basic structures, the clever uses of quite fundamental entities like waves, to the evolution of the universe and the development of particle accelerators. Studying the subject at A Level fosters the skills of logical thinking, working independently and expressing oneself clearly and concisely; all valuable skills in whatever route you take after school.

What does the course cover?

In Year 12, you will cover the topics of Mechanics, Materials, Waves, Electricity and Quantum Physics. In Year 13, you cover Further Mechanics, Oscillations, Electric, Magnetic and Gravitational Fields, Particle Physics, Nuclear Decay and Astrophysics.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

As a Physics A Level student, you will be encouraged to attend university lectures, and summer courses, in addition to the regular Tuesday lecture slot. There is also the opportunity to support or initiate a Physics club for younger years and collaborate with other schools on some events. We are also planning on reintroducing the CERN trip next year! Up to six students, with an interest in engineering, can also do the EES scheme.

What are the attributes of successful students of Physics?

A successful A level student will be eager to expand her understanding from GCSE, resilient when faced with challenging problems, and will persevere when seemingly difficult hurdles. They are independent learners, using their spare time to practise the skills learnt in lessons in other fora. Strong mathematical skills will support the course.

Why do students love Physics?

“I think one of the best things about studying physics is that you begin to see how everything is connected. You can’t just look at one topic without then seeing how it is influenced by another, and it’s satisfying that when learning something completely new there are still elements within it that you are already knowledgeable about. Researching Physics is like falling down the rabbit hole; things just keep getting more interesting and you discover a whole new world.”

“Hearing the quote ‘Everything happens for a reason and that reason is usually Physics’ from my teacher, really motivated me. I love Physics because it really does have an explanation for everything and it’s a great subject for anyone who’s curious about how the world works.”

Politics

EDEXCEL

9PLO

What makes Politics great?

Recent events have highlighted how Politics affects everybody's lives. From the Brexit negotiations to the decisions taken in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Politics feels as relevant as ever.

What are the implications of the vote to leave the European Union, after a membership of over forty years? Will the government be able to help the UK recover after the end of the coronavirus lockdown? What impact will the Black Lives Matter movement have on both US and UK politics? If you are interested in these questions, then Politics at A Level could be for you.

What does the course cover?

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 course covers voter behaviour, political history and the role of the media. We will examine the key ideas and thinkers who have shaped the modern world, including the ideologies of 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 been so absorbing.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

You will have the opportunity to play a leading role in the school's Politics Society. In the run-up to the 2019 General Election, we hosted every single parliamentary candidate for Ealing Central & Acton, who took part in a series of hustings debates. Politics students often involve themselves in the wide range of Debating and Public Speaking events that school is involved in.

What are the attributes of successful students of Politics?

The best students of Politics are inquisitive, critical learners who are determined to see beneath the surface of daily headlines to analyse how politics works in the UK and USA.

Why do students love Politics?

"I love Politics at Notting Hill because of how my teachers make it so interactive and engaging as we learn through debates, documentaries and research to complement our learning."

"Recent events have highlighted how Politics affects everybody's lives. From the Brexit negotiations to the decisions taken in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Politics feels as relevant as ever."





*“Boiled down to its simplest definition,
Psychology is the scientific study of the
human mind and behaviour.”*

Psychology

OCR

H567

What makes Psychology great?

Boiled down to its simplest definition, Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. It also refers to the application of psychological knowledge, which can be used to understand events, treat mental health issues, and improve education, employment, and relationships. The subject lies at the intersection of applied, educational, and theoretical science.

Psychology helps us to recognise the intricacies of human behaviour and empathise with others by learning to understand the impact of biological, cognitive, developmental, and social factors in their lives. For example, it might consider whether that is why an individual has 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).

What does the course cover?

In just two years, you will learn about the research methods used in the field of Psychology, the various approaches and perspectives that are used to understand human behaviour, and discover the practical applications of research. In the research methods unit, you will learn to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various methods of studying the human mind and behaviour. In the unit on understanding psychological themes through core studies, you will learn about classic and contemporary research conducted on a variety of topics such as obedience, moral development, and brain plasticity. Finally, you will investigate how these techniques and research can be applied in areas such as mental health, criminal psychology and child psychology.

There is no coursework requirement in Psychology, but you will have the opportunity to carry out your own small-scale research that will allow you to reflect on what you have learnt and investigate a topic you are interested in.

What opportunities outside the classroom will there be?

In order to help students further understand applied psychology, there will be a curriculum trip to the Royal Courts of Justice and to a working mental health unit. Both these visits allow students to experience applied psychology first-hand, showing them how useful a psychological insight can be in the real-world and demonstrating the issues that are faced and overcome on a day-to-day basis by professionals in the field. Additionally, each year we invite a psychologist to give a lecture about their work in the field and answer questions about their career path.

What are the attributes of successful students of Psychology?

Successful psychologists are curious about the world around them. They seek to understand human behaviour by critically analysing psychological theories and research. Students of Psychology understand the need to examine both sides of every argument and perspective in order to formulate their own informed opinions. Psychologists are compassionate and empathetic when learning about the experiences of others and show respect when holding debates with their peers.

Academically, Psychology students must be dedicated to building a strong foundation of content knowledge and must continually practise important skills such as evaluation, application, and interpretation. They must acknowledge that failure is an important part of the learning process, especially when studying a new subject. Students who possess determination, willingness to take academic risks, and have a genuine fascination with the subject will undoubtedly find success in Psychology.

Why do students love Psychology?

“Studying Psychology has taught me that there are so many things that could influence someone’s behaviour or thoughts, and the range of theories and ideas about those influences are incredibly interesting.”

Additional Short Courses

Taking an additional short course is a great way to explore a new subject alongside your A levels. Each of these courses will lead to a qualification, be it a GCSE or AS or accredited qualification from a professional institute.

Italian

If you enjoyed Spanish, French or Latin at IGCSE, why do not try studying the most Romantic of all Romance languages? Italian is the language of 60 million inhabitants and the fourth most studied language in the world. What is the secret of this success? Beyond the beauty of its melodic sound, rich with vowels, or its close connection with art, music, cinema and culture, Italian is also a useful language for many who pursue careers in music, fashion, and tourism.

The GCSE Italian course is offered to students of the first year of Sixth Form and taught by a native Italian teacher. It addresses the classic GCSE curriculum for Modern Languages but will be delivered through the study of authentic “made in Italy” resources such as films, songs, and literature. Co-curricular opportunities, from food and culture evenings to visits to Italian sites, will operate jointly with students at Harrow School.

Mini MBA

Having the confidence to lead is one of the great skills to have in the workplace. Contrary to many perceptions, leadership can be developed through practice and reflection. This course, designed around ideas from the Chartered Management Institute, will provide a practical introduction to leadership: understanding what leadership is, how it can be nurtured and improved, and picking up the lessons from great leaders in society at large. As you take on leadership positions in the Sixth Form, it will give you an opportunity to directly apply the methods and ideas to your roles, and help make you ready for life beyond at university and in work. The course will be a mixture of classes, independent study, mentored discussion, and reflection on your own personality and practices. The course is completed in Year 12, and will strongly contribute towards later leadership courses and qualifications you may undertake in life.

Photography

This practically-focussed course will take the beginner photographer to an advanced level by building on existing knowledge to address any gaps that may be preventing you from realising your full potential. This course will make you feel completely confident and ensure your shots stack up against those of a professional photographer.

The course will guide you through the artistic side of photography by looking at the history of photography, practicing famous photographers and also how you can be inspired to create your own style. To ensure your images are of a professional standard, there will be a detailed explanation of all the technical aspects to ensure you can take great photographs even in the most challenging situations.

At the end of the course, you will be presented with an online certificate from The School of Photography. Finally, you will participate in an end-of year exhibition which will give you the opportunity to showcase your work to others.

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 23 schools and two academies in England and Wales, it reinvests all its income in its schools. Founded in 1827, 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 & conditions, policies and other important information can be found in the Senior School Prospectus or on our website: 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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