

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

2012-2013
Guernsey Grammar School
and
Sixth Form Centre
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.....& Mr J Watkin
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Assistant Sixth Form ManagerMrs R Surridge-Smale
Careers and Guidance Manager.....Mr J Banks
International Baccalaureate CoordinatorMs N Diplock
Examinations Officer.....Mr S Nicholson
Additional Needs Coordinator.....Mrs R Kellow
Head GirlAmber Forsey
Head BoyJonathan Le Ray
Deputy Head GirlGrace Hodgkinson
.....Lydia Langlois
Deputy Head Boy.....Harry Ingrouille
.....Harry Martel

Dates of Terms – 2012 - 2013

Autumn TermTuesday 4th September to Friday 21st December 2012
Half-termMonday 22nd October to Friday 26th October 2012
Spring TermTuesday 8th January to Friday 22nd March 2013
Half-termMonday 11th February to Friday 15th February 2013
Summer TermTuesday 9th April to Friday 19th July 2013
May Day Holiday...Monday 6th May 2013
Liberation Day Thursday 9th May 2013
Half-termMonday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2013

School Day

Morning Registration8.40 am Morning school ends1.15 pm
Afternoon Registration 2.30 pm Afternoon school ends 3.30 pm

TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

All applicants to the Sixth Form should make their application through the Central Admissions System, administered by careers teachers in their school.

Timetable of Events:

September	Joint talks by Sixth Form Centre and College of Further Education to year 11 students
22 November	IB Students' and Parents' Evening
23 & 30 November	Year 11 planned visits by feeder schools to the Sixth Form Centre. Please check with your current school to confirm arrangements
January-February	Individual student interviews take place
Thursday 26 January	The Sixth Form Centre Post 16 Evening at 7.30 pm
Thursday 23 February	The Sixth Form Centre Information Day
Friday 9 March	Closing date for all Post 16 applications
28 & 29 April	The Careers Convention at Beau Sejour
Friday 27 April	Offers sent to all applicants. Copies sent to schools
Friday 4 May	Closing date for acceptance of first choice place
Early July	Requests to schools for GCSE results
Thursday 23 August	GCSE results. Most students will be happy with their results and satisfactorily placed on an AS programme of study. Occasionally difficulties may arise as a result of GCSE grades or indecision over choice. Should this occur, staff will be available to offer possible solutions.

Applicants who do not currently form a part of Year 11 at the Secondary Schools, St. Anne's School or the Guernsey Grammar School & Sixth Form Centre, should contact the Director of Sixth Form directly, who will explain the procedures to be followed.

Mature applicants may qualify for a grant from the Education Department. They should contact the Education Department, who will explain the nature of the grant and those who are entitled to apply for it.

Subject Summaries

Brief outlines for each subject can be found on the following pages. More detailed information will be available from Heads of Department at the Information Day.

CORE VALUES, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Core Values of the Guernsey Grammar School and Sixth Form Centre are to:

- Pursue academic excellence
- Celebrate achievement and participation
- Guide and nurture individual development
- Appreciate cultural diversity
- Promote human rights and responsibilities
- Cherish the community and the environment
- Promote spiritual, moral and ethical values
- Promote loyalty, pride, spirit, belonging and caring

Academic Progress

Guernsey Grammar School and Sixth Form Centre is committed to providing an excellent education for all students enabling them to enjoy and achieve high levels of learning. We address the diverse needs and aspirations of our students, offering an excellent foundation in all aspects of learning, to challenge and prepare them for a successful future.

Personal Development

Guernsey Grammar School and Sixth Form Centre recognises and nurtures each student as a unique person. We are dedicated to developing in our students the qualities and skills necessary to become safe, healthy, confident, self-motivated and independent individuals prepared for the responsibilities of adult life and their own economic well-being.

Tolerance and Awareness

Guernsey Grammar School and Sixth Form Centre actively promotes respect and tolerance as well as environmental and social awareness. We encourage our students to make a positive contribution and become committed and valued members of our school and, by supporting internationalism and inter-culturalism, responsible citizens of the world.

The school will measure its effectiveness by: student, teacher, parent and Education Department feedback, the validation process, external examination results and other performance indicator data, internal monitoring and evaluation procedures and the continuing professional development programme

THE AIM OF SIXTH FORM EDUCATION AT THE SIXTH FORM CENTRE

The Sixth Form Centre seeks to be a caring community committed to the pursuit of excellence, educating each student to high academic standards and for the responsibilities of adult life.

The purposes of post-16 education within the Sixth Form Centre:

- to extend 5-16 education to meet the needs of students by offering a predominantly A level curriculum
- to enable students to achieve a level of examination success which reflects their full potential
- to provide a broad, balanced and flexible curriculum which takes into account the individual's needs, aspirations and abilities
- to provide a learning environment which is stimulating, demanding and enjoyable for both students and staff
- to encourage an enquiring attitude and a respect for learning which students will carry into their adult lives
- to prepare students for higher education and the world of employment
- to provide a learning context in which all subjects, together with the skills, values and experiences they promote, are given equal status
- to provide a happy, caring and supportive community which values the individual
- to recognise the needs of the island community
- to develop an intellectual and spiritual awareness that will help students to cope with a rapidly changing world

SIXTH FORM EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

Guernsey Grammar School opened in 1985 and was designed with a large Sixth Form in mind. In September 2005 the new Sixth Form Centre was opened and the buildings provide a modern, exceptionally pleasant and well resourced environment for staff and students alike. The Sixth Form is currently made up of approximately 435 students from every school in the Bailiwick of Guernsey, of whom over 53% were not previously at the Guernsey Grammar School. The large size of the Sixth Form enables the School to offer a wide range of post-16 courses at AS and A level. All courses are examined in a modular way and lead to an AS level qualification after one year and an A level qualification after two years. The range of subjects means it is possible to develop programmes of study that recognise the strengths and meet the needs and aspirations of individual students.

The Sixth Form Centre provides a high quality post-16 education that is designed to achieve individual excellence in examination results, to give the opportunity for students to participate in a wide variety of activities and short courses to enrich this phase of education and to prepare students for life beyond the Sixth Form.

From September 2012 students will be able to study the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. The IB is for students who wish to study a broad programme which is academically challenging and stimulating.

A noted feature of the school is the friendly atmosphere of cooperation that exists and the supportive relationships among all who work there.

Expectations of students are high and the school is committed, through its programme of teaching and pastoral support, to enable all students to complete their studies successfully and to each individual's full potential. In 2011 the pass rate at A level was 99.3% with 77.9% of the grades at A*-C. Details of the percentage of each grade achieved over the last seven years can be seen in the table below:

% Grades	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
Grade A*						7.6	6.8
Grade A	33.3	33.3	32	23.9	32.5	18.8	17.2
Grade B	30.9	31.3	31	33.1	30.4	31.9	26.9
Grade C	19.6	19.3	23	26.2	24.7	22.8	27.0
Grade D	11.1	11.1	9.4	12.7	9.3	13.7	15.6
Grade E	4.6	4.4	3.5	4.1	3.0	4.3	5.8
Grade U	0.4	0.5	1	0	0	0.8	0.7

Please Note: A full copy of A level results can be found at the end of the prospectus

SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

All students, irrespective of their origins, will find that the Sixth Form experience differs considerably from previous phases of education. The nature of the work, the styles of teaching and learning and the importance of the contribution that the student makes to the organisation of their personal learning differ markedly from their experiences to date. All post 16 programmes of study are challenging and the successful completion of these courses will require a continuing positive commitment from each individual to their own success and to the success of the school in general.

All students have a personal tutor to help them to make a successful transition into the Sixth Form and to derive the maximum benefit from their studies. Students meet with their tutors on a daily basis for registration and twice a week for tutorials. Tutors are responsible for supporting, helping and guiding the students in their care and wherever possible will be involved with their tutor group as part of the Personal Enrichment Programme.

The Sixth Form Centre is committed to a programme of regular monitoring and guidance for students. Students' work is monitored closely and on five occasions throughout their time in the Sixth Form students will have formal grading and discussion sessions with their teachers and tutors that will assess their progress to date and jointly define targets for the future. Student self-assessment plays a large part in the student/tutor discussion because we believe that the student is the person most keenly aware of their own strengths and weaknesses. In addition to these sessions there will also be progress reports, formal written reports and four parents' and students' consultation meetings to ensure the opportunity for dialogue. Parents are, of course, welcome to contact the tutor, Head of Year or the Director of Sixth Form at any time, if there are matters they wish to discuss.

Guidance is linked closely to a policy of ensuring that students have regular information about their progress and where they stand in relation to A level and to reaching targets. Any problems can be identified quickly and advice and support to assist the student to work effectively can be given. Guidance is offered at all stages and becomes increasingly concerned with preparation for application to Higher Education and employment.

EXPECTATIONS

Guernsey Grammar School and Sixth Form Centre is a large educational institution. It consists of over 1,000 students aged between 11 and 18 and we encourage a family atmosphere where all students feel themselves to be part of a strong and mutually supportive whole community. Within this community the two groups of students, namely those aged 11-16 and those in the Sixth Form, are treated differently, although they share the same teaching staff and many of the resources and social facilities.

Dress

There are no uniform requirements in the Sixth Form, but we do expect all students to be smartly and appropriately dressed for a formal and purposeful working atmosphere. For male students this means that they are expected to wear a jacket, trousers, shirt and tie; suits are encouraged. For a female student it means that they are expected to wear a skirt or trousers and smart top; jackets and suits are encouraged. Casual wear, including trainers, denim or sweatshirts, is not appropriate. A more detailed leaflet is available for parents and students.

Punctuality and Attendance

Sixth Form students are full time members of the Guernsey Grammar School and are required to attend school and all lessons punctually. In year 12 students are expected to be present at school from 8.40am until 3.30pm but they may leave the premises during the lunch break (1.15-2.30 pm). In year 13 students are able to study at home during private study sessions in the afternoon with parental consent.

Continued membership of the Sixth Form requires that the conditions outlined above are met.

THE NATURE OF SIXTH FORM WORK

A level work differs considerably from that already experienced at GCSE. It requires a much greater knowledge and understanding of the subject and the teaching methods are likely to vary significantly. The greatest difference experienced by most students is the extent to which they are required to take responsibility for their own learning, to learn to manage their time effectively, to read extensively, to reorder and revise notes continually and to develop a critical self awareness of their own motivation and progress. It is noticeable that those who possess or develop the self discipline required to generate a regular study pattern at an early stage, derive much greater satisfaction and success from their courses.

Every student must be prepared to devote a substantial amount of time to study outside lessons. The exact amount of time will vary with the course and the subject combination but students should be prepared to spend about four hours per subject per week.

THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

The timetable consists of 25 x 55 minute lessons. A normal Sixth Form timetable in year 12 would consist of:

Core Curriculum	AS/GCSE/A level Subjects A maximum of 20 lessons
Wider Curriculum	1 lesson Personal Development 2 lessons Personal Development Options (one must be a physical recreation) 2 Private Study lessons

WIDER CURRICULUM

It is of particular importance in the Sixth Form, where academic studies become increasingly specialised, that the general interests, knowledge and awareness of students remain broadly based.

Personal Development

The Personal Development programme aims to complement the academic work of the Sixth Form by providing students with a curriculum that goes beyond that taught in examined subjects to enable students to experience a broad and balanced education. Wherever possible these sessions will involve the students with their personal tutors, providing a further valuable point of contact between student and tutor.

This teaching is carried out in small discussion groups, supplemented by outside speakers, general debates, dramatic productions, videos and visits out of school. All members of the Sixth Form will have the opportunity to take part in Information Technology sessions during some of their private study lessons.

Personal Enrichment Programme

The Personal Enrichment Programme enables students to select their own combination of options from a wide variety of opportunities offered to them, which will enable them to develop themselves as individuals and gain a wide variety of skills and experiences. These courses allow students to gain additional qualifications, to play an active role in the community, to participate in a range of activities or to pursue a course of study in an area of general interest. The size of the Sixth Form makes it possible to offer a wide range of activities including all the usual team games. Sixth Form students make a major contribution to senior school teams.

Private Study

It is vital that students use time wisely. All students following A level courses will have some time at school when they are not being taught. In Year 12 this time may be very limited but in Year 13 this may increase. We expect that private study time is used wisely and positively. During year 12 all private study should be taken on the school premises, unless specific permission has been given by a member of staff. During Year 13 students with private study sessions in an afternoon may study at home with parental permission.

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SIXTH FORM

Sixth Form students have a vital part to play in the life of the school and we believe that they and the school benefit if they participate in the wide range of activity which the school has to offer. We want Sixth Form students to develop into mature, reliable young people, happy in their school environment and, therefore able to fulfil their potential, both academically and socially.

There are many areas of school life which offer the opportunity for involvement and leadership. Such activities include:

- **Prefects:** All members of the Sixth Form are offered the opportunity to become prefects and to contribute towards the strong sense of community across all years and to provide further opportunities for them to work in areas of interest with staff and other students.
- **Headboy and Headgirl:** These appointments and those of their deputies are made annually, by the Headteacher, from the members of Year 13, after consultation with staff and with Year 13.
- **Houses:** There are many opportunities for Sixth Form students to develop their organisation skills by becoming involved in the running of House events.
- **Sixth Form Forum:** This consists of a group of Sixth Form students elected by their peers who meet regularly to discuss matters pertinent to the Sixth Form and to organise social and charitable events. All members of the Sixth Form are expected to contribute £10.00 to a Sixth Form fund which is jointly administered by members of the Sixth Form and staff.
- **Clubs and Societies:** There are many opportunities for members of the Sixth Form to be involved in the running of clubs and societies. Several clubs are run very successfully by Sixth Form students who have a particular interest they are prepared to share with others.
- **Extra Curricular Activities:** There are many opportunities to take part in a wide variety of extra curricular activities, e.g. sports, drama, music (choir, orchestra, windband, etc).
- **Young Enterprise:** All students are offered the opportunity to participate in the Young Enterprise Scheme, which aims to provide practical business experience for young people while they are still at school. Participants set up and run their own companies and in the process develop their personal and business skills.
- **Management Shadowing:** During their time in Year 12 students may apply to participate in Management Shadowing. Management Shadowing allows the student to “shadow” a senior executive for a period of time, to learn about the role of the executive and to observe the skills used within management.
- **Work Experience:** All students have the opportunity to participate in Work Experience which gives the student first-hand knowledge of the world of work and the responsibilities involved in a particular occupation.

Both Management Shadowing and Work Experience are offered during the Easter or Whitsun holidays or during Activities Week.

AS AND A LEVEL COURSES

There are two components to a full A level course. The first part is known as AS (Advanced Subsidiary) level and this is examined during Year 12 and will be awarded a grade. The points scored for an AS grade is 50% of the total for a two year A level course.

The second part of a full A level course is known as A2 and will be studied and examined during Year 13.

Students can choose from a wide range of subjects listed below. Further details on the individual subjects are given later. All subjects are available at both AS and A2 level.

SUBJECTS AVAILABLE

Art	History*
Biology	Information Communication Technology *
Business Studies *	Mathematics & Further Mathematics
Chemistry	Certificate in Financial Studies
Design Technology – Graphic Products*	Media Studies *
Design Technology – Product Design*	Music *
Economics *	Music Technology *(AS Level)
English Language and Literature	Philosophy and Ethics *
English Literature	Photography *
Environmental Studies *	Physics
Film Studies *	Psychology *
French	Spanish
Geography *	Physical Education *
German	Theatre Studies *

* These subjects may be studied at AS or A level without previous GCSE experience.

The courses listed above are those we expect to be able to offer at AS and A2 level next September. In order to construct the timetable it will be necessary to arrange the subjects in Option Blocks. Although many subjects occur in more than one Option Block it may not be possible to study all combinations of subjects. Entry to specific courses may also be limited by the number of places available on that course. Information on the distribution of subjects in Option Blocks will be made available before the Sixth Form Information Day.

We ask students to make a provisional choice of subject when they attend the Sixth Form Information Day. Choices made at this stage are not binding and final decisions will be made on the actual Post 16 Application Form.

Note: Students may not select to study both Graphic Products and Product Design as it is prohibited by the Examination Boards.

POSSIBLE PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

During Year 12 students will select up to four subjects at AS level and in Year 13 they will continue to study subjects to the full A level, normally a maximum of three, and/or take additional AS levels. Some students will continue to study four subjects to A2 level.

This means that a number of different combination of courses will be possible, for example:

	<u>Model 1</u>		<u>Model 2</u>		<u>Model 3</u>
Year 12	AS AS AS AS	Year 12	AS AS AS AS	Year 12	AS AS AS AS
Year 13	A2 A2 A2	Year 13	A2 A2 A2 A2	Year 13	A2 A2 AS

We shall be able to give further advice at the Post 16 Evening on Thursday 26th January 2012 and at the Information Day on Thursday 23rd February 2012.

CHOOSING A SIXTH FORM PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Deciding which subjects to study is an important decision and students should carefully consider the options open to them. In particular they should consider the following points:

- If students have already decided on a particular career path or Higher Education courses, will the subjects they propose to study allow them to follow that route? Students may need to check this with careers teachers or contact Higher Education institutions for further guidance. A levels are frequently the bridge which links compulsory education to Higher Education or to a career. It is important to ensure that students are aware of all the different alternatives and aim to keep options open rather than close down possible avenues.
- Do they have an interest in the subject? This is important but should not dominate other factors.
- Does the evidence of GCSE performance and the advice of current teachers indicate that they have a reasonable prospect of success? Students should particularly take this into account when considering Mathematics, Sciences or Modern Foreign Languages.
- Students should take every opportunity to talk to other students who may already be studying the subjects at AS and A level.
- It is important to consider whether the subjects combine together to form a coherent programme of study as a whole.

ENTRY TO THE SIXTH FORM

Students will be expected:

- To achieve a minimum of 5 grade Cs at GCSE level or equivalent from a range of subjects, to include English.
- To have a minimum of a grade C at GCSE in any subject they wish to continue to AS level. There are some subjects that students may find very difficult unless they have achieved at least a grade B at GCSE and/or taken the higher tier.
- To continue to study GCSE Mathematics or an equivalent Level 2 qualification if not achieved prior to joining the Sixth Form.
- To receive a favourable reference from their previous school or college and obtain the approval of the Headteacher of the Guernsey Grammar School and Sixth Form Centre.
- To have an individual interview to discuss their choice of subjects and future plans

Note

- Where subjects are selected which have not been studied at GCSE, Departments are likely to take into account the grade achieved in Mathematics, Science or English when making their decision.
- Decisions regarding offers will be made using a range of information: predicted GCSE grades, the school reference, the Sixth Form Interview and any information gathered by the relevant Head of Department during the Information Day.
- Appeals may be made to the Headteacher.

Note: Entry to A2 level courses will require successful completion of the AS course.

ART

What is the course about?

The structure of the course is similar to GCSE – 1 coursework unit and 1 timed unit. The nature of the course is about developing skills while increasing knowledge and understanding of artistic ideas and ways of seeing.

Which skills and/experience would be useful or essential?

You need an open mind, willingness to experiment and a love of at least one of the following – drawing, painting, printing, sculpture, computer art, textiles or history of art. If you are studying GCSE Art you need to achieve at a grade C. If you gave up Art in Year 9 and really regret that, you can bring us a sketchbook of current ideas and we will discuss whether or not Art is for you.

How will I learn and be assessed?

Assessment is at the end of each unit. You will learn by becoming involved in your subject.

What opportunities are available to me?

You can work in many media and you can use the sixth form art room in your own time.

Tutors from Art Schools often come to us to interview students.

BIOLOGY

What is the course about?

The structure and function of animals and plants, with an emphasis on humans. There is a good deal of work on cells, their membranes and their internal biochemistry. Organ and organ systems studied include the digestive system, circulatory system and lungs, with particular emphasis on diseases of these organs. The role of DNA in the cell and in the whole organism.

Which skills and/experience would be useful or essential?

You will need at least a grade B (higher tier) in GCSE Additional Science or Biology, as well as a minimum of a C grade in both Mathematics and English. You will find that a secure ability in Chemistry will be extremely helpful.

How will I learn and be assessed?

Lessons may take the form of lectures, class discussion, small group work or practical work. Your learning will be assessed by homework and by means of short tests which your teacher will give you every 3-4 weeks. The first module examination will be sat in January of year 12, with the second module being completed in June. . Internal assessment contributes 20% of the marks and will be completed in lesson time.

What opportunities are available to me?

Opportunities exist for careers particularly in genetics, microbiology and molecular biology, though you will need a good degree. Biology is an almost essential A level for students applying for degrees in medicine, nursing, physiotherapy and sports science. In addition students applying for local employment or degrees in arts or humanities will find that employers and university admissions tutors often favour students who have one A level grade in a science subject.

BUSINESS STUDIES

What is the course about?

You will develop an understanding of various businesses looking at these organisations from the view of different stakeholders including customers, managers, owners and employees.

Which skills and/experience would be useful or essential?

You will need to acquire a range of skills, including decision making and problem solving. A grade C in English and Mathematics is required. You should be able to work in groups as well as independently.

How will I learn and be assessed?

A variety of teaching and learning styles will be used. There will be formal input by teachers, presentations, visits, talks, guest speakers, research based tasks, group work and case studies.

What opportunities are available to me?

Apart from higher education, you will have an ideal grounding in virtually any employment area including Travel Industry, Banking & Finance, Sport, Retail Sectors, running your business as well as managing your own home.

CHEMISTRY

What is the course about?

The course builds on knowledge and skills developed at GCSE. You will develop and use practical skills to investigate chemistry. Chemical problems will be solved using mathematics and concepts. Basic topics such as atomic structure and bonding will be studied in more detail and new topics will be introduced.

Which skills and experience would be useful or essential?

We recommend that you achieve at least a B grade in GCSE Additional Science or Chemistry and in Mathematics. You should be well-organised, have a good memory and enjoy practical work.

How will I learn and be assessed?

You will be actively involved in individual and group work and the approach will encourage questioning and problem solving.

Assessment will be through both written tests and practical assignments.

What opportunities are available to me?

Chemistry is an essential subject for careers involving chemistry, chemical engineering, medicine, veterinary science, dentistry and pharmacy and it is desirable for many other related careers.

What is the course about?

Design and Technology is about designing things and then making either the artefact itself or a prototype. Graphic Products is the part of D & T which deals mainly with printed media and associated materials. This means that much of the time you will be working with things like paper and card although you may well find yourself working with a small amount of more resistant materials.

Which skills and/or experiences would be useful or essential?

Obviously you will need to become well acquainted with the process by which all things are designed; this will involve you taking a structured approach to the development of your work as it progresses. An ability to sketch is very useful but not necessarily essential. As much of the development work will be done using a variety of computer software. You will need to be prepared to become fairly proficient at this and although some training can be provided you should be prepared to hone your skills out of lesson time. Some of the software available may well already be well known to you.

You will learn about a variety of materials and processes, you will need to be able to apply this knowledge to your own design work.

Most important is a genuine interest in how things have been designed, how they have been made and what it is about something that makes it successful.

How will I learn and be assessed?

The course will involve a mix of taught lessons and design work undertaken by you.

At the end of the year you will be assessed through a portfolio of creative skills and a written exam.

The portfolio will demonstrate your designing skills in a number of ways and will concentrate on the aspects of analysis, designing and making. So long as you work consistently throughout the course this is a great way of showing what you are capable of in an alternative way to sitting an exam.

The exam has less weighting than the portfolio of creative skills and will test you on your knowledge and understanding of the materials and processes used in the field of Design and Technology.

D&T - PRODUCT DESIGN: (RESISTANT MATERIALS)

What is the course about?

The course builds on knowledge and skills acquired at GCSE. To enjoy the course and do well you need to be the sort of person who might think:-

- “I could design a better product than that”
- “I can see what the problem with that product is”
- “How does that work?”
- “How do they make things like that in such large numbers?”
- “What effect does that have on the environment?”

Do you enjoy watching the ‘Discovery’ Channel or programmes like ‘MegaFactories’, ‘How it’s Made’ or ‘Dragons Den’?

Which skills and experience would be useful and essential?

We recommend that you have achieved at least a grade B in GCSE D&T “Resistant Materials” or “Graphical Communication”, however we have accepted students in the past who have taken neither but have demonstrated their enthusiasm for the subject.

Other areas that will be very useful are:-

- ICT
- Geography/Environmental Studies
- Science - especially Physics & Chemistry
- Business Studies
- Art & Photography

How will I learn and be assessed?

In the AS Year you will be involved in working on a project:-

- **Advanced Innovation Challenge** - Where you are set a ‘Design Challenge’ by the examination board on a theme specified 8 months in advance. You then research this theme and produce a ‘job bag’ that you take to a “challenge” held in the workshop, developing your solution and then modelling it.
- **Product Study** - Where you look at a product that frustrates you and show how the badly designed part of it could be improved. You will be taught to use the 3D CAD software package – ‘ProDESKTOP’ to help with the modelling in this project. This work is presented as an E-Folio with models.

In the A2 Year you will be involved in working on:-

- **Designing, Making and Evaluating** – Designing and making a product of your own choice (you will be encouraged to use CAD/CAM technology for part of the entire practical). Approximately 9 months is devoted to this project.
- **Product Design Examination** - Sit a 2 ½ hour Theory and Design Examination (This is taken at the end of the A2 Year).

ECONOMICS

What is the course about?

Economics is the study of making choices which is something we all do as our resources are limited. Decisions made by consumers, firms and government impact on us all. We critically consider the effect of these choices. We apply Economics to current issues, local, national and international and encourage you to be more aware of what is going on in our world. Economics will give you a clearer insight into major issues in the news.

Which skills and/experience would be useful or essential?

So long as you have the entrance requirements demanded by the school you can apply for Economics. We do not expect specific subjects in our requirements but an interest and awareness of what is going on in the world would be useful. You will be expected to do investigative work independently and you should be happy to take on group challenges.

How will I learn and be assessed?

We will cover a set amount of work each week which will be delivered in lessons and students will consolidate this independently and in groups. There will be weekly written assignments and students will be encouraged to regularly evaluate their own performance and progress.

What opportunities are available to me?

Success in this subject gives you access to almost every job on this planet.

What is the course about?

The course takes many of the skills acquired during GCSE to a higher level. To do well you need to be enthusiastic about reading and studying both literary and non-literary texts. An interest in language itself is an advantage. One interesting aspect of the course is the study of the dynamics of speech both in texts and ordinary conversation. Although you will need to learn some technical language terms there are many entertaining ways to fulfil this requirement. Many of the set texts are very up to date and deal with universal issues of interest to young people. There is coursework A2.

Which skills and/experience would be useful or essential?

We recommend that you have achieved at least C grades in English Literature and English Language. Good essay writing skills are useful as is an ability to contribute to lively class discussions. You should enjoy using and manipulating language and be organised and committed to your chosen subjects.

How will I learn and be assessed?

Hopefully a major factor in your learning will be a genuine enjoyment of the subject and thorough textual study. We use videos and DVDs where appropriate and more work is being facilitated through the new interactive whiteboards. Note-taking and annotation are features as is collage work and other useful methods such as brainstorming, mind mapping etc. The library is one of our essential resources and we like students to be able to research independently using ICT where appropriate. Assessment is usually through essays and written responses.

What opportunities are available to me?

You will be part of a valued and committed group of students and will enjoy some dedicated Sixth Form teaching space in the upper part of the main school. You will be able to move towards independent learning and be guided by well informed teachers. We encourage students to enter competitions and report for The Word through the local newspaper. You will be encouraged to watch live theatre where possible. Sometimes there are radio projects to participate in through BBC Radio Guernsey. Should you wish to take responsibility we encourage prefects to involve themselves in supporting the learning of younger students through the Homework Room in the department and also help with displays of work.

What is the course about?

The course takes many of the skills acquired during GCSE to a higher level. To do well you need to be enthusiastic about reading and studying literary texts. You will be introduced to the traditions of English Literature and will develop the skills to enable you to read widely, independently and critically. You may also read literature from outside the UK and literature in translation. You will develop a wide vocabulary with a good knowledge of critical literary terms. Many of the set texts are very up to date and deal with issues of interest to young people.

Which skills and/experience would be useful or essential?

We recommend that you have achieved at least C grades in English Language and English Literature. Good essay writing skills are useful as is an ability to contribute to lively class discussions. You should enjoy using and manipulating language and be organised and committed to your chosen subjects.

How will I learn and be assessed?

Hopefully a major factor in your learning will be a genuine enjoyment of the subject and thorough textual study. We use videos and DVDs where appropriate and more work is being facilitated through the new interactive whiteboards. Creative writing is a feature as is collage work and other more useful methods such as brainstorming, mind mapping etc. The library is one of our essential resources and we like students to be able to research independently using ICT where appropriate. Assessment is usually through essays and written responses. One unit in each year (AS & A2) is a coursework module.

What opportunities are available to me?

You will be part of a valued and committed group of students and will enjoy some dedicated Sixth Form teaching space in the upper part of the main school. You will be able to move towards independent learning and be guided by well informed teachers. We encourage students to enter competitions and report for The Word through the local newspaper. You will be encouraged to watch live theatre where possible. Sometimes there are radio projects to participate in through BBC Radio Guernsey. Should you wish to take responsibility we encourage prefects to involve themselves in supporting the learning of younger students through the Homework Room in the department and also help with displays of work.

We also work with enthusiastic Sixth Form students who volunteer to represent the school in the senior section of Youth Speaks.

What is the course about?

Environmental news stories are popular with the media. TV news, documentaries and newspapers are full of environmental issues. Why is this? It is because the environment is fascinating and important. We all interact with our surroundings. Why not find out more about how all aspects of the environment and all living things are linked. Investigate important issues such as climate change and the extinction of species.

Which skills and experience would be useful or essential?

There are no special requirements in terms of qualifications, although a background in geography, biology and other sciences would be useful. An interest in the environment will help but you do not have to be 'Green'. It is more important to appreciate that there are often a range of different viewpoints.

How will I learn and be assessed?

Expect to be involved in practical work, data collection in the field, visits, and local group investigations. In the classroom there will be discussions, debates and enquiries involving internet research. Reports, essays, and investigations will be assessed regularly and it is likely that you will sit your first AS Environmental Studies unit in the January of year 12.

What opportunities are available to me?

The course is intended to be interesting and enjoyable. It will help you to appreciate and understand your surroundings, your role and responsibilities. It is a useful qualification for a wide range of Further Education Courses. In fact many universities offer Environmental Science and Environmental Study degree courses. The subject also provides the knowledge and skills for a variety of career opportunities.

What is the course about?

The course builds on your experience and enjoyment of film. You already have much of the skills and knowledge needed to engage with and enjoy this course, as you have been watching films all your life. In the course, you will learn how to use that knowledge to deepen your understanding of the way film represents the world. Whether it's writing about films, learning how they are made and marketed, how they have mesmerised audiences for over a century - right down to engaging in practical skills of filmmaking - this course is a great way to learn!

Which skills and/experience would be useful or essential?

A grade C in GCSE English and English Literature is recommended. You should enjoy analysing and discussing films or other texts and be prepared to write about them at length and in detail. You will need to develop research skills and detailed analysis both independently and in small groups.

How will I learn and be assessed?

Enthusiastic questioning and discussion is strongly encouraged. You will be actively involved in analysing films and some creative practical work. Assessment will be through analytical essays, creative coursework and written exams.

What opportunities are available to me?

Further Education and Higher Education:

Film Studies, Languages, Literature, European Studies, Communication, Cultural Studies and Media Studies.

Even if you are considering other routes, Film Studies is highly regarded by Further Education and Higher Education institutions.

Career routes:

Film/media researcher, production assistant, film journalism, publicity agent, public relations to name a few.

FRENCH

What is the course about?

You will learn about all things French: the way of life, culture, the French view on some familiar and some unfamiliar topics eg health, family, media, and popular culture. Primarily, you will learn much more of the French language, how it works and how to make it work for you, so that you become a confident communicator in the language.

Which skills/experience would be useful or essential?

As the course builds on knowledge and skills developed at GCSE, we recommend that you have achieved at least a grade B at GCSE French; an A*/A will give you a much better start and chance of success. You must show an aptitude for/interest in grammar, as demonstrated by your performance GCSE Writing.

You should also have a desire to communicate and be willing to undertake group and pair-work. A good sense of imagination will also help, as will a thirst for knowledge and commitment to hard work.

How will I learn and be assessed?

Learning is initially teacher-centred, but will progress to practical pair or group work and listening tasks, as well as individual written tasks, which are regularly assessed. On-line resources are also used regularly and vocabulary and grammar tests will be set.

What opportunities are available to me?

You will be encouraged to take part in a residential stay in France, where you will have intensive tuition, gain a practical insight into the French way of life and take part in cultural visits.

You will have the opportunity to meet weekly on a one-to-one basis with the French Assistant, in order to improve your spoken French.

French films, magazines and TV are freely available in the Department for 6th form use as well as independent access to the computerised language laboratory.

The course will be an excellent foundation for any university languages course – either on its own or combining it with another subject.

Long term, you will find French useful in all sorts of fields of work: teaching, tourism, marketing and media to name but a few. Studying a language can improve communication and analytical skills for all students.

GEOGRAPHY

What is the course about?

Geography is very useful in understanding the complex world around us. The course involves a broad range of modules dealing with general topics of physical and human geography and also specialist areas for example poverty, sustainability; the impacts of growth of cities and climate change and rising sea levels. Fieldwork is central to our Geography course. The UK trip is an essential and enjoyable learning experience which helps cement friendships within the group while learning specific knowledge of places and transferable skills like teamwork.

Which skills and/experience would be useful or essential?

For those of you who have taken GCSE Geography we would normally expect a C grade but we do welcome students who have only studied the subject in the lower school. Perhaps more important is a keen interest in places.

How will I learn and be assessed?

Teaching and learning methods are diverse, ranging from formal lessons and group work to individual and class fieldwork. There is a choice of topics within modules and individual research is encouraged. Assessment is varied - research essays, decision making exercises and examinations.

The staff are very supportive and someone to one contact is also undertaken.

What opportunities are available to me?

The study of Geography at AS/A2 is recognised by employers as indicating that you will have an understanding of places, people and their interconnections and relationships as well as extensive range of transferable skills e.g. group work, oral and written presentations, report writing, ICT, statistics which will be of great value to them and to you.

GERMAN

What is the course about?

The course builds on the language skills acquired at GCSE and develops these to an advanced level. Students discuss and understand current issues such as the Media, Popular Culture, Healthy Living/Lifestyle and Family/Relationships.

Which skills and/experience would be useful or essential?

Students should normally have achieved a Grade B or higher at GCSE and be prepared to work independently and in small groups. German combines well with a number of other subject areas including other foreign languages, English, Science, Business Studies, Psychology, History, Geography or Media and Film Studies.

How will I learn and be assessed?

The examination will assess the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Grammar is important, but so is the ability to communicate your ideas in a clear manner. Students will be able to improve their listening and speaking skills through individual and small group sessions with the German Language Assistant and by using the language laboratory.

What opportunities are available to me?

German is the most widely spoken language within the European Union and is one of its major working languages. The most obvious opportunities for specialist careers are in interpreting and translation, but other areas where a knowledge of German is an advantage include teaching, travel and tourism, I.T., finance and banking, engineering, scientific research, advertising, the media or any business which has links with Europe. Many companies and organisations require someone with a knowledge of German which they can use as the need arises, even if it is not required as a main part of their day to day job.

What is the course about?

The study of History offers students both an in-depth and wider appreciation of the human condition in society and how the past has been interpreted. The AS and A2 courses follow an essentially modern focus, though there is scope for earlier investigations for the coursework element in A2. To study History you should be the kind of person who thinks about the key issues of the world and wonder why events take place. You will study:

Post-War Britain 1951–94

A study of Britain from 1951-1994, including:

- Why did the Conservatives remain in power from 1951 to 1964?
- Why did the Labour party win the 1964 election?
- How successful were the Labour governments of 1964–70 and 1974–79?
- How far did Heath change the Conservative party?
- Why was Thatcher a controversial Prime Minister in domestic politics?
- Why did Ireland remain a problem (to 1994)?

Dictatorship and Democracy in Germany 1933–63

This option is concerned with the establishment and experience of the Nazi Dictatorship in 1933–34 and 1945–49 respectively, and the imposition and experience of Democracy in West Germany and Communism in East Germany after the Second World War.

What skills and experiences would be useful or essential?

The department recommends that a grade C at GCSE would be the minimum requirement. However history is not essential as we will look at all your grades. History is very time consuming in terms of private study and research. Therefore you should have a good memory, enjoy reading and have a good grasp of English.

How will I learn and be assessed?

Formal assessment for this course takes the shape of:

1. 1 X 1.5 hour exam based on source work in June.
2. 1 x 1.5 hour exam based on a period study in June.

Throughout the year you will be asked to write essays on a variety of topics relating to the course. There will also be subject knowledge tests. Learning will be directed towards private study and the evaluation of historical material. Teacher led lessons will provide you with the framework for your examination but the onus is on the student to research the material required to achieve the top grade.

What opportunities are available to me?

History is fortunate to run trips abroad relating to the AS and A2 course. Details of these trips will be available in the autumn term. History graduates can undertake a variety of professional careers including Law, Finance, Research, Teaching and work in the Civil Service and the Armed Forces.

What is the course about?

The emphasis of this course is placed on developing an appreciation of the importance of information to individual and organisations in the Digital World. It uses a practical approach to problem solving that relies on the effective use of information technology systems. The first year of the course explores practical uses of ICT, identifying, designing, testing, documenting and evaluating solutions together with data entry, storage and current health and safety legislation. The second year of the course students will study the concepts associated with the use of ICT in the 21st Century. The course will develop working co-operatively and managing projects, developing personal learning and thinking skills and develop awareness of developments in technology.

Which skills and experiences would be useful or essential?

Students must enjoy using a computer and have a basic understanding of the main ICT applications. Much of the course is problem solving and includes group research and delivery. It is therefore important that students enjoy working as part of a team as well as individual, independent study.

How will I learn and be assessed?

The course is primarily theory based, and 80% of the course is assessed by written examination. Students must also produce a report based upon their practical work and investigation in the second year. This report will be internally marked and externally moderated. Students are required to work independently on assignments and on developing skills outside of lessons. Lessons involve both taught theory and practical activity, and a wide variety of teaching methods are used; independent research, group work, together with discussion and teacher led sessions.

What opportunities will be available to me?

You will be given the opportunity to develop advanced IT skills and to investigate, analyse, define requirements, selecting and using appropriate technologies for the 21st Century. Skills learnt during the course will be of benefit to students in both higher education and as a springboard into other qualifications and working environments.

MATHEMATICS

What is the course about?

The course builds on knowledge and skills developed at GCSE. There is a sufficient range of topics to allow schools to devise courses to suit the varied requirements of a broad range of students. Students who successfully complete the course will have a suitable basis for progression to further study in Mathematics or related subjects, or directly into employment.

Which skills and/experience would be useful or essential?

We recommend that you have achieved at least a grade A in GCSE, (students predicted a grade B need a written recommendation from their current Maths teacher). You need a strong understanding of Algebra and algebraic techniques. You should recognise how a situation may be represented mathematically and understand the relationship between 'real world' problems and mathematical models. You should be interested in taking more responsibility for your own mathematical development. A Bridging Course will be held in July to help make the transition to AS-level easier.

How will I learn and be assessed?

You will be actively involved in individual and class work and the approach will encourage questioning and problem solving. Assessment is by means of three units of assessment for AS level GCE and six units of assessment for A level GCE.

What opportunities are available to me?

Mathematics will give you an excellent grounding for any subject and is itself a prerequisite for many. As a degree course in its own right it offers excellent employment prospects.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

This course offers you the opportunity to study a second A level Mathematics course and is taken together with the single Mathematics A level. This is an extremely demanding course which requires the completion of a further three AS Further Mathematics modules in addition to the three AS Mathematics modules. To choose this course you should have demonstrated a very high level of competency at GCSE level and be recommended by your school.

This course enables you to broaden your study of Mathematics and provides an excellent background for studying Mathematics, Science subjects or Engineering at University.

MEDIA STUDIES

What is the course about?

The course is an exploration of modern culture, in which we aim to stress production work as a way into key media concepts of genre, media language, representation, audiences, institutions and narrative. You will complete a two production tasks a film sequence and pages from a music magazine, you will then decide on one of these, which you will submit as coursework. You will also study TV drama and explore how social groups are represented in a range of these dramas. Finally you will conduct a case study on media institutions, into either the film or music industries, and you will gain an understanding of the production, distribution and consumption of these mainstream media texts.

Which skills and experience would be useful or essential?

We recommend that you have achieved a grade C at English as much of the course requires a good level of written and spoken English to communicate your ideas. An interest in art and design is useful for the production elements of the course, as are good ICT skills, as all of our media production work is made on computer.

How will I learn and be assessed?

There is a combination of teacher lead learning and student driven coursework and research. Coursework represents 50% of the assessment for this course. The other 50% is assessed as a written paper in the June examination session.

What opportunities are available to me?

There are a number of careers in the media, both locally and nationally and, with the boom in digital media, it is certainly a growth industry. This course enables progression onto Arts, Design, ICT or Media courses at higher education. The skills you will practice in this course are analytical & interpretative, furthermore you will learn about audience, media conglomerates, marketing and the impact of technology, which is useful for careers in business. Finally, producing practical media as part of a team will teach you about collaboration, delegation and cooperation as well as enhancing your technical skills, all of which are very attractive to employers and admissions tutors.

MUSIC

What is the course about?

The course requires the development of four skills: Performance, Composition, Listening and Historical Knowledge. You will study topics such as jazz and orchestral music and develop your knowledge of theory and harmony. You will need to develop your analytical skills too. You will complete an instrumental composition and will give a short recital to a visiting examiner at the end of the course.

Which skills and /or experience would be useful or essential?

If you have studied GCSE music we recommend that you have achieved at least a C. You will need to demonstrate practical skills of at least Grade Four standard at the beginning of the course. You should be prepared to work independently in composition, with guidance from music staff. You do not need to have done composition before but you must be prepared to learn the musical theory and harmony required. All necessary theory will be covered during the course. You are advised to have lessons on an instrument or voice.

How will I learn and be assessed?

You will be actively involved in individual and group work and in class discussion relevant to the listening and historical papers. You will also be expected to be involved in one or more of the extra-curricular music groups. Assessment will be through both written (including some short essays) and practical tasks (i.e. exercises in harmony and composition)

What opportunities are available to me?

As a member of the Music department you will be actively involved in concerts, both in and out of school. The school supports the Eisteddfod and gives charity concerts and recitals.

With regard to further education or work opportunities, most universities and employers recognise that musicians demonstrate a high degree of self-discipline, dedication and commitment, as well as a wide range of academic and social skills

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

What is the course about?

This course requires the development of practical, analytical and written skills. The practical element involves sequencing, recording and arranging using Cubase as the major programme.

The analytical and written sections cover two study areas:

- Area of Study 1: the principles and practice of Music Technology.
- Area of Study 2: Popular music styles since 1910.

Which skills and/or expertise would be useful or essential?

This course will suit:

- Students who have studied music at GCSE or who have equivalent qualifications in a related subject eg music performance or theory and who have an interest in ICT.
- Students who have an interest in a wide range of music.
- Students who are highly motivated and able to work independently

How will I learn and be assessed?

You will be actively involved in individual and group work and in class discussion relevant to the four study areas.

During the course of the year, you will be expected individually to complete three pieces of practical coursework for external assessment.

You will sit an end of year written paper which will be externally assessed.

What opportunities are available to me?

With regard to further education and work opportunities, students will have access to study music technology or a performing arts subject at a higher level. (HND or some degree courses). Also students would have access to a range of technology or computer orientated careers.

If pursuing a music orientated career it is highly recommended that Music Technology should be studied in conjunction with and not instead of AS and A2 Music

PHOTOGRAPHY

What is the course about?

The Photography course is aimed at developing and encouraging a greater sense of visual literacy through both producing and analysing images. Students will develop an understanding of photographic composition and both traditional and digital processes, developing sensitivity towards the creative and imaginative application of imagery. Students are encouraged to explore social, cultural and critical issues, particularly in relation to popular culture, the mass media and issues in contemporary photographic practice. Students are expected to employ creative approaches to their work which go beyond the mere observation and recording.

Which skills and/experience would be useful or essential?

It is of considerable advantage to have completed a GCSE course in an Art related discipline, but it can be possible to undertake the AS without having done so. A commitment to independent research and working is vital and an active interest in the visual world is a must. Students who undertake the course are expected to have their own digital 'bridge' camera. Practical activities will take place during school time, but it is expected that students will spend considerable time outside of school taking photographs.

How will I learn and be assessed?

Students are actively involved in group and individual projects. They have the opportunity to explore a wide range of photographic genres such as fashion, portraiture, photo-montage, photo-journalism and landscape. Students are expected to include research, analysis and critical thinking to support their knowledge of photography and assessment is based upon both their photographic skill and written analysis.

What opportunities are available to me?

Many students go on to study Photography, Art and Media based courses at University level, having built a portfolio of work. Others have found employment with local businesses within the photographic industry.

PHYSICS

What is the course about?

The course builds on knowledge and skills developed at GCSE. To do well, you need to be the sort of person who enjoys using mathematics to answer questions about how the world works. You will study basic topics such as mechanics and electricity. Then you go on to study Quantum Physics, the world of sub atomic particles, force fields, radioactivity and optional topics including medical physics or phenomena such as relativity. Much of the work involves doing calculations to make scientific predictions.

During the course you develop:

- mathematical problem solving skills and practical skills
- an insight into how the Universe works
- the thinking skills and philosophy of a physicist.

Which skills and/experience would be useful or essential?

We recommend that you have achieved at least a grade B in GCSE Science and Additional Science (or a B in Physics) and also at least a grade B in Mathematics - you will need to be comfortable in algebra. We would also recommend that Physics at AS or A2 is studied alongside Mathematics as the subjects complement each other. You can take your studies of Physics no further unless you also study Mathematics. You should enjoy problem solving and be able to work independently and in small groups.

How will I learn and be assessed?

You will be actively involved in individual and group work and the approach will encourage questioning and problem solving. Assessment will be through both external written tests and practical tests which can be internally assessed.

What opportunities are available to me?

The problem solving skills of physicists are highly sought after. Physicists can become *Research* scientists but also can enter the world of professional *engineering*-building bridges, power stations etc.. Many physicists enter the more challenging aspects of *ICT*- systems analysts, programme designers etc.. Physicists are needed in *medicine*: radiology, isotopic medicine, ultrasound and other areas. Surprisingly, physicists are highly sought after in many seemingly unrelated areas such as *Finance* for their skills.

PSYCHOLOGY

What is the course about?

Psychology is the study of human mind works and why people behave in the way they do. In Year 12 students will study at fifteen pieces of psychological research which covers a wide range of topics, for example: memory, obedience to authority, brain activity and abnormal behaviour. In Year 13 students will study the application of psychology to different areas such as health (both mental and physical) and crime.

Which skills and/experience would be useful or essential?

A genuine sense of curiosity about human behaviour is essential. As Psychology is a science, it is desirable that you are comfortable with a scientific approach. The ability to express yourself clearly in speech and writing and a reasonable level of numeracy is also needed. Finally, you should be willing to share your ideas and be able to work effectively alone or in a group.

How will I learn and be assessed?

You will learn from a variety of activities; group work, discussion, independent study, student presentations, creating visuals displays, conducting practical investigations, participating in role play. You will experience a variety of teaching styles to suit your learning preferences.

At AS level you will be assessed by regular questioning in class, written homework exercises and through observation of your practical research skills. There are two examinations. One examines your knowledge and application of research methods in (1 hour). The second will test your understanding and analysis of different Psychological perspectives and approaches and your knowledge of the fifteen core studies (two hour examination).

What opportunities are available to me?

Studying A level psychology should allow you to develop a wide variety of skills; report writing, presentation and interpretation of data, writing and articulating persuasive arguments and you will develop some insights into human motivation and behaviour. Such skills are valuable in any work context and particularly so in careers which involve working with people. You may, of course, be so enthusiastic about psychology that you wish to continue your studies at university and become a Psychologist! Primarily, Psychologists work in research and clinical settings helping children and adults with mental health issues, but they can also play an important role in education, sport, advertising and occupational contexts.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – PHYLOSOPHY AND ETHICS

What is the course about?

This is a course that will stretch your mind, introduce you to great thinkers and give you a qualification respected throughout higher education.

This course gives you the opportunity to address the most profound philosophical questions about human existence through studying the philosophy of religion and ethics.

In Philosophy of Religion you will examine the major religious questions about the existence of God and in Ethics you will consider how and why humans make decisions about what is right or good behaviour and look at specific ethical issues.

Which skills and/experience would be useful or essential?

Do you enjoy debating and arguing about philosophical issues, challenging popular ideas and giving your own point of view?

You should have an enquiring mind, be receptive to new ideas and enjoy asking fundamental questions about important issues.

Philosophy of Religion and Ethics challenge students to criticise and analyse different ideas and to develop well-reasoned arguments. You should be able to work both independently and as part of a group and also be willing to participate fully in the often lively and energetic discussions which are generated on the topics we cover. We recommend that you have achieved at least a grade C in GCSE R.S.

How will I learn and be assessed?

You will be actively involved in lessons which comprise a mixture of teacher led learning, individual study and group discussion work. R.S. has two assessment units at AS level. The Philosophy module is examined in January and the Ethics module in June. Examination is by essay and there is a choice of questions.

What opportunities are available to me?

The skills you will be developing are highly valued in all kinds of careers, particularly those in which employers will be looking for someone with excellent communication skills, an appreciation of different viewpoints and an ability to come to clear balanced decisions, for example law the media, management and teaching.

SPANISH

What is the course about?

The course builds on knowledge and skills developed at GCSE and takes these to an advanced level. You learn about and discuss current issues such as Media, Popular Culture, Healthy Living and Family / Relationships. As well as learning about Spanish culture, you become more fluent in the language.

Which skills/experience would be useful or essential?

It is recommended that you have achieved at least a grade B at GCSE Spanish; an A*/A will give you a much better start and chance of success. You must show an aptitude for/interest in grammar, as demonstrated by your performance in GCSE Writing. You should enjoy speaking the language and learning new vocabulary and be able to communicate ideas clearly. A disciplined, organised approach to learning independently is required.

How will I learn and be assessed?

Learning is initially teacher-centred, but progresses to practical pair or group work and listening tasks, as well as individual written tasks, which are regularly assessed. Vocabulary, grammar and topic tests are also set. The AQA online AS Spanish resource, used in weekly language lab sessions, serves as a useful independent learning and assessment tool.

You will also have weekly one-to-one sessions with the Spanish Assistant. Spanish films, music and magazines are freely available in the Department for 6th form use as well as independent access to the computerised language laboratory.

The AS examination is in 2 parts; a 2 hour listening, reading and writing paper and a 15 minute oral. It is worth mentioning that at AS level you may listen to recorded tasks as often as you need to. You are only required to write 250 words in the written part of the examination.

What opportunities are available to me?

You will be encouraged to take part in a residential stay in Spain, where you will have intensive tuition, gain a practical insight into the Spanish way of life and take part in cultural visits, including a day trip to Madrid.

Spanish is the third most commonly spoken language in the world. You will therefore find Spanish useful at both a personal and professional level. Studying a language improves communication and analytical skills and having Spanish at AS level will definitely help to widen your employment prospects.

SPORTS STUDIES: GCE Sport and Physical Education

What is the course about?

The course builds on the student's experience from Key Stage 4 and or GCSE to enhance knowledge and understanding of the factors that affect performance and participation in physical education and sport. The content of the course addresses current contemporary issues in sport such as the impact of ergogenic aids, technology and the increasing commercialisation of sport. Furthermore the course provides students with the opportunity to experience and foster an interest and enthusiasm for a variety of roles in sport, such as the performer, official, leader and coach.

Which skills and/ experience would be useful or essential?

First and foremost a commitment to and enthusiasm for sport and Physical Education are essential. We recommend that you have at least a Grade C in GCSE English and Science. Subject areas that compliment the study of GCE Sport and Physical Education include Psychology and Biology. Although the course content is designed to follow on from GCSE Physical Education it must be emphasised that is **NOT** a requirement for students wishing to follow this programme of study.

How will I learn and be assessed?

Learning will take place in a practical context as well as the classroom environment, including group work, student presentations, quizzes, written and practical assessments. In relation to the formal external assessment process, you will undertake a practical assessment as a sports performer, official, leader and coach as well as a two hour examination at the end of the academic year.

What opportunities will be available to me?

The qualification's objective is to equip students with the skills and knowledge required for higher education or the world or work, including:

- Sports Science
- Physiotherapy
- Sports Psychology
- Physical Education teaching
- Working in the Leisure Industry

STAGE MANAGEMENT - Btec National Award

This course will be delivered by the College of Further Education in the Performing Arts Centre and is ideally suited to students who are interested in working 'behind the scenes' in a professionally equipped theatre. Every unit will allow you to be employed as a member of the back stage crew in a production. The course will involve attending the necessary evening/weekend rehearsals and the course of study involves 360 guided learning hours.

Core units include:

Production for Theatre Performance
Assistant Stage Management

Plus

Stage Lighting Operations
Stage Sound Operations

Other units include:

Scene construction/painting for stage
Puppet construction and operation
Mask making
Technical Theatre operations

For further information please contact
Madeleine Hughes, Tel: 749904
Email:madeleineh@gcfe.net

THEATRE STUDIES

What is the course about?

The course is based on three main areas of study of Drama and Theatre; interpretation of plays for performance, live productions seen and the candidates' own practical work. At A2 students are expected to make more links between theory & practice in order to develop a deeper understanding of theatre.

Which skills & experience would be useful or essential?

As part of the course students will need to be able to work productively both individually and as part of a group on practical projects in preparation for performance exams: scripted and devised.

They will need to contribute to class discussions, research and analyse their set texts and develop their essay response for the written exam.

How will I learn and be assessed?

Through individual and group practical work on devised and scripted work, class discussion, in groups and pairs, individual research and analysis and through seeing a variety of live theatre productions. You will also be assessed on your essay skills demonstrating knowledge of the live theatre seen, and set texts studied.

Costs: There is a field trip to the National Student Drama Festival. Whilst a generous subsidy is provided to cover the majority of the costs students still have to fund the rest of the trip which is approximately £350.00

What opportunities are available to me?

The beneficial skills developed through this course, such as presentation, delivery, group dynamics and teamwork are valued highly by future employers. Theatre studies can also prepare you for a wide variety of Higher Education courses including Journalism, English, Media Studies, Design courses as well as Technical Theatre, Theatre Studies and Acting.

**G.C.E. A LEVEL RESULTS
SUMMER 2011**

SUBJECT ANALYSIS

Year 13 -2011	A2								
	Total	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	% pass A2
Art	38	0	4	11	16	6	1	0	100.0
Biology	21	2	5	6	5	0	3	0	100.0
Business Studies	40	2	4	7	16	9	2	0	100.0
Chemistry	15	2	7	4	2	0	0	0	100.0
Design & Technology Prod Des	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	100.0
Drama/Theatre Studies	20	2	8	9	1	0	0	0	100.0
Economics	26	0	1	9	6	6	3	1	96.2
English Language	35	6	8	12	7	2	0	0	100.0
English Literature	21	2	10	8	1	0	0	0	100.0
Environmental Studies	12	0	0	3	3	4	2	0	100.0
Film Studies	14	1	2	2	6	3	0	0	100.0
French	14	1	5	3	3	2	0	0	100.0
Geography	18	0	3	5	6	3	1	0	100.0
German	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Graphics DT	11	0	0	6	3	2	0	0	100.0
History	33	0	7	8	9	8	0	1	97.0
ICT	27	0	3	7	10	6	1	0	100.0
Mathematics	41	4	8	13	10	4	2	0	100.0
Further Maths	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	100.0
Media Studies	27	0	6	10	10	0	1	0	100.0
Music	12	0	1	0	5	3	2	1	91.7
Music Technology	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Photography	33	8	0	10	7	5	3	0	100.0
Physics	17	3	3	2	2	2	5	0	100.0
Psychology	65	3	9	16	19	15	3	0	100.0
Religious Studies	33	4	6	9	8	6	0	0	100.0
Spanish	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	100.0
Sports Studies/Sciene/P.E	24	0	1	2	7	7	6	1	95.8
Textiles	0	0							
Total Entries (excl CEFS)	603	41	104	162	163	94	35	4	99.3
	%	6.80	17.25	26.87	27.03	15.59	5.80	0.66	overall
Cumulative %	562		24.05	50.91	77.94	93.53	99.34	100.00	