

LOUGHBOROUGH  
High School



## Sixth Form

Option Choices 2024





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## Introduction to the Sixth Form from the Head

Welcome to the Sixth Form at Loughborough High School! Over the next two years, we hope to inspire in you a passion for learning, challenge you to try new things and give you the confidence to fulfil your dreams, whatever they may be.

You now have the luxury of focusing on what you want to study and we offer a wide range of A Level subjects, some of which are taught co-educationally across the Foundation. We build the timetable around your choices and provided there is sufficient demand (usually seven students), we do our very best to offer every student her first choice of courses.

All subjects currently offered at GCSE are available at A Level with the exception of Food, which is offered as a Diploma. In addition, we offer a range of subjects at A Level only including Business, Design Technology, Economics, Politics and Psychology. Discussion with relevant staff may make it possible for certain humanities subjects not taken at GCSE to be studied at A Level, such as History, Classical Civilisation and Religious Studies.

All A Level subjects (with the exception of Geography) are now fully linear, with public examinations taken at the end of Year 13. The vast majority of students will choose three subjects from the outset, with the opportunity to study for an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) as part of their weekly timetable. A small number of students may wish to study four A Levels and should discuss this further with Mr Travis or Dr Reid.

Student wellbeing has never been more important and we do not expect Sixth Form to be all work and no play. Not only do we have a fabulous, newly refurbished Sixth Form Centre and quiet study area for you to enjoy, we have also made some changes to our curriculum provision to ensure that you have time to pursue new opportunities and interests. All students participate in our weekly Health and Wellbeing programme and every Thursday afternoon, you will take part in our Sixth Form Enrichment sessions. This fully co-educational programme offers over thirty options for students from Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and voluntary service (VSU) to creative writing, Ancient Hebrew and the Sports Leadership Award. Pupils in Year 12 and 13 continue to have a weekly PSHCE lesson covering topics such as mental and emotional health, relationships, finance, diversity and prejudice, careers and aspirations, and personal safety. Co-curricular and leadership opportunities abound, and we look to our sixth formers to innovate as well as act as role models and guides to younger pupils.

Loughborough High School students achieve some of the best outcomes in the East Midlands and whatever next steps you choose, we will provide you with first-class higher education, careers and employment advice. Mrs Grainger is our dedicated Head of Futures, and brings wide-ranging experience of advising on careers, admissions and placements in the world of work. We also offer bespoke guidance for students considering particularly competitive courses: Mrs Peart is our Medical Applications Advisor and Mrs Burn is our Oxbridge Applications Advisor.

We hope and anticipate that all of our current Year 11 will go on to study in our Sixth Form and there is no need to formally re-register. We do, however, expect all students to gain at least five grade 6s overall at GCSE, which should include Maths, English and a science (regardless of the subjects to be taken at A Level) and to achieve good grades (usually 7-9) in the subjects chosen for A Level where applicable. Individual grade and subject requirements are specified by departments in the online version of this booklet.

In the event that you are considering alternative pathways, we do ask you to keep us fully informed and we would welcome a discussion with you and your parents so that we can best support your decision-making at this crucial point in your education.

Whether you are joining us from our current Year 11 or from another school, we very much look forward to welcoming you into the Sixth Form at Loughborough High School and hope that you will approach the next two years with energy, enthusiasm and a sense of adventure.

**Dr Fiona Miles**

**Head**





## Introduction to the Sixth Form from the Director of Sixth Form

It is a pleasure to introduce the Loughborough High School Sixth Form to you. Whether you are a current student or looking at joining us from elsewhere, I firmly believe that you would be making an outstanding decision in choosing LHS for the next stage of your education.

Wherever you go, Sixth Form and A Level studies are no walk in the park, and over the two years there will be highs and lows. Here at LHS you will be intellectually stretched, pushed and challenged, and at times it will be tough. But we are a Sixth Form that work together, dig deep for each other and achieve together in a caring and supportive environment, both inside the classroom and out of it. If you're willing to put in the work and give it your all; if you're willing to listen to and work with the subject staff, your form tutors, your friends and peers I have no doubt that you will find that we are a Sixth Form full of opportunities, full of energy, full of vibrancy and full of life. We value our students and are committed to working with you to get the absolute best out of you, to help you maximise your potential and give you every chance to leave here with the qualifications, life skills, ambition and drive to go out and forge your future. If you choose us, I believe you will look back on your time in the LHS Sixth Form as the pinnacle of your secondary school career.

We have a teaching staff with fierce enthusiasm, passion for their subjects and a proven track record of excellent exam outcomes.

Our dedicated pastoral care teams and tutors routinely go the extra mile for girls in their care and our students broaden their horizons through an extra curricular programme that has outstanding breadth, depth, variety and choice. At the end of their time here, students progress to courses and destinations that help them on their path to becoming who they want to be. We are the LHS Sixth Form - there is something here for you. I can't wait for you to find out what that is.

**Mr James Travis**

**Director of Sixth Form**







## Life in the Sixth Form - The Students' Perspective

LHS Sixth Form fosters independence: LHS is not just an independent girls' school, but a school for independent girls.

During Sixth Form, we are encouraged to be strong leaders and role models, through running our own clubs, being part of the prefect team, or participating in the school forum. We become empowered to voice our own opinions, knowing they will be listened to by teachers to bring positive change to the school, for everyone's benefit.

While independence is an important part of sixth form, teamwork is also at the heart of LHS; it feels like a family. We become like older sisters in this school family, for a safe conversation or just pointing the younger girls in the right direction to the library. But just as we give support to others, we ourselves have that important support network as well from each other, and members of staff.

Life after Sixth Form is something which we all feel prepared for, thanks to the guidance and support every step of the way. Whether it is with university applications or another pathway you might choose, a friendly, experienced, and compassionate ear is always available, and we are very lucky to have wide ranging support like a futures and careers advisor, or healthcare professions and Oxbridge application help. LHS Sixth Form is preparing us for the next step in our lives, as the penultimate step to full independence but with help if needed. It's like learning to swim: encouraged but we're not being thrown in at the deep end. While we may be sad at the thought of leaving this wonderful school, it just proves how much we have enjoyed our time here, leaving with confidence, knowing we are equipped for the next stage in our lives.

Smaller classes promote closer working relationships with teachers, and are like individual tutoring or friendly discussion groups, where participation is encouraged. Cross-foundation activities in the music, drama, and sport departments, as well as mixed classes such as psychology or politics, help to build our communications skills and wider relationships, exposing you to a range of opinions and ideas.

There are plenty of opportunities available to enjoy and flourish in, where success is celebrated, no matter the size of achievement. Thursday afternoon Enrichment is time spent away from your subject timetable: a chance to develop a skill or learn a new one, with options like the Combined Cadet Forces, Arts Award, or Volunteering Service Unit. There is more interaction between the three schools, like our famous cross-foundation Snow Ball, where dresses are the only discussion point for weeks! Our LHS tradition of Tableaux is always something to be remembered, especially when you're being painted completely in grey...

The many extracurricular activities available with our great facilities mean there is no standard 'LHS Sixth Form Experience': everyone here has enjoyed opportunities to develop and create their own.

Our amazing common room is a great communal place to work collaboratively, independently or relax and eat microwaved cookies. It's an important part of sixth form life, as it really brings people closer together especially when playing table football!

Sixth Form here is a life shaping experience, one that we hope all of you will have the opportunity to embrace.

Thank you,

**The Senior Prefect Team**









LOUGHBOROUGH  
High School









## **Sixth Form Life**

### **A Level Subjects**

Students will choose three A Level subjects, and normally study each for 10 periods a week. In addition to this a student will have Tuesday afternoon dedicated to her Health and Wellbeing and Thursday afternoon for an enrichment activity. Students will also have a single PSHCE lesson and an hour of academic extension, such as the EPQ.

### **Teaching and Learning Across Loughborough Schools Foundation**

We always endeavour to offer subjects at LHS wherever practical and possible to do so: our rough guide is for a minimum of 7 pupils for a subject to run successfully. If this is not possible, we may look to combine pupils across the Foundation, to ensure that a subject is able to run in any given cohort. A number of subjects have long-standing arrangements in being taught across the Foundation and these are signposted throughout our documentation. For further information please refer to the online version this booklet. As this is a dynamic exercise, please always be in touch if you have any queries for the incoming cohort in terms of arrangements for teaching or learning with staff or pupils across LSF.

### **Form Time and Pastoral Support**

We are committed to ensuring that every student feels fully supported, both academically and pastorally, and we have a track record of excellent pastoral care. School is not simply about striving towards academic accolades. We care about students as individuals and value all that they bring to our community. We will do everything we can to ensure that girls feel fully supported during their time here.

Sixth Form tutor groups are smaller than in lower school, with usually 10-14 students in a form. There are typically 6 forms in each of Year 12 and 13. The form tutor will usually remain the same during the duration of Sixth Form and they are the first port of call should students need any assistance or guidance. As well as regular daily registrations and form times, students will also spend period 1 on Fridays together as a form.

Form time is an important opportunity to develop various soft skills, such as communication, leadership and interpersonal skills.

Our superb Sixth Form tutors will go the extra mile to ensure that girls are fully supported. As well as seeing them every day, regular one-to-one sessions provide dedicated time to have a chat, share, confide and discuss worries or concerns. Tutors will do all they can to guide our students. Further to this our school pastoral leads are available to students and confidential appointments can be booked with our school based professional counsellor.

### **The Social Side of Sixth Form**

Outside of academic endeavours, Sixth Form is a key time for students socially. Whether it's relaxing and spending time with friends in our newly refurbished Sixth Form Centre, exploring the tree tops on a Sixth Form bonding trip to Go Ape, or getting dressed to the nines for one of our fantastic cross-foundation Sixth Form balls, there are a whole host of opportunities to enjoy the social side of Sixth Form at LHS. And that's not to mention the many charity events, quiz nights and whole school events that we look to Sixth Form students to lead on!

## A Typical Timetable

Please see below for a timetable of a typical student enrolled in CCF, studying 3 A Levels and an EPQ.

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
0840 - 0910	Registration				
Period 1 0910 - 0940	English Lit	Biology	Private Study	Psychology	Form Time
Period 2 0940 - 1010					Biology
Period 3 1010 - 1040					
1040 - 1105	BREAK				
Period 4 1105 - 1140	Biology	Psychology	Biology	Private Study	English Lit
Period 5 1140 - 1210					
Period 6 1210 - 1240	Psychology	Private Study		English Lit	Private Study
Period 7 1240 - 1310		PSHCE			
1310 - 1420	LUNCH				
Period 8 1425 - 1500	EPQ	Health and Wellbeing	English Lit	CCF	Psychology
Period 9 1500 - 1530					
Period 10 1530 - 1600	Private Study				

## Beyond the subjects

Sixth Form life at Loughborough High School is about so much more than 3 A Levels. On two afternoons a week, our Sixth Form students have dedicated time to pursue enrichment activities and look after their health and wellbeing. With a wide range of options available, there is something for everyone.

### ENRICHMENT

On a Thursday afternoon, our STEP programme supplements the extensive co-curricular enrichment opportunities available to Sixth Form students and, together with their examination subjects, is an important part of being a student in the Loughborough High School Sixth Form.

The aim of our enrichment programme is to extend students' education and personal growth beyond their academic courses, but also to help students develop skills that will benefit them in their studies and beyond. It comprises a wide range of choices designed to give opportunities to develop new interests, learn new skills, gain new experiences and broaden knowledge. Hugely varied and demanding, the programme calls on students to develop self-reliance, promotes citizenship and prepares them to meet the world of work or further study with confidence and commitment. It is also hugely beneficial when it comes to university applications, helping to set you apart from other students because it shows a wide range of interests and skills.

### Types of activities

The Sixth Form STEP programme is designed for our students to have as well-rounded an experience as possible, with the activities allowing students to develop new skills and interests and to gain experience beyond their A Level subjects. With this in mind, we have developed a very varied programme with everything from Art to Astronomy and Mandarin to Maths. Students can develop their academic interests beyond their traditional classroom focus or choose an option that they really enjoy but are not studying at A Level. In some cases, students can gain qualifications or certificates as is the case with Leiths Cookery, Gold Arts Award, Sign Language and Sports Leadership. For more information please refer to the Enrichment Booklet available on our website.

### VSU

It is not all about academic extension though. We have many students who work in our Voluntary Service Unit (VSU) or as part of our Primary Partnership Programme. Our VSU students volunteer in nursing homes and Partnership students in local primary schools. These provide such great experiences for students, but also have a real impact locally.



## CCF

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) is very popular with our students. CCF includes four sections: Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Corps of Drums and is essentially cadet training for the Armed Forces. Students take part in a range of activities depending on the section they have joined. Navy cadets learn to sail, starting from the very basics of tying knots to sailing small craft. RAF cadets have the chance to learn the skills required to take pilot licences and the opportunity to take part in glider flights and Army cadets learn to shoot rifles and understand the basics of military engagement.

Common to them all is the chance to experience a military ethos and the pomp and pageant that accompanies it, with full dress uniform and military parades a common sight. CCF gives students amazing opportunities and experiences, but it also challenges them in ways that simply cannot happen in the classroom. Whether it be camping or physical training, CCF really allows students to push themselves in a safe and welcoming environment.



## **STUDENT LEADERSHIP IN THE SIXTH FORM**

One of the many benefits of being at an all-girls school is the wealth of leadership opportunities on offer to girls and the ripple effect of witnessing female leadership being the norm.

Perhaps the most sought-after positions of student leadership are the Prefect Team. Various positions offer girls the chance to pursue a leadership pathway suited to their skills, passions, and interests. Some examples of prefect positions include Head Girl and Deputy Head Girls, House Captains, Community, Academic, Charity and Wellbeing, Learning Support and Diversity and Inclusion. Whilst some are more student facing, others involve greater management of teams, and whilst some require regular public speaking, others necessitate meticulous planning. But whatever the skillset, ambition or aim, we encourage all girls to apply to challenge themselves, take a lead and inspire change.

Respected across our school community, our prefect team are superb role models to younger students. Prefects love working with younger girls and with other students from across the Foundation. Our framework for leadership is underpinned by a strong emphasis on teamwork; our students champion the successes of one another and recognise that we each have something special and unique to offer.

Prefects aside, there are a huge number of options for girls to pursue and develop their skills as leaders. At Sixth Form, we encourage girls to take a principal role in co-curricular clubs, societies and committees. Subject Ambassadors work with staff to develop academic extension in departments, social committees are created for large events such as the Snow Ball, and representatives within forms are elected to lead their form to support the work of the senior prefects.

Prefects and other student leaders are supported by staff through guidance and mentoring. We empower girls to be forward-thinking young women, who are resilient, empathetic and assertive, confident to take initiative and see their vision through. Our inspiring and culturally diverse network of alumnae and outside speakers further inspire girls to be bold and to be brave.

At LHS, we are passionate about female leadership and are dedicated to creating a nurturing, fun and inclusive environment, where girls are put first and given the opportunities they deserve to shine.

## **PSHCE**

All students will have a weekly timetabled lesson for PSHCE. This session aims to address the challenges ahead both academically and socially and embrace an ever-changing society by exploring issues relevant to the age group, for example stress management, university and careers choices in Year 12, personal safety, finance and health awareness in Year 13. The programme draws upon outside agencies when required, giving students the opportunity to hear a variety of speakers throughout the year.

## **CLUBS AND SOCIETIES**

A wide variety of clubs and societies are available to our Sixth Form students and, as role models in the school, we look to them to take a lead with our younger pupils. With everything from Debating Club to Drama Club, there is something for everyone. And if it doesn't exist, students are encouraged to start, promote and run their own societies.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

All Sixth Form students also take part in a Health and Wellbeing programme on a Tuesday afternoon. Sport and physical activity is a fundamental part of the Loughborough High School experience for all of our students from Year 7 right through to Sixth Form. Our Sixth Form Health and Wellbeing programme offers our students the opportunity to choose either a competitive or non-competitive pathway, or a combination of the two, depending on where their interests lie. This flexibility and range of choice allows students to participate in a wide variety of sports and activities and gives them autonomy over the choices that they make throughout the three years - with activities changing termly.

The **competitive offer** allows students to select from sports such as Netball, Hockey, Football and Cricket and have the opportunity to receive high quality coaching from our team of specialist coaches and teachers, sports specific strength and conditioning sessions in our purpose-built gym and the chance to represent the school in competitive matches against other schools during this time and during our Saturday morning programme.

The **non-competitive offer** is designed to provide our students with a diverse programme of activities that promote their health and wellbeing, develop skills and qualities such as self-confidence, communication, leadership, as well as a chance to enjoy some physical activity in a social and fun environment. Popular activities include fitness classes such as spinning, aerobics, yoga and recreational use of the gym, badminton, football, trampolining and self-defence.





## ACADEMIC EXTENSION

Students studying towards three A Levels have time on their timetable for academic extension, in addition to Enrichment and Health and Wellbeing. Students will choose to pursue to AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), study towards a certificate from the London Institute of Banking and Finance (LIBF), or take part in a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in an area of their choosing. Being able to take courses outside of the traditional A Levels gives our students valuable skills in research, extended writing and independent study.

### EPQ

The Extended Project qualification is an opportunity for students to research an area for which they have a genuine curiosity, and to then either write a mini dissertation-style essay, or an artefact that the student has created and made. Part of the qualification involves keeping a log of the process, and also reporting and presenting your final project to an audience. The EPQ is recognised as half an A Level. There is a taught element to the qualification which everybody on three A Levels can access, which includes sessions on time management, research skills, referencing and presentation skills to name but a few.

The EPQ sessions are one hour per week. To be successful in the project, a student would be expected to work a further 90 hours over the course of Year 12 and 13 to complete their research. The EPQ is an opportunity to become an expert in a topic you are genuinely interested in while developing many skills at the same time.

Recognised and respected by universities, students have found their area of research a great talking point in university interviews and the skills gained from a qualification like this are really valued by higher education establishments.

Students who choose not to embark on an EPQ will be given the opportunity to spend time on a MOOC while accessing the taught element, allowing them to develop research skills.

## FUTURES

In a rapidly evolving world of work, it has never been more important to have access to quality information and resources to ensure your choices meet the demands of your chosen career path or study interests. I see the role of the LHS Futures department as being integral to your school life; inspiring you to become more self-aware and motivating you to proactively seek opportunities to identify gaps in your skills and experience and then seek out ways to move forward; an approach which will allow you to demonstrate strengths, attributes and behaviours required for both university and work.

### Exploring Different Options

Once in the Sixth Form, you are encouraged to begin exploring options available to you after you leave LHS. For some, this can seem early and quite daunting, but bespoke, individual impartial careers guidance is available throughout the Sixth Form to help you explore possibilities and make a successful transition to the next stage. Starting early by doing some research on the broad range of training, education and occupations available, and being ready to consider and discuss ideas, will ensure you find the most appropriate route for you.

### University Application Support

As the majority of students choose the university path, there is a strong focus on providing information on university study, course choice, including degree apprenticeships, and selection of appropriate institutions. The Sixth Form team, supported by form tutors and subject teachers, will help you gain a clearer understanding of the application process, guiding you as you write your personal statement and helping you prepare for entry tests and interviews. Alongside this, a range of internal and external activities will provide a chance for students and their parents to network with Higher Education providers, seek clarification on entry requirements and discuss typical graduate outcomes. Outside partners, contacts, and alumni also are available to advise on university life.





## Specialist Support

Some degree courses or institutions require more specialist support due to the nuances of applying. Within Sixth Form we have a dedicated Medical Applications Adviser who works individually with our students looking to pursue a degree course in medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry. We also have an experienced member of staff who works with students looking to make an application to either Oxford or Cambridge University.

Anyone wishing to consider other options, either as an alternative or precursor to university, will also be supported with resources and events. From gap year volunteering and travel to internships and early years work programmes, you will be encouraged to investigate all pathways that reflect your interests, abilities and career ideas.

**Ruth Grainger**

**Head of Futures**





## Subject Summaries

For more detailed subject information, including individual subject entry requirements, please see the extended version of this Options Booklet, available on our website.

### FINE ART

Fine Art is an exciting and forward looking subject. The leading people in any professional field are those who can think creatively and innovatively; and making and participating in the arts aids the development of these skills. Current evidence suggests that skills in communication, critical thinking, visual identity, and reasoning will likely become even more important in the careers of the future.

The course is predominately practical, with art theory elements. The qualification teaches you how the creative process works and provides you with the opportunity to research and develop ideas which interest you personally. Fine Art theory complements a broad range of other academic disciplines including the sciences, literature, Mathematics, History and Classics, Politics, Music and Psychology

### BIOLOGY

Biology is an ever-changing, very relevant subject and provides an opportunity to further develop your interests and learn about many different aspects of this fascinating science. From viruses to vaccines, enzymes to excretion, this breadth is an excellent reason to include it in your choice of A Level subjects.

You will also gain an understanding of how society makes decisions about scientific issues, as well as some of the ways in which the scientific community contributes to the success of the economy and society.

Biology is a science that blends theoretical and practical understanding with analytical skills and at LHS we adopt a very practical approach with lots of opportunities to learn by investigation.

### BUSINESS

Do you want to understand the interrelated nature of business using business models, theories and techniques to support analysis of business issues and situations? The course content is designed to engage you with topics and issues that are relevant today, through key contemporary developments such as digital technology, business ethics and globalisation topics. We expect to visit at least two business locations as part of the course e.g. the Emma Bridgewater Factory in Stoke, as well as a revision session in Birmingham organised by Tutor2u. We encourage group work, including entering teams for the Student Investor Challenge, and make use of contemporary television series such as Inside the Factory with Gregg Wallace.

## CHEMISTRY

Studying Chemistry at A Level will enable you to cover the fundamentals of Physical, Organic and Inorganic Chemistry in more detail. As a science subject, you will learn how to be objective and develop problem solving and analytical skills. It helps you to challenge ideas and derive solutions by using logic and step-by-step reasoning. Chemistry requires teamwork and communication skills and there will be lots of opportunities to develop practical skills over the two-year course.

Your specialist teachers will make the course engaging and enjoyable. They have a variety of industrial work experience between them and will be able to give relevance to the topics covered from their own personal careers.

As part of the A Level course you may go on trips or attend lectures on topics covered in the course which will give you an insight into careers related to the applications of Chemistry.

## CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

The influence of the classical world is all around us. We are all familiar with Greek and Roman myths and legends – Hollywood loves stories like the fall of Troy – but the influence of these two cultures on our everyday lives is wider than that. For example, the Greeks gave us democracy and theatre; the Romans brought us roads and baths. Classical Civilisation gives you the opportunity to study the literature and culture of the ancient Greeks and Romans, reading the works of famous authors such as Homer, Virgil, Aristophanes and Sophocles, learning about their lives and religious beliefs and customs, and enabling you to assess the contribution made by these two great civilisations to our lives today.

## CLASSICAL GREEK

The ancient Greeks continue to fascinate us. Their achievements in so many areas were remarkable, and their influence can still be observed today in myriad areas from literature and art, to philosophy and religion, politics, mathematics and medicine. The A Level Classical Greek course is intellectually rigorous and challenging, but it is also immensely rewarding, offering students the opportunity to further their linguistic proficiency while also delving deeper, via the study and exploration of the set texts, into the fascinating history and culture of the ancient Greeks. In learning more about the ancient Greeks, their attitudes, beliefs and customs, we come to learn more about ourselves and realise that, despite the time lapse of over two and a half millennia, humans and the human condition have not really changed that much at all.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

The most important aspect of Computer Science is problem solving, an essential skill for life. Students study the design, development and analysis of software and hardware used to solve problems in a variety of contexts. Because computers solve problems to serve people, there is a significant human side to Computer Science as well.

Computer Science also links very closely with Mathematics. For those who have a love for Mathematics they will also find the problem solving, programming and logic involved in Computer is ideally suited to their skillset.

## DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Design and Technology heavily influences the world around us - product and industrial designers create the everyday products we use, architects design the buildings we live and work in, and engineers develop a vast array of functional devices that ultimately allow society to operate effectively. All these careers stem from a problem that needs to be solved and thinking of creative ways in which to achieve this - this is at the heart of Design and Technology, as it encourages pupils to develop working solutions for a whole host of problems by using a variety of skills. Critical thinking involving analysis and evaluation, visually communicating ideas to others, and practical work to create operational prototypes are only a few examples of the skills pupils will develop. The subject draws together topics from a broad range of disciplines including Physics, Mathematics, History and Art, and consequently requires pupils to develop their knowledge and abilities in numerous areas, which can ultimately lead to a wide range of careers. With two thoroughly equipped workshops, along with accompanying computer suites with Computer Aided Design software that is used in a variety of industries, the department supports pupils in realising their design ideas to the fullest.







## DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

You may be keen on acting, writing or on the visual and technical side of theatre and wish to develop your skills in some or all these areas. The qualification is designed to enable you to acquire a knowledge and understanding of the language of drama and theatre as well as to develop your performing and analytical skills. It also has excellent transferable skills such as:

- to work with rigour;
- to communicate effectively;
- to work collaboratively;
- to use approaches from a range of disciplines;
- to connect your studies to the world around you.

It is also great fun! There are many organised trips to the theatre and visiting practitioners. These will incur extra costs yet provide invaluable knowledge and experiences to inform your own practice.



## **ECONOMICS**

Economics is about choice and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. An economic way of thinking can help you make better choices.

Economics is the subject for you if you enjoy debating economic issues such as inequality, immigration and how we should pay for healthcare. You will use and interpret data to analyse economic problems and discuss alternative courses of action. You will also keep up to date with national and international trends. We expect to take you to the Economics In Action conference at Warwick University (this incurs a small additional cost, which is added to your fee bill), and will encourage you to take part in competitions such as the Student Investor Challenge and the Royal Economic Society essay competition. We will also arrange to attend relevant public lectures at local universities

## **ENGLISH LITERATURE**

English is a dynamic and forward-looking subject which enables you to think more deeply about literature and develop highly valued transferable skills, making it a useful springboard to a range of higher education courses or career paths. You should consider English if you enjoy expressing your ideas both in discussion and on paper. English Literature A Level enables you to explore literature more deeply, suiting those with a passion for reading and discovery and providing the freedom to develop independent personal arguments as well as refining communication skills.

## **FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION**

Each unit within this qualification has an applied purpose which acts as a focus for the learning in the unit, and students are assessed through a combination of exams and controlled assessment. Students have their lessons in a dedicated theory classroom and state-of-the-art kitchen, both of which are excellently equipped, and allow teachers to bring the subject to life.

The controlled assessment usually appeals to students who enjoy producing work over a period of time and like to show off their creative flair. The examined components provide the opportunity for students to demonstrate their theoretical knowledge. Organisational skills are important for success, as students must bring their ingredients to each required practical lesson.

## **FRENCH**

Studying French to A Level is a huge plus in our increasingly international world. It is a language that is spoken by millions of people across the world, not just in Europe but in places as far away as Canada and Africa, and it is therefore one of the most widely studied languages.

You will study a range of topics, including those that emphasise the cultural and social issues in French-speaking countries. You will continue to build on the solid foundations of grammar you have built at GCSE level and will also explore some books and films in the language. You will enjoy the satisfaction of developing much greater fluency at A Level and will quickly notice that you are able to express yourself in a much broader range of situations than you could at GCSE. You will even find that you can access a range of authentic language on your own, including films, newspaper articles and novels.

## GEOGRAPHY

Geography at both AS and international A Level comprises both human and physical units in which you will learn about a wide range of topics such as:

- The issues that affect people and the places they live in
- How people affect the environment we all live in
- What decisions are being made about the management of resources
- An appreciation of current events and world problems such as natural hazards and the plight of refugees
- How to plan a fieldwork investigation —the collection of primary and secondary data and how to analyse it

## GERMAN

Studying German to A Level is a huge plus in our increasingly international world. It is the most spoken native language in Europe and it is one of the most useful languages to learn in the worlds of business and innovation. It is also famous for being the language of poets, musicians and thinkers – think of Beethoven, Mozart, Goethe, Brecht, Kafka, Marx and Einstein, to name but a few. Over one hundred Nobel Prizes have gone to brilliant Germans for accomplishments in physics, medicine, chemistry, literature and other areas. Germany itself is also one of the most powerful economies in the world, and is renowned for its success in engineering and technology.

You will study a range of topics, including those that emphasise the cultural and social issues in German-speaking countries. You will continue to build on the solid foundations of grammar you have built at GCSE level, and will also explore some books and films in the language. You will enjoy the satisfaction of developing much greater fluency at A Level and will quickly notice that you are able to express yourself in a much broader range of situations than you could at GCSE. You will even find that you can access a range of authentic language on your own, including films, newspaper articles and novels.

## HISTORY

A Level History provides students with not only a range of intellectual skills but also an opportunity to look at other and earlier societies, their politics, social and economic structures, culture and ideologies.

At LHS we study European History from 1450 – 1499 (Wars of the Roses) and from 1789 – 1871 (NEA), giving students a wide-ranging introduction to the complexities of Europe's past. Moreover, we offer the study of US history from 1865 – 1975, allowing students to explore change and continuity from the Era of Reconstruction to the presidency of Nixon. The course comprises both breadth (USA 1865 - 1975) and depth (the Wars of the Roses 1450-1499) studies as well as a coursework element focusing on the years 1789 - 1871.

The course focuses on the development of states and the different forms they can take, the role of individuals as well as ideas in the past and looks at the various ways power can be exercised. Teaching focuses not just on acquiring knowledge but also an understanding of the past; not just on developing the relevant exam skills but also on forming and expressing opinions in discussion.



## LATIN

Some of the greatest works of literature, history, philosophy and science were written in Latin. Moreover, the legacy of the Roman world - its language, literature and culture - is all around us; from the influence of Latin on languages such as English, French, Spanish and Italian, to its presence in our legal and political systems; the influence of Roman culture and society on western literature, from Shakespeare to JK Rowling; and so much more.

Latin is a demanding A Level subject - this is one of many reasons why it is valued so highly by universities and employers alike - but it is also a very rewarding one. It cultivates precision of thought, develops students' appreciation of their own language and culture, and fosters a deeper understanding of and engagement with literature through the study and critical appreciation of the set texts. Forget about learning a language simply to pass vocabulary tests or to translate grammar sentences. By reading these texts in the original language, you will be able to see inside the minds of Roman poets, orators, historians and/or philosophers. Your privileged entry into this fascinating world is what makes studying Latin at A Level so rewarding and we hope that you will learn to share at least some of the excitement and enthusiasm that your Classics teachers feel for this subject.



## **MATHEMATICS**

Mathematics, apart from its own inherent values, supports a wide range of subjects and can be studied to complement most other subjects. Sciences such as Biology, Chemistry and Physics use many mathematical techniques, and subjects such as Geography, Psychology and Sociology are also likely to have components which will be far more easily mastered by those with prior study of Mathematics.

For Maths and Engineering courses, A Level Maths is a must.

## **FURTHER MATHS**

Further Maths is a highly desirable A Level, if not required, by many top universities for Mathematics, Science and Engineering courses, as well as Computing and Economics. It must be studied with A Level Maths.

## **MUSIC**

Music A Level is an incredibly diverse course, encompassing a variety of practical and academic approaches to the study of music. The varied nature of the course enables students to develop highly desirable skills in areas such as independent learning, self-management, teamwork, problem solving, communication and creativity. Music A Level can be a pathway to almost any degree course. Taught in mixed classes across all three senior schools in our state-of-the-art facilities, the additional support for any musician at the Loughborough Schools Foundation is unrivalled. In addition to the timetabled allocation (10 periods a week) most students will be entitled to a repertoire session (half an hour a week) supporting performance skills. There are also numerous ensembles and choirs available for students to access, which all play a big part in developing any musician, and should be seen as a must for an A Level musician.

## **MUSIC TECHNOLOGY**

The Music Technology A Level course provides students with a grounding in both the theory and history of Music Technology and its practical application through a range of coursework-based tasks. Pupils will learn to sequence, record and arrange using modern, professional-standard technology. This course has an emphasis on practical projects making use of our brand new, state-of-the-art recording studio.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Studying A Level Physical Education will give you a fantastic insight into the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform or coach a sport through the non-exam assessment component, you will also develop a wide-ranging knowledge into the how and why of physical activity and sport. The combination of physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for students. You can perform, and then through the academic study improve your performance or coaching through application of the theory.

Physical Education is studied through a range of different contexts and the impact it has on both ours and other's everyday lives. You will learn the reasons why we do things, why some people outperform others, mentally and physically. You will also delve into the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs and the influence that modern technology is having in and on physical activity and sport.





## PHYSICS

Studying Physics helps us to understand so much that exists and happens around us, from the largest of galaxies, to the smallest of particles that make up atoms. It is one of the most relevant subjects for the 21st century as the human race seeks to explore beyond the Earth and solve the world's energy and climate challenges. It helps us to be creative, understand and apply principles to new situations, inventions and solutions, whether in the fields of engineering, medicine, energy production, technology, communication, computing, sport, transport and many, many more.

Understanding Physics helps us to explain why many things happen, and how everything works. Studying Physics develops a skill set that will transfer to many careers, which is why it is accepted as an entry A Level onto so many university courses. It helps you to analyse, interpret and apply information as well as developing the skills of problem solving and critical thinking. The knowledge developed helps you to explain how things happen, or how things work, or to be an inventor.

## POLITICS

Few subjects are more central to your everyday life than 'government and politics'. Politics dominates domestic and foreign news. Political decisions determine how you are educated, housed, cared for in hospital, kept secure from crime and, regardless of your hopes and aspirations for the future, it will shape the society you inherit as adults. In short Politics is arguably THE definitive study of the human condition; self-interested, but social creatures, we seek security and order through complex systems of governance and government.

Politics is the study of the state, government and nation. It deals extensively with the practice and theory of political systems and political behaviour. Academically codified in the 19th Century, the study of politics originated 2,500 years ago with Plato and Aristotle, thus making Politics one of the oldest subjects ever studied.

Ultimately it is the study of how we organise, cooperate, and seek to settle conflict. This is a discursive subject that requires you to develop an interest in current affairs. In Politics you'll study the real world and develop skills to make sense of that world in a mature co-educational environment that will support your preparation for undergraduate study and beyond.

## PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is the scientific study of people, the mind, behaviour and experience. It is a thriving academic discipline with the opportunity to explore key features of everyday life that are of direct relevance. Psychologists and psychological research have a big impact on all aspects of public life, particularly in areas such as education, health, the economy, industry, and the criminal justice system. Students studying psychology will learn to assess and analyse research evidence for its credibility and to consider how usefully the research and results can be applied to change behaviour in a practical way.

## **RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Religious Studies is a subject where the questions posed are as significant as the answers given. The syllabus combines three aspects, drawing on religion, philosophy of religion and ethics. As part of the course you will have the opportunity to attend conferences presented by philosophers and listen to their explanations and ideas, together with being given an opportunity to question them in person. You will be expected to wrangle with difficult philosophical and ethical questions for which there is not necessarily an agreed answer. You will have to evaluate and form your own opinions in the light of the scholars and their theories which will be covered. It will also give you an insight into the role and significance of the Christian religion and an understanding of key ideas and beliefs within a modern context.

## **SOCIOLOGY**

Sociology is the study of the society in which we live. Studying this subject will help you to develop a wide range of perspectives on the way we live our lives and will enable you to adopt a critical approach to understanding important issues that affect us. Sociology will help you to develop a good understanding of how society has been formed and the impact of this on structures such as the education system and families. By learning Sociology, you can gain a better understanding of the complexities within society, how social systems, organisations, and institutions work, and you will become more aware of our own beliefs and biases.

## **SPANISH**

Studying Spanish to A Level is a huge plus in our increasingly international world. It is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, and it is also the most popular language to learn in the United States, making it a truly international language. It is one of the most useful languages to learn in the worlds of business and innovation.

You will study a range of topics, including those that emphasise the cultural and social issues in Spanish-speaking countries. You will continue to build on the solid foundations of grammar you have built at GCSE level, and will also explore some books and films in the language. You will enjoy the satisfaction of developing much greater fluency at A Level and will quickly notice that you are able to express yourself in a much broader range of situations than you could at GCSE. You will even find that you can access a range of authentic language on your own, including films, newspaper articles and novels.

## NEA, coursework, controlled assessment and irregular exam mapping for 2024 – 2026

Some subjects offer non-exam assessment / coursework / controlled assessment / irregular exam times as assessment routes in addition to the more traditional route of terminal exams in exam halls in May and June of Year 13. Please consult those subjects for further information and take this into account when making your choices: some girls might like the idea of these types of assessments, and others less so.

The below shows major assessment points that sit outside of the traditional summer exam windows where most exams are taken.

Year	Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
12		Food Science (internally assessed)	Drama and Theatre (internally assessed)  Geography (externally assessed)  Food Science (externally assessed)
13	13 English Lit 1 (internally assessed)	Art (internally assessed)  Drama and Theatre (externally assessed)  English Lit 2 (internally assessed)  EPQ (internally assessed)  Food Science (internally assessed)  History (internally assessed)  Music - Performance (externally assessed)  PE (internally assessed)  Arts Award (internally assessed)  DT (internally assessed)	Art (externally assessed)  Computer Science (internally assessed)  Food Science (externally assessed)  Practical Endorsements for Biology, Chemistry and Physics (internally assessed)  Music – Composition (externally assessed)  Music Technology (externally assessed)







# FINE ART

## Why study Fine Art?

Fine Art is an exciting and forward looking subject. The leading people in any professional field are those who can think creatively and innovatively; and making and participating in the arts aids the development of these skills. Current evidence suggests that skills in communication, critical thinking, visual identity, and reasoning will likely become even more important in the careers of the future.

The course is predominately practical, with art theory elements. The qualification teaches you how the creative process works and provides you with the opportunity to research and develop ideas which interest you personally. Fine Art theory complements a broad range of other academic disciplines including the sciences, literature, Mathematics, History and Classics, Politics, Music and Psychology

LHS has a dedicated Sixth Form studio and you will have your own individual work space to come and go from as you wish. Trips each year include visits to London galleries and you will have the opportunity to attend life drawing lessons after school. We hold a large summer exhibition of your work annually.

## Entry requirements

We expect at least a grade 7 in a GCSE Art and Design qualification although those that gain an 8 or higher may find the course more accessible. A good standard of written English is helpful and you must be prepared to undertake self-directed research work. It is important that you are able to manage your own time and are willing to take risks. The skill of acting on constructive criticism is also important to develop. It is essential to put in extra studio time beyond timetabled lessons.

## What does the course involve?

Whilst the A Level course is largely practical in its outcomes, intellect is important. The qualification provides you with the opportunity to pursue an individual area of research to suit your interests and strengths. Initial group workshops in the Autumn term of Year 12 lead onto a personal portfolio which investigates an artist of your choice be that Titian or Tracy Emin. Fine Art requires engagement with aesthetic and intellectual concepts through the use of traditional or digital media and processes. It may be created to communicate ideas and messages about the observed world, the qualities of materials, perceptions, or preconceptions. It can also be used to explore personal and cultural identity, society and how we live, visual language, and technology. Fine Art allows us to consider and reflect on our place in the world, both as individuals and collectively.

## Exam board

EDEXCEL

## How is the course assessed?

The course is 100% non-exam assessment and fully linear, so assessed in Year 13. Most of what you produce throughout the two-year course contributes towards your final grade.

A Level Fine Art: 60% coursework, 40% externally set assignment.

### Component 1

Personal portfolio and personal investigation

- Incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work, and a personal study.
- Supporting studies and practical work will comprise a portfolio of development work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points.
- The personal study will be evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in 3000 words of continuous prose. (essay) The personal study comprises 12% of the total qualification.

### Component 2

- Incorporates two major elements: preparatory studies and the 15-hour period of sustained focus.
- Preparatory studies will comprise a portfolio of practical and written development work based on the Externally Set Assignment. Spanning 10 weeks studio work from February in Year 13.
- During the 15-hour period of sustained focus under examination conditions, students will produce final outcome(s) extending from their preparatory studies in response to the Externally Set Assignment.

## What can an A Level in Art lead to?

Creativity is a form of intelligence which can be developed and trained like any other. A Level Art teaches adaptability and resilience and is excellent preparation for fast paced changes in industry. The creative and design industries are some of the largest growth areas of the UK economy, but you do not need to pursue a career in the arts to take this qualification.

The written element of the course means that it complements humanities degrees very well. Science and engineering firms also look favourably on creative A Levels as a way to foster innovation in employees. LHS students who have previously studied A Level Art have followed a diverse range of paths including, architecture, business, journalism, politics, psychology, industrial and product design, pharmacology, fashion and marketing, languages, music, classics.

## What skills will be developed in Art A Level course?

You will develop many transferrable skills including:

- Soft skills used in developing relationships, and for communication
- Confidence with visual and cultural literacy
- How to form and express opinions in discussion and debate
- The ability to observe and record with discipline and accuracy
- How to research critically and effectively
- Project development and presentation skills
- Resilience, the ability to act on and offer constructive criticism
- Determination, confidence when taking considered risks, and the ability to think in a non-linear way
- Strong technical skills in a range of media
- In depth critical and contextual knowledge of selected artist or art movements.





# BIOLOGY

## Why study Biology?

Biology is an ever-changing, very relevant subject and provides an opportunity to further develop your interests and learn about many different aspects of this fascinating science. From viruses to vaccines, enzymes to excretion, this breadth is an excellent reason to include it in your choice of A Level subjects.

You will also gain an understanding of how society makes decisions about scientific issues, as well as some of the ways in which the scientific community contributes to the success of the economy and society.

Biology is a science that blends theoretical and practical understanding with analytical skills and at LHS we adopt a very practical approach with lots of opportunities to learn by investigation.

## Entry requirements

You will need to achieve a grade 8 or above in GCSE Biology and a grade 7 or above in Mathematics.

If your GCSE biology has sparked an interest and desire to find out more then you will enjoy studying at A Level.

The ideal qualities for a successful biologist are:

1. An enquiring mind - you always want to know why!
2. An interest in living things and the environment
3. A willingness to learn detailed information and apply your knowledge in new contexts
4. An aptitude for practical work

## What does the course involve?

The A Level biology course involves the study of the structure of living organisms and their fundamental processes. The topics are varied and extend those studied at GCSE as well as introducing new areas and concepts such as biochemistry and physiology.

Each group is taught by two teachers. The lessons involve both theory and practical work and you will use different study skills including: making notes, preparing information for presentations, planning, executing and writing up experiments. You will be expected to revise for tests at the end of each topic and be able to apply your knowledge in short, structured questions as well as longer essay-type questions. In order to further your knowledge, you should be prepared to read around the subject.

## Exam board

AQA

## How is the course assessed?

The AQA is a linear course assessed by 3 written exams.

Paper 1 (35% of the A Level) assesses the work and practical skills covered in the topics studied in Year 12.

Paper 2 (35% of the A Level) assesses the work and practical skills covered in the topics studied in Year 13.

Paper 3 (30% of the A Level) is a synoptic paper covering topics and practical skills across both years of study.

Practical skills are built up and assessed throughout the course by your teachers and a separate endorsement of practical skills is awarded when you show competency in these. All your practical work is recorded in a lab book which provides evidence that you have attained these skills.

## What can an A Level in Biology lead to?

If you wish to pursue a biological subject at university, Chemistry is also usually a requirement. Geography is useful for environmental and ecology-related courses. Physics, Maths, Computing, Psychology and Food are also complementary. None of these subjects is essential however and some students choose Biology as their only science subject, although this can limit the number of scientific degree courses open to you.

In addition to general degree courses in the biological sciences you could apply for more specific subjects such as biochemistry, microbiology, genetics or physiology. Biology is desirable for medicine and veterinary science. It can also be combined with other disciplines such as a language or business studies.

An interest in biology can lead to an extensive range of different careers. These include careers in medicine and healthcare, education, the environment, food and drink, biotechnology and agriculture.

For further details, visit the Institute of Biology website [www.iob.org](http://www.iob.org)

## What skills will be developed in the Biology A Level course?

As a practical science the study of Biology incorporates many practical skills from accurately focusing a microscope to designing and conducting a successful investigation. It also develops analytical and numeracy skills in the interpretation of results and data. The ability to communicate both orally in class discussions and in written form in extended answers and essays are key aspects to success in the course and there will be many opportunities to build these into your study.



# BUSINESS

## Why study Business?

Do you want to understand the interrelated nature of business using business models, theories and techniques to support analysis of business issues and situations? The course content is designed to engage you with topics and issues that are relevant today, through key contemporary developments such as digital technology, business ethics and globalisation topics. We expect to visit at least two business locations as part of the course e.g. the Emma Bridgewater Factory in Stoke, as well as a revision session in Birmingham organised by Tutor2u. We encourage group work, including entering teams for the Student Investor Challenge, and make use of contemporary television series such as Inside the Factory with Gregg Wallace.

## Entry requirements

To study Business you should be comfortable with expressing yourself in short essay form and with some numerical analysis. The course content is very broad and covers a range of skills and we ask that you have a grade 6 in GCSE Maths. It is, however, most important that you have an interest in current affairs and the business environment.

## What does the course involve?

### Year 12

An introduction to key business areas: marketing, operations, finance and human resource management. This includes a special focus on decision making – particularly how decisions made in one area can affect the rest of the business.

### Year 13

An investigation of the strategic decisions that all businesses must make; analysing the strategic position of a business; choosing the strategic direction; strategic methods: how to pursue strategies; managing strategic change.

## Exam board

AQA Business (7132)

## How is the course assessed?

A Level assessment consists of three x 2 hour written exams taken at the end of the two-year course. Each exam will be worth a third of the A Level. All three papers will draw on material from the whole course and will feature a range of question styles including multiple choice questions, short answer questions, essay questions, data response questions and case studies.



### **What can an A Level in Business lead to?**

If you'd like to study business, finance or management at university, A Level Business provides an excellent foundation. The skills you learn are transferable across a broad range of subjects and careers. Whatever you choose to do in the future, you'll find that the things you learn in this course will help. For example, you'll probably work with lots of different people, so knowledge of motivational theory will help you to work well with others and help them achieve their potential. You might have ambitious plans to start your own business. If that's the case, you'll find the marketing and finance topics particularly useful.

### **What skills will be developed in the Business A Level course?**

With a focus on helping you to become a good decision maker, you'll learn essential managerial skills, alongside techniques to help you become an analytical problem solver. These skills are all highly sought after and valued in a wide range of careers.



# CHEMISTRY

## Why study Chemistry?

Studying Chemistry at A level will enable you to cover the fundamentals of Physical, Organic and Inorganic Chemistry in more detail. As a science subject, you will learn how to be objective and develop problem solving and analytical skills. It helps you to challenge ideas and derive solutions by using logic and step-by-step reasoning. Chemistry requires teamwork and communication skills and there will be lots of opportunities to develop practical skills over the two-year course.

Your specialist teachers will make the course engaging and enjoyable. They have a variety of industrial work experience between them and will be able to give relevance to the topics covered from their own personal careers.

As part of the A Level course you may go on trips or attend lectures on topics covered in the course which will give you an insight into careers related to the applications of Chemistry.

## Entry requirements

You will need to achieve a grade 8 or above in GCSE Chemistry and a grade 7 or above in Mathematics.

## What does the course involve?

Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they will both be assessed through written papers and the Practical Endorsement at A Level.

The key topics on the A Level course are:

### Year 12

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in Chemistry

Module 2 – Foundations in Chemistry

Module 3 – Periodic table and energy

Module 4 – Core organic Chemistry

### Year 13

Module 5 – Physical Chemistry and transition elements

Module 6 – Organic Chemistry and analysis

## Exam board

OCR CHEMISTRY A (H432)

## How is the course assessed?

The course will be assessed with 3 exams at the end of Year 13.

- (01) Periodic table, elements and Physical Chemistry 100 marks 2 hours 15 minutes written paper (37%)
- (02) Synthesis and analytical techniques 100 marks 2 hours 15 minutes written paper (37%)
- (03) Unified Chemistry 70 marks 1 hour 30 minutes written paper (26%)

The Practical Endorsement in Chemistry is assessed throughout the course and will be reported on the A Level certificate.

Each set in Year 12 and Year 13 is taught by two teachers and the pace of lessons is faster.

The lessons involve both theory and practical work and you will use a range of study skills including research, working both in groups and independently, presenting results and independent study as well as executing and writing up experiments.

Once we have taught you the theory after each topic there will be a test in order to give you the opportunity to consolidate your notes and apply what you have learnt to exam style questions.

You will extend your practical skills by building on your experience at GCSE. The practical work is an integral part of the course which is assessed by the teacher and the result reported but does not count towards the final A Level grade.

## What can an A Level in Chemistry lead to?

The Royal Society of Chemistry's posters say "Not all chemists wear white coats". Sixth Form Chemistry can lead to a degree in Chemistry which opens up an enormous range of career possibilities, both in and out of science. For details and ideas go to <http://www.chemsoc.org/careers>

An exciting career in chemical research is available to those who really excel at the subject. Some of you will find that Chemistry is not only an asset but sometimes essential for many medical based careers such as biochemistry, medicine, physiotherapy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, chemical engineering. It also arms you with the analytical skills needed for finance, economics, materials science, accountancy, sports science, food technology and pharmacy to name a few. A Level Chemistry would be an asset for degree courses requiring analytical skills, such as languages, management and law.

## What skills will be developed in the Chemistry A Level course?

You will develop competence and confidence in a variety of analytical, practical, mathematical, and problem-solving skills and in so doing demonstrate a deep appreciation of scientific methods.





# CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

## Why study Classical Civilisation?

The influence of the classical world is all around us. We are all familiar with Greek and Roman myths and legends – Hollywood loves stories like the fall of Troy – but the influence of these two cultures on our everyday lives is wider than that. For example, the Greeks gave us democracy and theatre; the Romans brought us roads and baths. Classical Civilisation gives you the opportunity to study the literature and culture of the ancient Greeks and Romans, reading the works of famous authors such as Homer, Virgil, Aristophanes and Sophocles, learning about their lives and religious beliefs and customs, and enabling you to assess the contribution made by these two great civilisations to our lives today.

Students studying Classical Civilisation will be expected to enhance their understanding by participating in study days, museum trips and theatre trips. These are planned jointly with Loughborough Grammar School. There are also regular trips abroad for those interested.

## Entry requirements

There are no specific entry requirements for the A Level Classical Civilisation course. You do not need to have studied Classical Civilisation at GCSE, and all texts studied are in English. The course does involve a significant number of literary sources, to which an enjoyment of Greek and Roman mythology and a willingness to read and discuss literature are necessary for this course. Students will examine sources, both literary and material/visual, and be required to be critical about them. As such, we would advise that any student wishing to take this course should have achieved at least a grade 7 in English Literature and History should they have studied the latter.

## What does the course involve?

In Year 12 you will commence your study of *The World of the Hero*, reading selected books of the *Odyssey*. This component provides students with the opportunity to appreciate the lasting legacy of the Homeric world and to explore its attitudes and values. The epics of Homer, with their heroes, gods and exciting narratives, have inspired generations of readers and their influence can be seen in works such as Virgil's **Aeneid**, James Joyce's **Ulysses**, films such as **Brother, Where Art Thou?** and even **Game of Thrones**.

You will also study the *Invention of the Barbarian* component, learning how the Greeks saw themselves as distinct from their 'barbarian' neighbours. You will look into how the image of the barbarian as being distinct from, and inferior to, the Greeks emerged and persisted, and analyse how far the Greek stereotype of the Persians was based on fact or prejudice. You will be encouraged to question assumptions and think critically about portrayals of difference and identity. You will also examine depictions of the Persians in the work of Herodotus and Aeschylus, and the idea of barbarians in Greek myth, including why the Greeks were fascinated by female barbarians in particular.

In Year 13 you will continue your study of *The World of the Hero*, moving on to reading the prescribed books of Virgil's *Aeneid*, a Roman epic which draws heavily upon the model of Homer, but with a slightly different audience and purpose in mind.

Our final component is Politics of the Late Republic. The Late Roman Republic was a period of upheaval and conflicting views on how the Roman state should function. These conflicts eventually led to the downfall of the Republican **res publica** (state) and the rise of the Roman Emperors. In this component you will study the political thought of the period from Sulla's retirement in 79 BC to the death of Cicero in 43 BC, through examining Marcus Porcius Cato ('Cato the Younger'), Gaius Julius Caesar, and Marcus Tullius Cicero. The exploration of the very different ideas of three contemporary political figures brings this tumultuous period to life and moves beyond simply studying ideals and abstracts, and into discussion of the practical difficulties familiar to states throughout history. By examining their distinctive attitudes, political beliefs, conduct, and impact, you will explore the ways in which the later Republican **res publica** (state) developed, changed, and ultimately fell

## Exam board

OCR H408 Classical Civilisation

## How is the course assessed?

The A Level qualification consists of three externally assessed written examinations:

- |                                  |                     |            |                      |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|
| • The World of the Hero:         | 2 hours 30 minutes. | 100 marks. | 40% of total A Level |
| • Invention of the Barbarian:    | 1 hour 45 minutes.  | 75 marks.  | 30% of total A Level |
| • Politics of the Late Republic: | 1 hour 45 minutes.  | 75 marks.  | 30% of total A Level |

## What can an A Level in Classical Civilisation lead to?

Classical Civilisation is a well-regarded A Level, accepted by all universities and serving as a good base for any literary or historical degree course. Many of our students do choose to pursue their interest in Classical Civilisation at degree level; others studying the subject have gone on to read Archaeology, Drama, English, History, Law, Psychology, Philosophy, Politics, Art (to name just a few) – in fact you will find the knowledge you gain on the course beneficial for the rest of your life! The majority of jobs do not require degrees in specific subjects. An A Level in Classical Civilisation would provide you with a respected qualification for a wide range of careers.

## What skills will be developed in the Classical Civilisation A Level course?

This course will help you to develop further your skills of critical analysis and evaluation as well as your ability to articulate an informed response to the material at hand, using a range of appropriate evidence to formulate coherent arguments with substantiated evidence-based judgements.

**Classical Civilisation is usually taught jointly with Loughborough Grammar School.**



# CLASSICAL GREEK

## Why study Classical Greek?

The ancient Greeks continue to fascinate us. Their achievements in so many areas were remarkable, and their influence can still be observed today in myriad areas from literature and art, to philosophy and religion, politics, mathematics and medicine. The A Level Classical Greek course is intellectually rigorous and challenging, but it is also immensely rewarding, offering students the opportunity to further their linguistic proficiency while also delving deeper, via the study and exploration of the set texts, into the fascinating history and culture of the ancient Greeks. In learning more about the ancient Greeks, their attitudes, beliefs and customs, we come to learn more about ourselves and realise that, despite the time lapse of over two and a half millennia, humans and the human condition have not really changed that much at all.

## Entry requirements

Normally students are advised to have attained a grade 7 or above in their Classical Greek GCSE in order successfully to pursue the subject at A Level.

## What does the course involve?

- Greek Language: This is very much a continuation of what you have studied up till now in Greek. There is some more grammar to learn – you finally get to meet the perfect and pluperfect tenses! – and you will become proficient at tackling more challenging constructions, meeting sentences of greater length and complexity. At A Level, the passages for translation will be taken from two specified authors, namely Xenophon and Euripides. Additionally, you will gain some experience of translating from English into Greek, a discipline which will not only prove intellectually stimulating but which will also serve to secure your knowledge and recall of the essential accidence and syntax.
- Greek Literature: You will study one prose set text and one verse set text in Year 12 and one additional prose text and one additional verse text in Year 13. In 2025-2026, the texts on offer include Plato's Republic, in which the nature of justice is discussed; Herodotus **Book 1**, covering the mythical origins of the East-West conflict, the Lydian king Gyges, and the Milesian deception of Alyattes; Homer **Iliad 16**, focusing on the death of Sarpedon; Euripides **Hippolytus**, a sombre tale of excessive religious devotion, family dysfunctionality, and the perils of not knowing oneself.

## Exam board

OCR H444

## How is the course assessed?

The A Level qualification comprises four externally assessed written examinations:

Unseen translation	1 hour 45 minutes.	33% of total A Level
Prose composition or comprehension	1 hour 15 minutes.	17% of total A Level
Prose literature	2 hours.	25% of total A Level
Verse literature	2 hours.	25% of total A Level



### **What can an A Level in Classical Greek lead to?**

Classical Greek is obviously an advantage for anyone wishing to read Classics at university but is also a subject valued in its own right by admissions tutors and employers. It is well respected for its intellectual integrity and rigour and goes well with both arts and science subjects. Very few schools are able to offer Classical Greek at any level, least of all A Level, so an A Level in this subject really does stand out on your UCAS form and curriculum vitae. Former A Level Classical Greek students have gone on to read a wide variety of subjects at university, including Classics, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Classics and Arabic, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Physics, English Literature, Medicine, Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic.

### **What skills will be developed in the Classical Greek A Level course?**

As well as gaining a deeper insight into this incredibly influential civilisation, the Classical Greek A Level course facilitates the development of a wide range of skills that are highly valued by universities and employers alike. Grammar and translation work encourages analytical and problem-solving skills, while the challenge of conveying nuance and finding the *mot juste* promotes intellectual flexibility and linguistic sensitivity. Studying the literature reinforces these skills as well as developing your ability to appreciate the literary techniques, styles and genres of the prescribed authors and your ability to articulate an informed response to the material at hand, using a range of appropriate evidence to construct coherent, logical and persuasive arguments and evidence-based judgements.

**Classical Greek is taught jointly with Loughborough Grammar School.**



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

## Why study Computer Science?

The most important aspect of Computer Science is problem solving, an essential skill for life. Students study the design, development and analysis of software and hardware used to solve problems in a variety of contexts. Because computers solve problems to serve people, there is a significant human side to Computer Science as well.

Computer Science also links very closely with Mathematics. For those who have a love for Mathematics they will also find the problem solving, programming and logic involved in Computer is ideally suited to their skillset.

## Entry requirements

A grade 6 in GCSE Maths is needed for the Computer Science A Level. There is no prerequisite of needing to study GCSE Computer Science.

## What does the course involve?

- Programming (Python)
- Data representation including the binary number system, graphics and sound
- Computer architecture including how the Computer Processor works
- Ethics and laws related to Computing
- Fundamentals of Networking

## Exam board

AQA

## How is the course assessed?

Two exams sat at the end of Year 13 (40% weighted each) and a programming project (20%).

## What can an A Level in Computer Science lead to?

Computer Science is a rapidly expanding subject. Think about the amount of new technology which has been developed in the last 10 years. Each new technology has created jobs in areas like software engineering, game development and analysis. The jobs of tomorrow are all very closely linked with the field of Computer Science.

## What skills will be developed in the Computer Science A Level course?

- Problem solving
- Programming
- Teamwork



# DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

## Why study Design and Technology?

Design and Technology heavily influences the world around us - product and industrial designers create the everyday products we use, architects design the buildings we live and work in, and engineers develop a vast array of functional devices that ultimately allow society to operate effectively. All these careers stem from a problem that needs to be solved and thinking of creative ways in which to achieve this - this is at the heart of Design and Technology, as it encourages pupils to develop working solutions for a whole host of problems by using a variety of skills. Critical thinking involving analysis and evaluation, visually communicating ideas to others, and practical work to create operational prototypes are only a few examples of the skills pupils will develop. The subject draws together topics from a broad range of disciplines including Physics, Mathematics, History and Art, and consequently requires pupils to develop their knowledge and abilities in numerous areas, which can ultimately lead to a wide range of careers. With two thoroughly equipped workshops, along with accompanying computer suites with Computer Aided Design software that is used in a variety of industries, the department supports pupils in realising their design ideas to the fullest.

## Entry requirements

While there are no prior learning or other requirements for this qualification, it is extremely beneficial for pupils to have studied the subject at GCSE given the experience of the assessment, and skills and knowledge developed during these years. However, it is possible for students to study the A Level having not studied the subject at GCSE - Year 12 is used to develop the necessary skills required for the Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) and all theory topics are covered for the external exam, regardless if these have been introduced earlier at GCSE. Furthermore, those who have not done the subject at GCSE will attend Engineering Activities run on Thursday afternoons as part of the co-curricular programme to develop their practical skills.

## What does the course involve?

The subject is assessed through one external exam and one Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) project, both equally weighted at 50%. The following areas are covered as part of the course over the duration of the two years in preparation for these components.

### Year 12

#### **NEA preparation:**

In preparation for the NEA, which formally starts in the summer term, pupils complete a variety of tasks which include analysing researched information for a specific design context, communicating design ideas through graphical techniques, and manufacturing effective prototypes through practical activities.

#### **Exam preparation**

Theory lessons are delivered on a weekly basis and cover a variety of topics including Materials, Processes and Techniques, and Factors influencing the development of products.

### Year 13

#### **NEA:**

Started officially in the summer term of Year 12, pupils continue with their formal NEA throughout Year 13 before its eventual submission in the spring term. This project will require pupils to determine their own project direction in consultation with a specific user or client and requires pupils to produce a portfolio of work and accompanying prototype.



**Exam preparation:**

Theory lessons continue to be delivered on a weekly basis and covers topic such as Features of Manufacturing Industries, Current Legislation and Designing for Maintenance and the Cleaner Environment.

**Exam board**

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Design and Technology (Product Design) (9DT0).

**How is the course assessed?**

The A Level is assessed through the following two components:

**Component 1: Principles of Design and Technology**

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes. 50% of the qualification

This paper includes calculations, short-open and open-response questions, as well as extended-writing questions.

**Component 2: Independent Design and Make Project**

Non-examined assessment. 50% of the qualification

Pupils work through a design process where they will produce a substantial design, make, and evaluate project, comprised of a portfolio of approximately 60 sides of A3 paper and accompanying prototype that the pupils have manufactured. The assessment is completed at the school where it is internally assessed before being externally moderated.

**What can an A Level in Design and Technology lead to?**

The nature of the subject equips pupils with a wealth of skills and former pupils have pursued a variety of different courses at a higher level. These have included:

- Industrial Design and Technology
- Architecture
- Aerospace Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Business Management

Pupils will often utilise the work completed at part of portfolio documents to strengthen applications to higher institutions.

**What skills will be developed in the Design and Technology A Level course?**

Through the completion of the A Level, pupils will be able to:

- Analyse researched information to inform design decisions.
- Communicate ideas effectively to others through a variety of graphical techniques.
- Create high quality practical outcomes for evaluative purposes.
- Integrate and apply their understanding and knowledge from other subject areas studied during Key Stage 4, such as science and mathematics.
- Independently manage all stages of a project from its initial conception through to its completion.

**Further information**

Due to the nature of the subject and the iterative nature of the project work, the course is demanding in terms of time and pupils are expected to spend some of their free period time within the department, particularly in Year 13 when manufacturing the prototypes. There are many opportunities for them to do so during the school week as the department is very keen to support the pupils in fulfilling their potential.

There is a cost of £15 per academic year for the materials used as part of prototype production.

It is required that any pupils who are interested in studying the subject contact Mr Moseley ([t.moseley@lsf.org](mailto:t.moseley@lsf.org)) for further information and a tour of the facilities **before** selecting the option.

**Design and Technology is offered at Loughborough Grammar School and is offered cross-Foundation**



# DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

## Why study Drama and Theatre?

You may be keen on acting, writing or on the visual and technical side of theatre and wish to develop your skills in some or all these areas. The qualification is designed to enable you to acquire a knowledge and understanding of the language of drama and theatre as well as to develop your performing and analytical skills. It also has excellent transferable skills such as:

- to work with rigour;
- to communicate effectively;
- to work collaboratively;
- to use approaches from a range of disciplines;
- to connect your studies to the world around you.

It is also great fun! There are many organised trips to the theatre and visiting practitioners. These will incur extra costs yet provide invaluable knowledge and experiences to inform your own practice.

## Entry requirements

We expect a grade 7 in GCSE Drama and/or English. You must be prepared to talk and write articulately about historical and political ideas. You will be required to test your own ideas in a practical, physical setting, often involving some difficult decisions, made in a group and under an immense amount of pressure. It is important that you are interested in gaining a greater understanding of how theatre and plays work and that you are keen to be involved with performances. You need to be curious about issues and ideas and have a creative instinct for communicating your views through drama.

## What does the course involve?

**You will learn how to be creative.**

**You will be encouraged to be curious, open, present, inquisitive and funny.**

The course has a straightforward structure with three components, one that focuses on devising, one that focuses on performing or designing skills and one that focuses on practical exploration of texts to interpret them for performance. During the course you will be exposed to the following aspects of theatre: the exploration of play texts, the creation of theatre, the performing of plays, the analysis of theatre and the critical evaluation of all these elements.

**You will paint, make things and dress up in costumes and wigs.**

There is a strong focus on the practical exploration of performance texts, including exploring them considering the work of theatre practitioners. The performance texts that will be studied for the exam will require students to articulate how they would perform in certain roles, design for certain scenes and interpret a text for performance, putting practical work at the heart of the course. You will explore *Accidental Death of An Anarchist* by Dario Fo, a political farce. In addition, you will study *Woyzeck* by Buchner, acquiring a deep understanding of the working methods of Punchdrunk, an immersive theatre company.

**You will learn about philosophical, ideological and political perspectives that different arts work represent.**

## Exam board

Edexcel

## How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed through a combination of written course work, in conjunction with practical examinations and one written exam at the end of Year 13.

**Component 1 (Devising)** In this component you will develop your creative and exploratory skills to devise an original performance. The starting point will be a performance text and an influential theatre practitioner. In your creative explorations, you will learn how text can be manipulated to communicate meaning to audiences and begin the process of interpretation. You will gain an understanding of how a new performance can be developed through the practical exploration of the theatrical style and use of conventions of the Post Dramatic Theatre Practitioners Forced Entertainment.

**Component 2 (Text in performance)** By undertaking a role within a production of a play text and therefore being directed by your tutor, you will gain insight into the skills needed to direct. This unit allows you to acquire the techniques required of an actor when preparing for a production: for example, interpreting the text, building the character/s and developing the performance skills to give a fully rounded and sustained performance (externally assessed by a visiting examiner who will assess your performance skills only.) You will develop and demonstrate theatre-making skills, appropriate to your role as a performer or designer. You will explore how you realise artistic intentions in performance.

**Component 3 (Theatre makers in practice)** Theatre is a collaborative art form, and it is important that you have a clear understanding of how different creative ideas are put into practice. This component requires you to consider, analyse and evaluate how different theatre makers create impact. You will consider how production ideas and dramatic elements are communicated to an audience from the perspective of a director, a performer and a designer. As an informed member of the audience at a live performance you will deconstruct theatrical elements which inform your own production choices and develop your own ideas. This unit is a written examination which requires you to study in detail two set play texts and one prescribed historical period of theatrical development.

## What can an A Level in Drama and Theatre lead to?

The study of Drama and Theatre at A Level can help students with a variety of skills as well as develop their creative career aspirations. The skills that are learnt by studying drama are invaluable in later life. For example, being able to speak and present confidently in front of people, and the skill of planning that is required in any production, are useful in many careers. Drama can be a good basis for ANY career.

Students who study this course will enhance their skills in creative thinking, teamwork, analysis, presentation skills, planning etc. The course supports students wishing to improve their communication skills in both verbal and written forms. Students can progress from this course into a number of career areas either by further study or by direct entry to the job market. The skills you gain while studying a performing arts degree are valued by all types of employers, for example confidence, self-presentation, teamwork and collaboration, ability to experiment with different ideas and learning from feedback. Examples of related roles that students may pursue could include Actor, Stage Manager, Arts Administrator, Drama therapist and Television Production Assistant.

Most LSF students who have previously studied A Level Drama and Theatre have not pursued careers in the creative industries. There has been a diverse range of paths including politics, psychology, business, law and genetics.

## What skills will be developed in Drama and Theatre A Level course?

You will develop a multitude of skills, including collaboration, communication and an understanding of how to amend and refine work in order to make a smooth transition to your next level of study or employment. You will develop higher order thinking skills. You will walk away with an understanding of important aspects of our psychology – who we are, what we think, feel and act vs what we say and do.

**Drama and Theatre Studies is taught jointly with Loughborough Grammar School and Loughborough Amherst School and is offered cross-Foundation**





# ECONOMICS

## Why study Economics?

Economics is about choice and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. An economic way of thinking can help you make better choices.

Economics is the subject for you if you enjoy debating economic issues such as inequality, immigration and how we should pay for healthcare. You will use and interpret data to analyse economic problems and discuss alternative courses of action. You will also keep up to date with national and international trends. We expect to take you to the Economics In Action conference at Warwick University (this incurs a small additional cost, which is added to your fee bill), and will encourage you to take part in competitions such as the Student Investor Challenge and the Royal Economic Society essay competition. We will also arrange to attend relevant public lectures at local universities.

## Entry requirements

You should be comfortable expressing yourself both in short essay form and in diagrams using mathematical analysis; we ask that you have a grade 6 in GCSE Maths. Most importantly, you need a strong interest in current affairs; Economics comes to life when you can see it at work in the world around you.

## What does the course involve?

In Theme 1 and Theme 2 (Year 12) you will be introduced to the nature of economics, how markets work and why they fail. You will also consider the role of government and the UK economy. In Theme 3 and Theme 4 (Year 13) you will explore how businesses grow and compete, the labour market and how the government intervenes to make markets work better. You will also explore international trade, inequality within and between countries, emerging and developing economies, and the public finances. You will also have an opportunity to consider the role and impact of the financial sector.

## Exam board

Edexcel (A) 2015

## How is the course assessed

Papers 1 & 2 cover the short-answer, data response and essay questions on markets and business behaviour (1) and on the national and global economy (2). Paper 3 covers concepts and theory from the whole course with data response and essay questions. Each paper is weighted 1/3 of the final mark.

## **What can an A Level in Economics lead to**

Suitable higher education courses include Economics degrees or degrees in Applied Economics such as Environmental Economics, Labour Economics or Monetary Economics. You might choose to study Business Economics, Econometrics or a Management Science degree. Economics students can follow a wide range of careers in industry, commerce, finance and the civil service. If you are considering a degree course in Economics, it is worth noting that most universities ask for A Level Maths as part of their entry requirements.

## **What skills will be developed in the Economics A Level course?**

Studying Economics will help you develop transferable skills that will prepare you for studying at university or moving into the world of work. These include skills in data interpretation, essay writing, as well as problem-solving. There is a strong emphasis on personal research and the ability to undertake independent investigations concerning economic concepts is essential. The research is used in extended writing, competitions and classroom discussions.



# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## Why study English Literature?

English is a dynamic and forward-looking subject which enables you to think more deeply about literature and develop highly valued transferable skills, making it a useful springboard to a range of higher education courses or career paths. You should consider English if you enjoy expressing your ideas both in discussion and on paper. English Literature A Level enables you to explore literature more deeply, suiting those with a passion for reading and discovery and providing the freedom to develop independent personal arguments as well as refining communication skills.

## Entry requirements

You will usually require an 8 in your English Literature and a 7 in your English Language GCSE to study the subject at LHS.

## What does the course involve?

English Literature A Level includes the study of an exciting range of poetry, prose and drama from the 15th century to the present day. You should expect to read texts from the usual suspects, such as Shakespeare, to the bang up-to-date. Text choices are varied and stimulating; you might find yourself considering Shakespeare's construction of the charismatic anti-hero in Richard III, or pursuing a feminist reading of Rossetti's poetry. As preparation for the Drama and Poetry pre-1900 paper, you will study one Shakespeare text in detail and here you'll be encouraged both to closely analyse the writer's use of language and dramatic devices and to evaluate different critical perspectives to formulate your own arguments. You will also examine themes and ideas across the work of a pre-1900 poet and another drama text. You might, for example, consider the presentation of deception in *The Duchess of Malfi* and Rossetti's poetry. In the Comparative and Contextual Study module, you can expect to study a genre in more depth, making links across texts and applying your knowledge to a short unseen passage. You'll cover the texts in detail in class but will also have the opportunity to broaden your understanding through independent reading. The coursework module enables you to pursue your own literary interests with greater freedom, completing two tasks.

All tasks undertaken relate to close literary analysis: understanding the relationship between the writer's purpose and methods achieving that purpose, building on the skills gained at GCSE. You will begin to understand the wider themes and concepts which arise from texts in more detail, developing an understanding of some of the ways in which literature is written and interpreted and your own ability to analyse, evaluate and make connections across texts. You should be prepared to develop your own judgements and independence in responding to texts. In terms of workload, you'll be required to complete essays but also independent note-taking and wider reading.

## Exam board

We follow the OCR specification at A Level

## How is the course assessed?

English Literature is assessed in the form of two examinations and one Non-examined Assessment. Combined, the two examinations, Drama and Poetry pre-1900 and Comparative and Contextual Study contribute to 80% of your overall mark, while the Non-examined Assessment is worth 20%. For the latter, you complete two coursework tasks, one comparative essay and one close reading of a short section of text, forming a folder of 3000 words.

## What can an A Level in English Literature lead to?

With respect to higher education, the subject is highly popular in its own right and well respected for its academic rigour, but it is also useful for many arts-related courses such as journalism, law, philosophy and PPE. English is a subject which will complement other arts subjects such as History, RS and Classics, but is extremely popular with linguists and scientists who enjoy a different method of study, and students have gone on to study an extremely diverse range of subjects, from English Literature itself to Medicine. English is a very flexible subject; English graduates are employed in a wide range of sectors, not simply those more traditionally linked to the subject, such as publishing or advertising. The degree itself is well-regarded and can lead to many different careers.

## What skills will be developed in the English Literature A Level course?

You'll develop your ability to think critically, to analyse and to evaluate and make connections. Synthesising ideas, reflecting upon them and forming your own cogent, articulate and independent arguments are all core skills which will enhance your other studies and prove useful in the workplace.





# FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION

## Why study Food Science and Nutrition?

Each unit within this qualification has an applied purpose which acts as a focus for the learning in the unit, and students are assessed through a combination of exams and controlled assessment. Students have their lessons in a dedicated theory classroom and state-of-the-art kitchen, both of which are excellently equipped, and allow teachers to bring the subject to life.

The controlled assessment usually appeals to students who enjoy producing work over a period of time and like to show off their creative flair. The examined components provide the opportunity for students to demonstrate their theoretical knowledge. Organisational skills are important for success, as students must bring their ingredients to each required practical lesson.

Students complete the Level 2 Food Hygiene and Safety certificate as part of the course, which is useful for future job applications.

## Entry requirements

Level 6 in GCSE English and Mathematics is required. GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition will certainly be beneficial to this course, but it is not a prerequisite.

## What does the course involve?

### Year 12

#### Unit 1: Meeting the nutritional needs of specific groups

You must produce a piece of controlled assessment (25% of the final grade) with a practical exam and take an externally marked written examination (25% of the final grade). You will demonstrate an understanding of the science of nutrition and nutritional needs in a wide range of contexts. You will gain a wide range of high-level practical skills to cook complex dishes to meet the needs of target groups.

### Year 13

#### Unit 2: Ensuring food is safe to eat

This unit allows you to develop your understanding of the science of food safety and hygiene, essential knowledge for anyone involved in food production in the home or wishing to work in the food industry. You will be able to identify the risks and hazards involved in food storage, preparation and cooking. The assessment is external and involves writing a report on food safety, using the notes you have prepared in class (25% of the final grade).

### Optional work (choose one option)

#### Unit 3: Experimenting to solve food production problems

This unit allows students to develop their understanding of the properties of ingredients in order to plan and conduct food science experiments. Your findings will allow you to propose solutions to food production problems (25% of the final grade).

#### Unit 4: Current issues in food science and nutrition

You will develop the skills needed to plan, carry out and present a research project on current issues related to food science and nutrition. This could be from the perspective of a consumer, food manufacturer, caterer or policymaker (25% of the final grade).

### Exam board

WJEC

### How is the course assessed?

Overall, each piece of work across the two years is worth 25% of the final grade, therefore the work in Year 12 and Year 13 carry equal weight. In Year 12, there is one piece of controlled assessment and one exam. In Year 13 there is one piece of controlled assessment and one exam. The main assessment difference to A Level is the grading, as shown below. This course is equal to one A Level.

Grade	Equivalent A Level grade
Distinction*	A*
Distinction	A
Merit	C
Pass	E

### What can a Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition lead to?

An understanding of Food Science and Nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Dieticians and nutritionists in hospitals use this knowledge, as do sports coaches and fitness instructors. Hotels and restaurants, food manufacturers and government agencies also use this understanding to develop menus, food products and policies that support healthy eating initiatives. Possible university courses in this area include food science, food and nutrition, human nutrition, food and business and food marketing.

### What skills will be developed in the Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition Diploma course?

Food Science and Nutrition encompasses many skills, both theoretical and practical, and link wells to many other subjects including Chemistry, Biology, PE, Psychology and Geography. Students will leave the course having acquired the skills that will allow them to maintain good health throughout life, as well as be independent learners and creative problem-solvers.

**Food Science and Nutrition is taught at Loughborough High School and is offered as a cross-Foundation subject**



# FRENCH

## Why study French?

Studying French to A Level is a huge plus in our increasingly international world. It is a language that is spoken by millions of people across the world, not just in Europe but in places as far away as Canada and Africa, and it is therefore one of the most widely studied languages.

You will study a range of topics, including those that emphasise the cultural and social issues in French-speaking countries. You will continue to build on the solid foundations of grammar you have built at GCSE level and will also explore some books and films in the language. You will enjoy the satisfaction of developing much greater fluency at A Level and will quickly notice that you are able to express yourself in a much broader range of situations than you could at GCSE. You will even find that you can access a range of authentic language on your own, including films, newspaper articles and novels.

If you choose to take A Level French, you will get a whole period every week with a native speaker to concentrate on conversation in addition to your timetabled lessons. The French home-stay trip is still open to you, and you will get so much more out of it at this level. We can also help you to set up work experience placements abroad through the travel company Halsbury, and you will have the opportunity to take part in a range of competitions and extra-curricular activities.

## Entry requirements

You need a minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE French to study French at A Level, though a grade 8 or 9 is preferable. You should also enjoy all aspects of language learning – a good linguist is comfortable with the idea of speaking as well as writing!

## What does the course involve?

In Year 12, you will study the following topics:

### **Theme 1: Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends**

Topics: The changing nature of family; The 'cyber-society'; The place of voluntary work

### **Theme 2: Artistic culture in the French-speaking world**

Topics: A culture proud of its heritage; Contemporary francophone music; Cinema: the 7th art form  
You also study one literary text (currently *Bonjour Tristesse* by Françoise Sagan)

In Year 13, you will study the following themes and topics:

### **Theme 3: Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues**

Topics: Positive features of a diverse society; Life for the marginalised; How criminals are treated

### **Theme 4: Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world**

Topics: Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment; Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power?; Politics and immigration

In addition to the text studied in Year 12, you will study a film (currently **Au revoir les enfants**), and you will also do an individual research project which will then form part of your speaking exam.

## Exam board

We follow the AQA course.

## How is the course assessed?

At the end of Year 13, you will take the following exams:

- Listening, reading and writing paper (50%) – this involves comprehension tasks, summaries and translation based on the topics you have studied in Year 12 and 13. An advantage at A Level is that you will have control of the audio in the listening part of the exam.
- Writing paper (20%) – this involves writing 2 essays of approximately 300 words on the literature book and film that you studied.
- Speaking exam (30%) – you will do a speaking card on one of the topics from Year 12 or 13, and then you will present the findings of your research project and discuss this in more detail.

## What can an A Level in French lead to?

An A Level in French will go well with any combination of subjects at university. We have even had people use an A Level in a language as part of their package for medicine at university. It will also make it easier for you to consider studying abroad, which could be a much cheaper option to consider.

Having an A Level in French will also open many doors to you after school and university and will be hugely valued by employers, whether or not you end up directly using your language skills. You are likely to earn more money, whatever job you do, and you may even get to travel or live abroad as part of your work.

France is a world leader in many industries, including telecommunications, technology, food and medical research, and French is an official language for a huge number of international organisations such as the UN, the International Red Cross and the Olympic Committee.

If you do want to pursue languages as a career, there are lots of things you can go on to do. Here are just a few examples:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| • translation and interpreting services | • marketing & sales     |
| • journalism & broadcasting             | • tourism & hospitality |
| • diplomatic services                   | • civil service         |
| • international business & finance      | • publishing            |

## What skills will be developed in the French A Level course?

First and foremost, you will develop your communication skills, as learning a language involves the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will also develop a number of other skills:

- Research skills when doing independent reading and listening work for your speaking exam.
- You will learn to work independently and to manage deadlines.
- Learning new vocabulary will help you to improve your memory – this can even help to lower your risk of developing dementia in old age!
- Analysing grammatical structures will help you to develop your problem-solving skills.
- You will develop your creativity skills, as you will need to be able to think of different and creative ways to express yourself.
- You will develop your multitasking skills as you are required to switch between more than one language.
- You will even improve your knowledge of English, as you learn about the grammar of a new language.





# GEOGRAPHY

## Why study Geography?

Geography at both AS and international A Level comprises both human and physical units in which you will learn about a wide range of topics such as:

- The issues that affect people and the places they live in
- How people affect the environment we all live in
- What decisions are being made about the management of resources
- An appreciation of current events and world problems such as natural hazards and the plight of refugees
- How to plan a fieldwork investigation – the collection of primary and secondary data and how to analyse it

## Entry requirements

Normally we expect a 7 in GCSE Geography or a related subject if you have not studied Geography at GCSE.

## What does the course involve?

This course is a CIE international A Level and the marks from the AS units do count towards the final A Level, so they will be taken in the summer of Year 12.

At AS there are 2 core modules with 6 topics.

### Core Physical Geography

Hydrology and fluvial geomorphology  
Atmosphere and weather  
Rocks and weathering

### Core Human Geography

Population  
Migration  
Settlement dynamics

At A2 the following modules are studied:

### Advanced Physical Geography Options

Coastal environments  
Hazardous environments

### Advanced Human Geography Options

Global interdependence  
Economic Transition

## Exam board

Cambridge International AS and A Level Geography (9696)

## How is the course assessed?

Unusually the course is still split into the AS year and A2 year, so there are two exams (Human and Physical) at the end of Year 12 that contribute 50% of the total marks, and then two further exams (Human and Physical) at the end of Year 13 that contribute the other 50%.

## What can an A Level in Geography lead to?

Geography combines well with both arts and science subjects. Geography is highly valued by universities as an A Level choice. This is a subject most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and will keep more options open to you at university. In 2015, The Guardian identified Geography as the 'must-have A Level'.

## What skills will be developed in the Geography A Level course?

Your A Level geography course will cover both the physical and human environments and the complex interaction of processes that shape our world. It will also, importantly, show the applied side of the subject - how human intervention affects the environment and how people adapt and mitigate the effects of processes on their environment. This is complex and dynamic and varies from place to place depending on people's resources, technology and culture. There is plenty of room for discussion and extended research, which will help you become an independent thinker and learner. By the time you get to your exams, you will be able to show your understanding of a range of opinions and be able to illustrate your answers with case studies from local, national and international examples.

You will learn in a wide variety of ways, using maps, GIS skills, data analysis, photos, videos, and podcasts, as well as attending lectures and study days. You will be encouraged to frame your own questions using higher level thinking skills and show your grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing. Fieldwork will be an essential part of your A Level course - with a 3-day residential fieldwork trip taking place in Year 12 (this incurs an additional cost, added to the fee bill). Recent destinations have included London Docklands, Liverpool and the Holderness Coast. Optional overseas fieldwork may also be possible with recent destinations including Iceland and Morocco.



# GERMAN

## Why study German?

Studying German to A Level is a huge plus in our increasingly international world. It is the most spoken native language in Europe and it is one of the most useful languages to learn in the worlds of business and innovation. It is also famous for being the language of poets, musicians and thinkers – think of Beethoven, Mozart, Goethe, Brecht, Kafka, Marx and Einstein, to name but a few. Over one hundred Nobel Prizes have gone to brilliant Germans for accomplishments in physics, medicine, chemistry, literature and other areas. Germany itself is also one of the most powerful economies in the world, and is renowned for its success in engineering and technology.

You will study a range of topics, including those that emphasise the cultural and social issues in German-speaking countries. You will continue to build on the solid foundations of grammar you have built at GCSE level, and will also explore some books and films in the language. You will enjoy the satisfaction of developing much greater fluency at A Level and will quickly notice that you are able to express yourself in a much broader range of situations than you could at GCSE. You will even find that you can access a range of authentic language on your own, including films, newspaper articles and novels.

If you choose to take A Level German, you will get a whole period every week with a native speaker to concentrate on conversation in addition to your timetabled lessons.

The German residential trip is still open to you, and you will get so much more out of it at this level. We can also help you to set up work experience placements abroad through the travel company Halsbury, and you will have the opportunity to take part in a range of competitions and extra-curricular activities.

## Entry requirements

We advise students have a grade 7 or above in GCSE German in order to successfully pursue the subject at A Level. You should also enjoy all aspects of language learning – a good linguist is comfortable with the idea of speaking as well as writing!

## What does the course involve?

In Year 12, you will study the following themes and topics:

### Theme 1: Aspects of German-speaking society

Topics: The changing state of the family; The digital world; Youth culture: fashion and trends, music, television

### Theme 2: Artistic culture in the German-speaking world

Topics: Festivals and traditions; Art and architecture; Cultural life in Berlin, past and present  
You also study a play (currently *der Besuch der Alten Dame* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt)

In Year 13, you will study the following themes and topics:

### Theme 3: Multiculturalism in German-speaking society

Topics: Immigration; Integration; Racism

### Theme 4: Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world

Topics: Germany and the European Union; Politics and youth; German re-unification and its consequences

In addition to the play studied in Year 12, you will study a film (currently **das Leben der Anderen** by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck), and you will also do an individual research project which will then form part of your speaking exam.

## Exam board

We follow the AQA course.

## How is the course assessed?

At the end of Year 13, you will take the following exams:

- Listening, reading and writing paper (50%) – this involves comprehension tasks, summaries and translation based on the topics you have studied in Year 12 and 13. An advantage at A Level is that you will have control of the audio in the listening part of the exam.
- Writing paper (20%) – this involves writing 2 essays of approximately 300 words on the literature book and film that you studied.
- Speaking exam (30%) – you will do a speaking card on one of the topics from Year 12 or 13, and then you will present the findings of your research project and discuss this in more detail.

## What can an A Level in German lead to?

An A Level in German will go well with any combination of subjects at university. We have even had people use an A Level in a language as part of their package for medicine at university. It will also make it easier for you to consider studying abroad, which could be a much cheaper option to consider.

Having an A Level in German will also open many doors to you after school and university and will be hugely valued by employers, whether or not you end up directly using your language skills. You are likely to earn more money, whatever job you do, and you may even get to travel or live abroad as part of your work.

Germany is a world leader in many industries, including engineering, technology and manufacturing, and German is one of the three official working languages of the European Union. If you do want to pursue languages as a career, there are lots of things you can go on to do. Here are just a few examples:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| • translation and interpreting services | • marketing & sales     |
| • journalism & broadcasting             | • tourism & hospitality |
| • diplomatic services                   | • civil service         |
| • international business & finance      | • publishing            |

## What skills will be developed in the German A Level course?

First and foremost, you will develop your communication skills, as learning a language involves the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will also develop a number of other skills:

You will develop research skills when doing independent reading and listening work for your speaking exam.

- You will learn to work independently and to manage deadlines.
- Learning new vocabulary will help you to improve your memory – this can even help to lower your risk of developing dementia in old age!
- Analysing grammatical structures will help you to develop your problem-solving skills.
- You will develop your creativity skills, as you will need to be able to think of different and creative ways to express yourself.
- You will develop your multitasking skills as you are required to switch between more than one language.
- You will even improve your knowledge of English, as you learn about the grammar of a new language.





# HISTORY

## Why study History?

A Level History provides students with not only a range of intellectual skills but also an opportunity to look at other and earlier societies, their politics, social and economic structures, culture and ideologies.

At LHS we study European History from 1450 – 1499 (Wars of the Roses) and from 1789 – 1871 (NEA), giving students a wide-ranging introduction to the complexities of Europe's past. Moreover, we offer the study of US history from 1865 – 1975, allowing students to explore change and continuity from the Era of Reconstruction to the presidency of Nixon. The course comprises both breadth (USA 1865 – 1975) and depth (the Wars of the Roses 1450–1499) studies as well as a coursework element focusing on the years 1789 – 1871.

The course focuses on the development of states and the different forms they can take, the role of individuals as well as ideas in the past and looks at the various ways power can be exercised. Teaching focuses not just on acquiring knowledge but also an understanding of the past; not just on developing the relevant exam skills but also on forming and expressing opinions in discussion.

## Entry requirements

There are no formal entry requirements but if you have studied GCSE History, we would expect you to have secured at least a grade 7.

## What does the course involve?

### **Unit 1: The making of a Superpower: USA 1865 – 1975** **Breadth Study**

#### **Year 12 USA 1865 – 1920**

We look at the politics, social and economic developments and culture following the American Civil War and change and continuity throughout the Gilded Age. Moreover, we explore populism, progressivism and imperialism from 1890 – 1920.

#### **Year 13 USA 1920 – 1975**

We examine US politics, domestic and foreign developments throughout the course of World War 1 and World War 2. Furthermore, we explore the development of the USA as a superpower by 1975 through analysis of economic change and developments, as well as foreign events during the Cold War.

### **Unit 2: The Wars of the Roses 1450 – 1499** **Depth Study**

#### **Year 12 1450 – 1471**

We examine the origins of the Wars of the Roses and the triumph of the House of York to 1471

#### **Year 13 1471 – 1499**

We look at the reign of Edward IV; the downfall of Yorkist rule (1483–6) and the consolidation of Henry VII's power.

### **Unit 3: Italian unification and German unification, 1789 – 1871 (NEA)**

## Coursework

We focus on the impact of the French Revolution in the creation of new ideologies and nation states in both Italy and Germany, examining the role of ideas in driving historical change and the impact of individuals.

## Exam board

AQA

## How is the course assessed?

- Units 1 and 2 are examined at the end of Year 13. There is one 150-minute exam per unit.
- A Coursework essay is submitted towards the end of the Easter term in Year 13.

## What can an A Level in History lead to? What skills will be developed in the A Level course?

History is a highly regarded A Level subject which works alongside a wide range of other subjects, both Humanities and Sciences as well as Social Sciences. As well as functioning as a very effective of grasp of detail, the skills of analysis and communication, which you will refine, are hugely transferable and would prove handy in the study of any number of subjects and in the course of pretty much any career, including Law, finance, the civil service, journalism etc.



# LATIN

## Why study Latin?

Some of the greatest works of literature, history, philosophy and science were written in Latin. Moreover, the legacy of the Roman world - its language, literature and culture - is all around us; from the influence of Latin on languages such as English, French, Spanish and Italian, to its presence in our legal and political systems; the influence of Roman culture and society on western literature, from Shakespeare to JK Rowling; and so much more.

Latin is a demanding A Level subject - this is one of many reasons why it is valued so highly by universities and employers alike - but it is also a very rewarding one. It cultivates precision of thought, develops students' appreciation of their own language and culture, and fosters a deeper understanding of and engagement with literature through the study and critical appreciation of the set texts. Forget about learning a language simply to pass vocabulary tests or to translate grammar sentences. By reading these texts in the original language, you will be able to see inside the minds of Roman poets, orators, historians and/or philosophers. Your privileged entry into this fascinating world is what makes studying Latin at A Level so rewarding and we hope that you will learn to share at least some of the excitement and enthusiasm that your Classics teachers feel for this subject.

## Entry requirements

Normally students are advised to have attained a grade 7 or above in their Latin GCSE in order successfully to pursue the subject at A Level.

## What does the course involve?

- **Latin Language:** This is very much a continuation of what you have studied up until now in Latin. There is not a huge amount more grammar to learn - after all, you have already successfully read Tacitus and Virgil in the (albeit lightly adapted) original at GCSE level and they didn't hold back to make it accessible for Year 11 students a couple of thousand years later... At A Level, the passages for translation will be taken from two specified authors, namely Ovid and Livy. You will also start to learn to translate from English into Latin, but there is no compulsion to do this in the A Level examination itself.
- **Latin Literature:** You will study one prose set text and one verse set text in Year 12 and one additional prose text and one additional verse text in Year 13. In 2022-2024, the texts on offer include Cicero **Pro Caelio**, a spirited defence speech which includes the time-honoured excoriating attack on the character and morals of Clodia Metelli; Tacitus **Annals XII**, covering the marriage of the emperor Claudius to his 4th wife, Agrippina; little does he know that over the next six years she will build her power and destroy her opponents, until she is ready for her greatest crime - the murder of Claudius himself to enable the accession of her son Nero; Virgil **Aeneid II**, the fall of Troy, as retold by the Trojan hero Aeneas; Juvenal Satire 6, the longest and most famous of his sixteen satires.

## Exam board

OCR H443

## How is the course assessed?

The A Level qualification comprises four externally assessed written examinations:

Unseen translation	1 hour 45 minutes.	33% of total A Level
Prose composition or comprehension	1 hour 15 minutes.	17% of total A Level
Prose literature	2 hours.	25% of total A Level
Verse literature	2 hours.	25% of total A Level

## What can an A Level in Latin lead to?

Latin is obviously an advantage for anyone wishing to read Classics at university but is also a subject valued in its own right by admissions tutors and employers. It is well respected for its intellectual integrity and goes well with both arts and science subjects. Previous A Level Latin students have gone on to read a wide variety of subjects at university, including Classics, Modern Languages, History, Medicine, Biological Sciences, Theology, English Literature, Law, and Music, to name but a few!

## What skills will be developed in the Latin A Level course?

The Latin A Level course promotes the development of a wide range of skills that are highly sought-after by both universities and employers. Language work encourages analytical and problem-solving skills, while the challenge of conveying nuance and finding the *mot juste* promotes intellectual flexibility and a sensitive appreciation of language. Study of the literature reinforces these skills while also developing your ability to appreciate the literary techniques, styles and genres of the prescribed authors and your ability to articulate an informed response to the material studied, using a range of appropriate evidence to construct coherent, logical and persuasive arguments and evidence-based judgements.

**Latin is taught jointly with Loughborough Grammar School.**





# MATHEMATICS

## Why study Maths?

Mathematics, apart from its own inherent values, supports a wide range of subjects and can be studied to complement most other subjects. Sciences such as Biology, Chemistry and Physics use many mathematical techniques, and subjects such as Geography, Psychology and Sociology are also likely to have components which will be far more easily mastered by those with prior study of Mathematics.

For Maths and Engineering courses, A Level Maths is a must.

We have usually one trip which is a visit to the Maths Inspiration Lectures, where eminent mathematicians discuss the real-life usage of Maths (this incurs a small additional cost, added to the fee bill).

You will need a new calculator (Casio FX-991CW) which costs about £30. If you're intending to go on to study Maths or Engineering at university, a graphical calculator would be useful, we would recommend the Casio FX-CG50 which costs about £100.

## Entry requirements

If you have excelled at IGCSE and you enjoy the subject, then A Level Maths is for you.

To study A Level Maths you will need to have achieved an 8 or 9 at GCSE. Students achieving a grade 7 will be considered on an individual basis.

## What does the course involve?

The A Level course is linear and consists of two thirds pure maths and one third applied maths. The applied section is split evenly between mechanics topics and statistics topics. The pure maths covers algebraic techniques, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, series and elementary calculus. The topics covered in statistics are probability, distributions and hypothesis testing. Mechanics covers kinematics and Newton's laws of motion.

## Exam board

Edexcel 9MA0

## How is the course assessed?

There are three exams, each two hours long. Two covering the pure content and one covering the applied content. They are each worth a third of the overall mark.

### **What can an A Level in Maths lead to?**

Maths and Further Maths are obviously needed if choosing to study Maths at university. However, the content studied in Maths is applicable to many fields of academic study such as geography, psychology, sports science, engineering, economics, medicine, scientific research, actuarial work, statistical services and teaching.

### **What skills will be developed in the Maths A Level course?**

Mathematics students become better at thinking logically and analytically. Through solving problems you develop resilience and are able to think creatively and strategically. The writing of structured solutions, proof and justification of results help you to formulate reasoned arguments and importantly you will have excellent numeracy skills and the ability to process and interpret data. All of this will be of value to you in higher education and beyond.



# FURTHER MATHS

## Why study Further Maths?

Further Maths is a highly desirable A Level, if not required, by many top universities for Mathematics, Science and Engineering courses, as well as Computing and Economics. It must be studied with A Level Maths.

## Entry requirements

To study A Level Further Maths, you need to have achieved a grade 9 at GCSE. Students achieving a grade 8 will be considered on an individual basis.

## Timetable Considerations

From Sept 2022 we will, whenever possible, timetable the Further Mathematicians' timetables so that all Further Maths pupils are blocked in the same Maths and Further Maths sets, taking up two of our four timetable blocks in total.

What this means is that we are able to teach an integrated and continuous Maths and Further Maths curriculum for the next two years across these combined 20 periods as one single class, rather than having to teach the qualifications as separate classes.

One note on this though, is that it means it might not be possible for a girl to step down from Further Maths but still maintain her other curriculum choices of Maths plus two other subjects. Over the weeks both Maths and Further Maths topics will be covered in these lessons, which will be a less smooth delivery if a girl is just wanting to access the Maths A Level content in time.

Choosing Further Maths requires a firm commitment by the girls in this class.

## What does the course involve?

The course is linear and split into 50% Core Pure Maths which is compulsory and two 25% options which can be taken from Further Pure Maths 1, Further Pure Maths 2, Further Statistics 1, Further Statistics 2, Further Mechanics 1, Further Mechanics 2, Decision Mathematics 1 and Decision Mathematics 2. Core Pure Maths covers complex numbers, matrices and further vectors, hyperbolic functions and differential equations. The options are chosen after discussion with the class, the most usual combination is Further Statistics 1 and Further Mechanics 1.

## Exam board

Edexcel 9FMO

## How is the course assessed?

There are four exams, each 90 minutes long. Two cover the core pure content, one for each of the options.

### **What can an A Level in Maths and/or Further Maths lead to?**

Maths and Further Maths are obviously needed if choosing to study Maths at university. However, the content studied in Maths and Further Maths is applicable to many fields of academic study such as geography, psychology, sports science, engineering, economics, medicine, scientific research, actuarial work, statistical services and teaching.

### **What skills will be developed in the Maths and/or Further Maths A Level course?**

Mathematics students become better at thinking logically and analytically. Through solving problems, you develop resilience and are able to think creatively and strategically. The writing of structured solutions, proof and justification of results help you to formulate reasoned arguments and importantly you will have excellent numeracy skills and the ability to process and interpret data. All of this will be of value to you in higher education and beyond.



# MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

## What is Music Technology A Level about?

The Music Technology A Level course provides students with a grounding in both the theory and history of Music Technology and its practical application through a range of coursework-based tasks. Pupils will learn to sequence, record and arrange using modern, professional-standard technology. This course has an emphasis on practical projects making use of our brand new, state-of-the-art recording studio.

## Why should I choose Music Technology A Level?

If you have an interest in becoming a sound engineer, record producer or working in visual and sound media then this course is for you. However, if you are also interested in learning how the music you listen to every day is created and recorded then you will find this course fascinating.

## What will you need to do?

### Recording

Students will produce one recording, chosen from a list of 10 songs, consisting of a minimum of 5 instruments. They will record each instrument and then edit, process and mix them using appropriate sequencing software.

### Technology-based composition

Using a combination of sampled, recorded and MIDI tracks in imaginative and creative ways, students will create, edit and structure an entirely technology-based composition. Scan the code to listen to some examples from previous Music Technology students:



### Listening and analysing

A theory-based unit with a listening paper at the end. Students will develop their listening and analysing skill through the study of a range of production techniques and the development of Music Technology in the last century. They will cover such genres as jazz, blues, rock 'n' roll, rock, punk, metal, soul, disco and funk, reggae, acoustic and folk, commercial pop, urban, electronic and dance, computer games and film.

### Producing and analysing

A techniques-based unit with a practical paper at the end. Students will combine their learning from the other units to work with unedited audio and MIDI materials to process and correct them using the skills they have learnt, culminating in a series of audio bounces and a final mix.

## What can I do with an A Level in Music Technology?

There are many career and higher education options open to anyone who achieves this qualification. Previous students have gained places on the highly prestigious Tonmeister degree course at Surrey University, famous for training the UK's finest sound engineers, as well as places at universities and conservatoires to study a range of technical and creative music degrees. This A Level specifically opens doors to careers in the world of music, the creative arts, media and film production. The A Level also provides you with many transferrable skills that will prepare you for the demands of higher education and the world of work.

**Music Technology is taught centrally in the joint Music department across the Foundation**





# MUSIC

## Why study Music?

Music A Level is an incredibly diverse course, encompassing a variety of practical and academic approaches to the study of music. The varied nature of the course enables students to develop highly desirable skills in areas such as independent learning, self-management, teamwork, problem solving, communication and creativity. Music A Level can be a pathway to almost any degree course. Taught in mixed classes across all three senior schools in our state-of-the-art facilities, the additional support for any musician at the Loughborough Schools Foundation is unrivalled. In addition to the timetabled allocation (10 periods a week) most students will be entitled to a repertoire session (half an hour a week) supporting performance skills. There are also numerous ensembles and choirs available for students to access, which all play a big part in developing any musician, and should be seen as a must for an A Level musician.

Music A Level is structured around the same 3 components that have been studied at GCSE: performance, composition, listening and appraising.

We follow the AQA course [www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music) which is an interesting and exciting course, with an element of choice to the topics that you learn.

## Listening, analysis and contextual understanding

This covers 3 Areas of Study taken from: Western Classical Tradition (compulsory), Pop, Music for Media, Music for Theatre, Jazz, Contemporary Traditional Music or Art Music since 1910. This is assessed by exam with listening and written questions.

## Music performance

Solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist and/or vocalist and/or music production lasting a minimum of 10 minutes. Scan the code to watch performances by past A Level Musicians



## Composition

This consists of two pieces: composition to a brief and free composition.

## Future Pathways

In addition to obvious career paths such as being a performing musician, a composer, a teacher, a music administrator, a concert venue manager, or an artist agent, all of the qualities developed during the course would also enable you to be a better lawyer, doctor, politician, TV presenter and so on - there are no barriers! Previous A Level Music students have studied at universities including Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, King's College London and conservatoires; studying Music, Engineering, Medicine, Law, Geography, Psychology and many other courses.

**Music is taught centrally in the joint Music department across the Foundation**



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## Why study PE?

Studying A Level Physical Education will give you a fantastic insight into the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform or coach a sport through the non-exam assessment component, you will also develop a wide-ranging knowledge into the how and why of physical activity and sport. The combination of physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for students. You can perform, and then through the academic study improve your performance or coaching through application of the theory.

Physical Education is studied through a range of different contexts and the impact it has on both ours and other's everyday lives. You will learn the reasons why we do things, why some people outperform others, mentally and physically. You will also delve into the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs and the influence that modern technology is having in and on physical activity and sport.

The development of our Parkin Sports Facility offers a wonderful environment for our students to work in. Students will have their theory lessons in our purpose-built classroom, as well as having the opportunity to use our strength and conditioning gym and sports hall for their practical lessons.

## Entry requirements

Ideally you will have studied PE at GCSE, although this is not essential. A grade 7 or above would be advised at GCSE. If you have not previously taken the subject, then a grade 7 at an equivalent subject such as Biology would be considered.

## What does the course involve?

### **Component 01: Physiological factors affecting performance:**

- 1.1 Applied anatomy and physiology
- 1.2 Exercise physiology
- 1.3 Biomechanics.

### **Component 02: Psychological factors affecting performance:**

- 2.1 Skill acquisition
- 2.2 Sports psychology.

### **Component 03: Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport:**

- 3.1 Sport and Society
- 3.2 Contemporary issues in physical activity and sport.

### **Component 04: Performance in physical education (NEA)**

- 4.1 Performance or coaching of an activity taken from the approved lists.

## Exam board

OCR (H555)

## How is the course assessed?

- Non-Exam Assessment (NEA). One practical performance, as either a coach or a performer in an activity.
- NEA. One Performance Analysis task.
- A total of four hours assessment split over three examination papers (2 x 1 hour and 1 x 2 hour) taken at the end of the two-year course.
- A wide range of question types including single mark, short answer and extended response questions.
- The opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of both theory and performance skills in both your NEA and through the examinations

## What can an A Level in PE lead to?

A Level Physical Education is an excellent base for a university degree in sports science, sports management, healthcare, or exercise and health. Physical Education can also complement further study in biology, human biology, physics, psychology, nutrition, sociology and many more.

A Level Physical Education can open up a range of career opportunities including sports development, sports coaching, physiotherapy, personal training or becoming one of the next generation of PE teachers. The transferable skills you learn through your study of Physical Education, such as decision making and independent thinking are also useful in any career path you choose to take.

## What skills will be developed in the PE A Level course?

Throughout the two-year course you will have the opportunity to develop many transferable skills including decision making, psychological understanding of people, independent thinking, problem solving and analytical skills as well as thinking and acting under pressure.

**PE is taught jointly with Loughborough Amherst School and Loughborough Grammar School and is offered cross-Foundation.**



# PHYSICS

## Why study Physics?

Studying Physics helps us to understand so much that exists and happens around us, from the largest of galaxies, to the smallest of particles that make up atoms. It is one of the most relevant subjects for the 21st century as the human race seeks to explore beyond the Earth and solve the world's energy and climate challenges. It helps us to be creative, understand and apply principles to new situations, inventions and solutions, whether in the fields of engineering, medicine, energy production, technology, communication, computing, sport, transport and many, many more.

Understanding Physics helps us to explain why many things happen, and how everything works. Studying Physics develops a skill set that will transfer to many careers, which is why it is accepted as an entry A Level onto so many university courses. It helps you to analyse, interpret and apply information as well as developing the skills of problem solving and critical thinking. The knowledge developed helps you to explain how things happen, or how things work, or to be an inventor.

In the 'real world' it is very rare that scientists work within a single discipline. Physics complements all of the other sciences including maths.

## Entry requirements

You will need to achieve a grade 8 or above in GCSE Physics and a grade 7 or above in Mathematics.

More importantly, we would like you to have an enquiring mind and be curious about how things work. You should have enthusiasm and commitment and enjoy practical work.

## What does the course involve?

The course is broken down into topics across the 2 years.

In the first year we study fundamental particles, waves, optics, forces, motion, materials, electricity and quantum phenomena.

In the second year we study electrical and magnetic fields, gravity fields and orbital motion, harmonic motion, capacitance, electromagnetic induction, nuclear physics and thermal physics. We also study one option from astrophysics, medical physics or engineering physics.

Throughout the course we develop practical and analytical skills as well as the ability to apply principles to new situations.

## Exam board

AQA Physics 7408

### How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed through 3 final exam papers. Papers 1 and 2 are 34% of the total marks each and cover the core topics. Paper 3 is 32% and covers the assessment of practical and analytical skills as well as the content of the option topic studied.

### What can an A Level in Physics lead to?

A Level Physics is a gateway subject into the vast majority of university courses. The skills developed are easily transferrable into many different academic and career areas including law, economics and finance.

It is also a very useful entry qualification for any science or applied science course or career. These would include medicine, medical physics, environmental sciences, renewable energy, earth science, astronomy, a broad range of engineering courses, forensics, communication technology, space technology, plus of course the many specialisms within physics such as lasers, particle physics, astrophysics, geophysics, planetary physics, nuclear physics and quantum computing to name just a few.

It is an essential entry to most engineering courses.

### What skills will be developed in the Physics A Level course?

You will develop a wide range of transferable skills including Teamwork; Technical ability; Problem solving; Time-management; Organisation; Numeracy; Communication; Attention to detail; Understanding technical plans; Analytics; Discipline and IT.





# POLITICS

## Why study Politics?

Few subjects are more central to your everyday life than 'government and politics'. Politics dominates domestic and foreign news. Political decisions determine how you are educated, housed, cared for in hospital, kept secure from crime and, regardless of your hopes and aspirations for the future, it will shape the society you inherit as adults. In short Politics is arguably THE definitive study of the human condition; self-interested, but social creatures, we seek security and order through complex systems of governance and government.

Politics is the study of the state, government and nation. It deals extensively with the practice and theory of political systems and political behaviour. Academically codified in the 19th Century, the study of politics originated 2,500 years ago with Plato and Aristotle, thus making Politics one of the oldest subjects ever studied.

Ultimately it studies how we organise, cooperate, and seek to settle conflict. This is a discursive subject that requires you to develop an interest in current affairs. In Politics you'll study the real world and develop skills to make sense of that world in a mature co-educational environment that will support your preparation for undergraduate study and beyond.

## Entry requirements

Politics is a prose-based subject, so a grade 6 in a humanities subject is advised, as is an interest in politics and current affairs.

## What does the course involve?

Year 12 focus is essentially on UK government and politics, including:

1. Democracy & participation
2. The constitution
3. Political parties
4. Pressure groups
5. Parliament
6. Electoral systems
7. Prime Minister & executive
8. Voting behaviour & the media
9. Relations between the branches
10. Core political ideas: Liberalism, Conservatism & Socialism, Feminism & Nationalism

Year 13 focus is essentially on US government and politics, including:

1. US Constitution and federalism
2. US Congress
3. US Presidency
4. US Supreme Court and civil rights
5. US democracy and participation
6. Comparative theories

## Exam board

Edexcel: Please find the detailed course specification here: [https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A\\_Level/Politics/2017/Specification\\_and\\_sample\\_assessments/A-level-Politics-Specification.pdf](https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A_Level/Politics/2017/Specification_and_sample_assessments/A-level-Politics-Specification.pdf)

9PLO/01 **UK Politics & Core Political Ideas**  
9PLO/02 **UK Government & Non-core Political Ideas**  
9PLO/03A **Comparative Politics: USA**

## How is the course assessed?

3 X 2 hour exams (one for each unit)

### Subject co-curricular activities include:

- Politics Society – Cross Foundation
- Model UN/EYP
- Year 13 Congress-to-Campus (Conference)
- Year 12 Parliament/Supreme Court trip
- Bi-annual USA trip

## What can an A Level in Politics lead to?

Politics is utterly compatible with whatever other subjects you opt to study, however History, Economics, English, Classics, RS, Modern Languages, Geography are common combinations.

Politics will also prepare you for many forms of employment, given you will gain analytical and practical skills that are invaluable in a contemporary competitive employment market. Occupations that view Politics students as being a real asset include: researchers, broadcasters, journalists, local government officers, civil servants, pollsters, lobbyists, teachers, lawyers, financiers & bankers, the health service, public relations, the police and military, management training, advertising and a wide range of business opportunities.

## What skills will be developed in the Politics A Level course?

### Analysis & Critical Awareness

Politics is about analysis of complex and often contradictory data and being able to construct and defend arguments derived from such data. You will be able to articulate and defend your arguments in the face of criticism.

### Communication

You will be able to communicate effectively in writing and verbally as a result of studying Politics. You will be required to write essays and reports independently, in addition to giving presentations and contribute to academic discussions. You will become more confident in your ability to communicate by studying Politics.

**Politics is taught at Loughborough Grammar School and is offered cross-Foundation**



# PSYCHOLOGY

## Why study Psychology?

Psychology is the **scientific study of people, the mind, behaviour and experience**. It is a thriving academic discipline with the opportunity to explore key features of everyday life that are of direct relevance. Psychologists and psychological research have a big impact on all aspects of public life, particularly in areas such as education, health, the economy, industry, and the criminal justice system. Students studying psychology will learn to assess and analyse research evidence for its credibility and to consider how usefully the research and results can be applied to change behaviour in a practical way.

## Entry requirements

You don't need any prior knowledge of Psychology in order to start the A Level course, but you do need a solid complement of GCSEs. The requirement to write essays, in which you present argument for and against an issue, means that you should have a good grasp of the English language. As Psychology is a science, a GCSE grade 6 in a Science subject is required, and you do need to be comfortable with numbers, therefore a GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics is required. Most important, though, is that you have a genuine curiosity about the way humans think and behave.

## What does the course involve?

**Social Psychology** focuses on the social interactions people have with each other. We function fully as people in the company of, and with the help of, others. Amongst other issues, this course explains why we conform and why we are likely to obey authority figures.

**Cognitive Psychology** looks at how we perceive and interpret the world around us. Cognitive psychologists are interested in 'thinking' and are therefore concerned with internal mental processes, and how those processes are involved in the development of behaviours such as perception and intelligence. One of the most important topics is memory.

**Developmental Psychology** considers how people develop and change from before they are born, throughout their lives. At A Level, the focus is on the development of an infant's attachment to a primary care giver, and the problems that occur when this does not happen.

**Psychopathology** studies the causes of mental disorders, such as OCD, Phobias and Depression. If we can understand what causes these disorders, then we can hopefully develop ways of treating them, so psychopathologists are also interested in therapies.

**Biological Psychology** looks at the role of evolutionary forces and genetics in behaviour. It investigates how the nervous system and hormones work, how the brain functions, and how changes in these can affect behaviour.

The AQA specification includes option topics. You (or rather your teachers) choose 3 options to look at in detail:

- 1 of **Relationships** or **Gender** or **Cognition and development**
- 1 of **Schizophrenia** or **Eating behaviour** or **Stress**
- 1 of **Aggression** or **Forensic psychology** or **Addiction**

Finally, to find things out Psychologists use a variety of **Research Methods and statistics** and A Level Psychology deals with how experiments are designed and analysed.

## Exam board

AQA Psychology

## How is the course assessed?

A Level Psychology is a linear subject, assessed at the end of two years of study. The AQA examination board uses three examinations (duration of 2 hours) as an assessment. Each of these exams comprises several short questions, essay questions and scenarios to which you are required to apply your knowledge.

**Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology** (Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, and Psychopathology).

**Paper 2: Psychology in Context** (Approaches in Psychology, Research Methods and Biopsychology).

**Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology** (Section A is a compulsory section on Issues and Debates in Psychology. Sections B, C, D each contain questions on the in-depth option topics you have studied).

## What can an A Level in Psychology lead to?

Psychology offers an ideal introduction for those interested in studying Psychology at degree level. It also supports applications for almost any science-based degree course and an equally wide range of humanities courses. Studying psychology develops transferable and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide range of career opportunities in many areas including health and caring professions, management, education, criminology, marketing, and advertising.

## What skills will be developed in the Psychology A Level course?

An important skill you will learn is how to evaluate conflicting theories about the topics you cover, and the studies that support, or challenge, them. Discussions about research findings will allow you to develop this skill and engage in practical psychological research will help you to improve your knowledge of the methods psychologists use.

**Psychology is taught at Loughborough High School and is offered to Loughborough Grammar School pupils.**



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## Why study Religious Studies?

Religious Studies is a subject where the questions posed are as significant as the answers given. The syllabus combines three aspects, drawing on religion, philosophy of religion and ethics. As part of the course you will have the opportunity to attend conferences presented by philosophers and listen to their explanations and ideas, together with being given an opportunity to question them in person. You will be expected to wrangle with difficult philosophical and ethical questions for which there is not necessarily an agreed answer. You will have to evaluate and form your own opinions in the light of the scholars and their theories which will be covered. It will also give you an insight into the role and significance of the Christian religion and an understanding of key ideas and beliefs within a modern context.

## Entry requirements

Ideally you will have studied RS at GCSE level, although this is not essential. A grade 7 or above would be expected at GCSE. If you have not previously taken the subject, then a grade 7 at an equivalent subject such as History or Classical Civilisation would be considered.

It is not a requirement that you should have any specific religious views or commitments. An open mind and a willingness to embrace new and challenging ideas has been the common denominator of the students who have enjoyed A Level Religious Studies in the past.

## What does the course involve?

### **Component 1 - Section A: Philosophy of Religion**

- Arguments for the existence of God
- Evil and suffering
- Religious experience
- Religious language
- Miracles
- Self and life after death

### **Component 1 - Section B: Ethics and religion**

- Ethical theories
- Issues of human life and death
- Issues of non-human life and death
- Introduction to meta ethics
- Free will and moral responsibility
- Conscience
- Bentham and Kant



## **Component 2 – Section A: Study of Christianity**

Sources of wisdom and authority

God

Self, death and afterlife

Good conduct and key moral principles

Expressions of religious identity

Christianity, gender and sexuality

Christianity and science

Christianity and the challenge of secularization

Christianity, migration and religious pluralism.

## **Component 2 – Section B: Dialogue between Christianity and Philosophy**

### **– Section C: Dialogue between Christianity and Ethics.**

## **Exam board**

AQA Religious Studies (7062)

## **How is the course assessed?**

Two three-hour written examinations are used to assess the course.

**Paper 1** – Philosophy and Ethics. Four questions will be completed in both sections. Each section is worth 25%. Questions are worth either 10 or 15 marks.

**Paper 2** – Christianity and the Dialogues. Four questions are completed in the Christianity section worth 25% of the total course (again worth 10 or 15 marks). The final 25% is derived from the Dialogues paper which consists of longer questions worth 25 marks; two questions will be completed. These questions assess the interface between Christianity and both ethics and philosophy.

## **What can an A Level in Religious Studies lead to?**

Religious Studies students have previously progressed to a variety of university courses and careers beyond further education. It has proved a useful subject for those pursuing careers in law, journalism, social services and teaching. RS has often been used as a contrast to science subjects by those looking to do medicine and dentistry. The link here being that all these areas involve working with people and an appreciation of their views and perceptions of life, death and key beliefs is invaluable.

## **What skills will be developed in the Religious Studies A Level course?**

Students will develop their ability to read, research and assimilate new materials. They will develop skills in writing clear, logical and well supported written answers, together with the opportunity to express their views in discussion and debate. Religious Studies will present a variety of ideas and theories which enable the individual to reflect on their own views together with an opportunity to critically evaluate a wide range of alternative perspectives.



# SOCIOLOGY

## Why study Sociology?

Sociology is the study of the society in which we live. Studying this subject will help you to develop a wide range of perspectives on the way we live our lives and will enable you to adopt a critical approach to understanding important issues that affect us.

Sociology will help you to develop a good understanding of how society has been formed and the impact of this on structures such as the education system and families.

By learning Sociology, you can gain a better understanding of the complexities within society, how social systems, organisations, and institutions work, and you will become more aware of our own beliefs and biases.

## Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in English at GCSE

## Exam Board

AQA

## Course Content

In Year 12, you will study topics on Families and Households, Research Methods and Education, with an end of topic exam after each section.

In Year 13, you will study Crime and Deviance, Theory and Methods and either Beliefs in Society or The Media.

## How will you be assessed?

There are three written exams at the end of the course as follows:

- Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods – 2 hours (80 marks)
- Paper 2: Topics in Sociology: Families and Beliefs/Media in Society – 2 hours (80 marks)
- Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods – 2 hours (80 marks)

Each exam accounts for one third of your final A Level grade. Extended writing is expected on each paper and good literacy skills are important.

## How is Sociology useful for your future?

Studying sociology provides you with a range of skills that employers look for, including communication, interpersonal, problem-solving and analytical skills.

A Level Sociology can be very useful for a variety of career paths. For example, the Police; Local and central government; Charitable, counselling and voluntary organisations; Public relations, journalism and communications; Media and marketing; Law firms and the criminal justice system; Teaching and education; Advertising and management.

**Sociology is taught at Loughborough Amherst School and is offered as a cross-foundation subject.**



# SPANISH

## Why study Spanish?

Studying Spanish to A Level is a huge plus in our increasingly international world. It is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, and it is also the most popular language to learn in the United States, making it a truly international language. It is one of the most useful languages to learn in the worlds of business and innovation.

You will study a range of topics, including those that emphasise the cultural and social issues in Spanish-speaking countries. You will continue to build on the solid foundations of grammar you have built at GCSE level, and will also explore some books and films in the language. You will enjoy the satisfaction of developing much greater fluency at A Level and will quickly notice that you are able to express yourself in a much broader range of situations than you could at GCSE. You will even find that you can access a range of authentic language on your own, including films, newspaper articles and novels.

If you choose to take A Level Spanish, you will get a whole period every week with a native speaker to concentrate on conversation in addition to your timetabled lessons. The Spanish home-stay trip is still open to you, and you will get so much more out of it at this level. We can also help you to set up work experience placements abroad through the travel company Halsbury, and you will have the opportunity to take part in a range of competitions and extra-curricular activities.

## Entry requirements

You need a minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE Spanish to study Spanish at A Level, though a grade 8 or 9 is preferable. You should also enjoy all aspects of language learning – a good linguist is comfortable with the idea of speaking as well as writing!

## What does the course involve?

In Year 12, you will study the following themes and topics:

### **Theme 1: Aspects of Hispanic society**

Topics: Modern and traditional values; Cyberspace; Equal rights

### **Theme 2: Artistic culture in the Hispanic world**

Topics: Modern day idols; Spanish regional identity; Cultural heritage

You also study a literary text (currently *La casa de Bernarda Alba* by Federico García Lorca).

In Year 13, you will study the following themes and topics:

### **Theme 3: Multiculturalism in Hispanic society**

Topics: Immigration; Racism ; Integration

### **Theme 4: Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world**

Topics: Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens; Monarchies and dictatorships; Popular movements

In addition to the play studied in Year 12, you will study a film (currently **El laberinto del fauno** by Guillermo del Toro), and you will also do an individual research project which will then form part of your speaking exam.

## Exam board

We follow the AQA course.

## How is the course assessed?

At the end of Year 13, you will take the following exams:

- Listening, reading and writing paper (50%) – this involves comprehension tasks, summaries and translation based on the topics you have studied in Year 12 and 13. An advantage at A Level is that you will have control of the audio in the listening part of the exam.
- Writing paper (20%) – this involves writing 2 essays of approximately 300 words on the literature book and film that you studied.
- Speaking exam (30%) – you will do a speaking card on one of the topics from Year 12 or 13, and then you will present the findings of your research project and discuss this in more detail.

## What can an A Level in Spanish lead to?

An A Level in Spanish will go well with any combination of subjects at university. We have even had people use an A Level in a language as part of their package for medicine at university. It will also make it easier for you to consider studying abroad, which could be a much cheaper option to consider.

Having an A Level in Spanish will also open many doors to you after school and university and will be hugely valued by employers, whether or not you end up directly using your language skills. You are likely to earn more money, whatever job you do, and you may even get to travel or live abroad as part of your work.

If you do want to pursue languages as a career, there are lots of things you can go on to do. Here are just a few examples:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| • translation and interpreting services | • marketing & sales     |
| • journalism & broadcasting             | • tourism & hospitality |
| • diplomatic services                   | • civil service         |
| • international business & finance      | • publishing            |

## What skills will be developed in the Spanish A Level course?

First and foremost, you will develop your communication skills, as learning a language involves the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will also develop a number of other skills:




- You will develop research skills when doing independent reading and listening work for your speaking exam.
- You will learn to work independently and to manage deadlines.
- Learning new vocabulary will help you to improve your memory – this can even help to lower your risk of developing dementia in old age!
- Analysing grammatical structures will help you to develop your problem-solving skills.
- You will develop your creativity skills, as you will need to be able to think of different and creative ways to express yourself.
- You will develop your multitasking skills as you are required to switch between more than one language.
- You will even improve your knowledge of English, as you learn about the grammar of a new language.



**LOUGHBOROUGH**  
**High School**

Loughborough High School  
Burton Walks  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire  
LE11 2DU

T: 01509 212348  
E: [high.office@lsf.org](mailto:high.office@lsf.org)

 [@LboroHigh](https://twitter.com/LboroHigh)  
 [@LboroHigh](https://www.instagram.com/LboroHigh)  
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