



FRANCIS HOLLAND SCHOOL  
SLOANE SQUARE

SIXTH FORM  
A LEVEL SUBJECTS  
2024-2026



# CONTENTS

Contents	1
Introduction	2

## CURRICULUM

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	3
Sixth Form Enrichment Programme	4-7
Fine Art	9
Biology	10
Chemistry	11
Classical Civilisation	12
Computer Science	13
Drama and Theatre	14
Economics	15
English Literature	16
French	17
Geography	18
German	19
History	20
History of Art	21
Latin	22
Mathematics	23
Further Mathematics	24
Music	25
Physics	26
Politics	27
Psychology	28
Spanish	29
Theology and Philosophy	30

DESTINATION OF LEAVERS	31
------------------------	----

A LEVEL RESULTS	32
-----------------	----

# INTRODUCTION

This guide is designed to accompany Francis Holland's Sixth Form Prospectus. It provides information about the Sixth Form curriculum with details of all A level subjects taught at the school.

## ENTRY INTO THE SIXTH FORM

We welcome external candidates to the Sixth Form, who are assessed on the basis of reports from their existing schools, written tests, interview and GCSE predictions. We strongly recommend that all girls have achieved at least grade 7s (A grades) in their chosen A level subjects, as those with lower grades are likely to find the Sixth Form course challenging. Both internal and external candidates may compete for Academic Sixth Form Scholarships. These examinations take place in November each year. Scholarships are also awarded for Art, Drama and Music.

## CURRICULUM

At Francis Holland, we are committed to a broad curriculum that encourages girls to think beyond the confines of their A level courses and to develop a range of extra skills that will stand them in good stead for the future. For this reason, we recommend that girls study three A level subjects, alongside the Extended Project Qualification ('EPQ') and an exciting and varied Enrichment Programme. Of course, in some cases, where a girl has a particular interest and aptitude, it may be appropriate for her to take a fourth A level. It is worth bearing in mind that university offers are almost always made on three subjects, and that what is vital is that students achieve the highest possible grades in these.

## A LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICE

Francis Holland offers a wide choice of A level subjects. The average size of an A level class is around twelve students; sometimes the numbers are lower and the usual maximum is sixteen. Girls will have nine periods per week in each subject to ensure that the significantly increased content of the new linear specifications can be thoroughly and effectively delivered. We are committed to providing a broad range of subjects to cater for the talents, interests and needs of our students.

## ASSESSMENT

All A level subjects are now linear and our Sixth Formers will sit public examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth only. There will be regular assessments throughout the two years in the Sixth Form and internal summer examinations at the end of the Lower Sixth.

## EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

All Lower Sixth girls follow our Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) programme which teaches the study and research skills required at undergraduate level. This is also a very useful extra qualification and it can boost a girl's university application. Please see details of the course and examination on page 3.

## ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

This is comprised of a variety of practical, creative and intellectually challenging courses, details of which are set out on page 5. There is also a Sixth Form lecture every Thursday 3.30-4.30pm during the Autumn and Spring Terms delivered by an array of guest speakers drawn from a range of academic and professional backgrounds.

# THE EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

## AQA 7993

The AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is part of the Lower Sixth curriculum for all girls. The EPQ is a stand-alone qualification which constitutes half an A level (graded up to A\*) and provides an opportunity for you to go beyond A level subject syllabi and prepare for university or your future career. It is greatly prized by universities, which value its high degree of planning, preparation, research, referencing, and autonomous working. You will all follow a course throughout the Lower Sixth to develop the key skills to prepare you not only for the project but for future research at A level and university. Students who attain high grades in their EPQ frequently receive university offers which are less demanding.

By taking responsibility for the choice and design of your individual project you will:

- become a more critical, reflective and independent learner
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- enhance your planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- work confidently with new technologies
- demonstrate creativity, enterprise and initiative

The project may involve an independently-researched report of 5,000 words, or it may be anything from a film, an artefact, a design project, to a musical composition or performance. It may relate to the conducting of a scientific experiment or the solution of a mathematical problem. The options are endless.

The project is self-directed and, although you will be guided by a supervisor, you will work independently and gain invaluable practice in research, organisational and time-management skills. The knowledge and skills gained through the process will also be very helpful in university interviews.

The EPQ course of key skills (approximately 30 hours of study) and the initial preparation of the individual project will be compulsory for every girl. After that, although entering for the full EPQ qualification will not be compulsory, we will strongly encourage you to complete your project.

# SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

Alongside their A level studies, all Sixth Form girls pursue a range of courses designed to develop core skills, broaden their outlook and challenge them intellectually. Some of these sessions will be timetabled, some will require independent study and others will take place after school.

## CORE COURSES

All girls in the Lower Sixth are required to complete two online courses, which are overseen and monitored by a member of staff, followed by First Aid training in the Summer Term.

### **ICT Skills**

Every girl pursues an in-house ICT course to ensure that she is proficient across the range of skills required for A level study, at university and beyond.

### **Financial Awareness**

Every girl completes a Financial Awareness course during the Summer Term. This covers the basics of student banking and online shopping; student loans and how to budget; what's involved in a house share; and work, earnings and deductions. All the resources are also published and kept updated on the alumni section of the FHS website so that girls can refer to them once they have left school and are in real need of this information.

### **First Aid**

The Emergency First Aid at Work course is run during a day off timetable after school examinations in the summer term. It is an entirely practical course taught by medical professionals during which girls learn everything from the basics of first aid to CPR and the use of a defibrillator. They earn a nationally recognised Ofqual-approved award, which is valid for three years.

## TEDX EVENT

We hold a TEDx license which allows the school to host a TEDx event. Up to 20 students create and present a TED talk at the end of Year 12, which are then uploaded to the official TEDx channel. This is a highly successful event, and students are pleased to mention these in their Higher Education applications.

## ENRICHMENT ELECTIVES

All girls taking three A level subjects have one double period per week of an enrichment elective. Each elective runs for one term (Autumn and Spring Terms of the LVI and Autumn Term of the UVI), giving the girls the opportunity to dip into three different areas of interest, free from the restraints and pressures of examinations. The courses offered vary each year depending on staff availability and expertise but a representative overview is shown overleaf.

# SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT ELECTIVES

## CREATIVE WRITING

**Mr Russell**

We will work together to produce a poetry zine of our own collected works. Over the course of the Autumn term, we will collaborate to develop our poetic voices and create a series of works to be included in our publication. To complement our efforts, we will also seek inspiration from existing poets by reading and discussing some of their work.

## SUBCULTURES

**Mr Smyth**

Hippies, Punks, Rastafarians and Ravers. Subcultures form when a group of people have a common set of experiences or values that differ from the dominating culture in a society. This course will explore the music, art, ideology and political climate that helped shape the most iconic subcultures. We will investigate the lives of key countercultural figures, the songs that challenged the establishment and the enduring influence of subcultures today.

## WRITING FOR STAGE AND SCREEN

**Ms Smyth**

A discursive and interactive journey through the different writing styles adopted by some of the most influential playwrights and screenwriters of the last century. We will explore different methods of scripting in popular theatre, television and film genres, such as drama, comedy, musical theatre, documentary, sitcom and more. Learn from the professionals and also develop your own writing style, ending the course by making a written creation of your own!

## INNOVATION SPRINT

**Mr Dyson**

Do you want to experience some cutting-edge design thinking and solve some real-world business issues? During this enrichment option, you will spend 3-4 weeks with the Founder of Erika Technology who is looking to disrupt the social media market through incentivising digital detoxes. You will also get the chance to work alongside two other link entrepreneurs, learning about their businesses and solving some creative, innovative and enterprising problems. This is a good chance to build future ready skills and gain an insight into the lives of some leading founders and entrepreneurs.

## CLAY MOTION: SCULPT AND ANIMATE!

**Ms Vyas**

Have you ever wondered how amazing TV like Pingu or Wallace and Gromit is made? Have you envisioned the magic of bringing clay figurines to life in a stop-motion film? Now is your chance to embark on a thrilling artistic journey. In this programme, you'll delve into the world of clay sculpting, where your imagination knows no bounds. Not only will you have the opportunity to craft unique clay figurines, but you'll also learn the art of stop-and-go motion filmmaking. With a combination of hands-on clay sculpting and the enchantment of animation, you will produce a movie of your choice. Get ready to sculpt, animate, and showcase your masterpieces to rival the works of claymotion legends!

## FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

**Dr Dunne**

Forensic Psychology focuses on the causes, investigation, and prosecution of crime as well as the treatment and management of offenders. Forensic psychologists apply psychological theory to criminal investigation to help understand psychological problems associated with criminal behaviour, and the treatment of those who have committed offences.

## FILM MAKING FOR MVUMI, TANZANIA

**Dr Price**

Can you do amazing science on a shoestring budget with basic equipment and still inspire wonder? I think the answer is yes. To this end I would like to curate a range of simple activities which would aim to support girls at our sister school Mvumi in Tanzania. I need to assemble a crack team of science communicators to film short videos in our labs, using basic equipment to demonstrate Physics in easy-to-replicate ways. Alongside the films, we will produce step-by-step instructions (PDF) and explanations of the science behind it and publish them using Flipsnack to instantly get a dynamic page turning flipbook of engaging experiments. Finally, we will use the money we raised during British Science Week to pack a crate of the resources needed to carry out the science experiments and deliver it directly to the students at Mvumi. The foremost skills required to do this elective are communication and creativity, the Physics will be GCSE level or easier. Film makers and graphic designers will be as welcome as scientists!

## BISCUIT DECORATING

**Mrs Taylor**

Have you ever gone into a bespoke bakery and thought what a wonderful gift personalised biscuits or cupcakes would be for someone important? This is an opportunity for you to let your creativity run free. On this course you can learn a variety of techniques such as fine tip piping, making sugar paste flowers, transferring a personalised message/design which will help you make the most beautiful cupcakes to present as gifts to rival the likes of Peggy Porschen and Biscuiteers! No experience is needed, just enthusiasm.

## CLASSICAL GREEK – BEYOND GCSE

**Dr Hayes**

Did you study Classical Greek at GCSE and do you want to study the language further? Then this elective is for you! This course runs parallel to the AS Greek syllabus (but without the need for an examination) and gives you a chance to learn more about this classical language. Please note, you must have a GCSE in Classical Greek (or equivalent) to take this course - contact Dr Hayes if you have any questions.



## FINANCIAL MARKETS

**Ms Collins**

Join the Financial Markets course and explore the intricate web of global economics and its profound influence on business strategy and society. In this dynamic class, each week presents a fresh news article carefully selected to spark insightful discussions. Through meticulous dissection and analysis, we delve into the implications of these events on financial markets and the broader economy.

With an emphasis on timely and relevant topics, the course illuminates the connections between financial events and their far-reaching consequences. By examining the interconnectivity of the world and its markets, we uncover how external shocks or changes in one country can send shockwaves through the global economy. Such understanding is essential in navigating the complex landscape of finance and making informed decisions in business and everyday life.

## SUSTAINABLE FASHION SCHOOL

**External provider (comes with an additional fee)**

Spend the term exploring your unique creativity at The Fashion School. Learn to drape, machine and hand sew, thrift and flip customisation, even how to repair your clothes in the first four weeks before embarking on your own personal project. Prom dresses, revamped denim and trainers, mannequin stands, designer donated fabric, glue guns, corset making, haberdashery, sweat-shirting - the possibilities and supporting facilities are all there at an arty fashion studio just off the Kings Road. What will you create? You will be closely supported through your journey by ex Central St Martin fashion tutors as you unleash your individual style and learn lifelong sewing skills.

## VOLUNTEERING AT EDEN COURT

**Ms Rinck**

Whilst many of the residents at this luxury retirement home in Battersea are comfortable in their retirement, several feel the effects of loneliness. You will hold conversations with a resident whom you will get to know, listen to their views and opinions, and even play a board game or two. We will arrange a taxi to take the group over to the retirement home each week so as to maximise time with residents who you will meet on a one-to-one basis in a communal area. This is likely to be suitable for those pupils looking to study Medicine, Psychology, and those interested in careers in care.

## MUSIC AND THE BRAIN

**Mr Wood**

We will explore how music affects brain function and human behaviour, looking at how different styles help to: strengthen learning, memory, and cognition; boost creativity; regulate mood and emotion; reduce stress, anxiety, and depression; and increase your motivation. Through listening, and reflecting on our own experiences, we will seek to compose a number of pieces which explore these theories in practice.

# A LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES

## 2024 - 2026

## INTRODUCTION

A level Fine Art is a broad-based course exploring practical, critical and contextual work through a range of 2D and 3D processes and media to focus on a specialist area of study that will suit your individual interests and abilities.

Students are required to work in one or more area(s) of fine art, such as those listed below.

You may explore overlapping areas and combinations of:

- Drawing and painting
- Mixed-media, including collage and assemblage
- Sculpture
- Installation
- Printmaking (relief, intaglio, screen processes and lithography)
- Moving image and photography

## COURSE CONTENT

### **Component 1: Personal Investigation – 60%**

This is a practical investigation supported by written material.

Students are required to conduct a practical investigation supported by written material.

Students are required to conduct a practical investigation, of their own choice, into an idea, issue, concept or theme. The investigation must show clear development from initial intentions to the final outcome or outcomes. Past Personal Investigations have included, among many themes, the following investigations:

- A study of the work of Grayson Perry and social commentary
- A study into animation with an emphasis on Russian politics and propaganda
- A study of childhood through paintings and sculptures

### **Component 2: Externally Set Assignment – 40%**

This AQA assignment is a 15 hour examination which is held over three days. The examination papers are released every year on 1st February and the examination is held in late April or early May.

## COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind, Fine Art is the A level for you. Many of our students continue their studies after the A level at prestigious London and New York art schools on Foundation or Liberal Arts courses. Recently, pupils have been awarded places on Photography, Architecture and Animation courses at the country's finest Art Schools, as well as applications to study Fashion in Milan and Florence.

### **WHAT STUDENTS SAY:**

*“Art is so important if you want to go on to do Fine Art or design in combination with A level Mathematics or Architecture.”*

### INTRODUCTION

Do you want to know much more about how the human body works, or understand the surprising ways in which humans affect and are affected by the natural world? Do you enjoy reading about research on health and the environment in the media? If so, A level Biology is the subject for you. Biology is a rapidly developing science and we regularly discuss the connections between the topics we study and scientific research in the headlines. By studying A level Biology, you will also develop a set of skills that will be useful in a very broad range of careers.

### COURSE CONTENT

#### The Lower Sixth:

- **Biological molecules:** structure and function of carbohydrates; lipids; proteins; enzymes and nucleic acids
- **Cells:** structure and function of eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells; DNA replication and mitosis; transport across membranes; immune system
- **The environment:** gas exchange; digestion and absorption; mass transport in animals and plants
- **Genetics:** DNA and chromosomes; protein synthesis; mutation and meiosis, genetic variation and diversity

#### The Upper Sixth:

- **Energy transfers in between organisms:** photosynthesis; respiration; energy and ecosystems; nutrient cycles
- **Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments:** stimuli; nervous coordination; homeostasis
- **Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems:** inheritance; populations; evolution; populations in ecosystems
- **The control of gene expression:** DNA; gene expression; gene technologies; organism function; the design of new industrial and medical processes

#### Practicals:

Biology, like all sciences is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- Using microscopes to see cell division
- Dissection of animal or plant systems
- Aseptic technique to study microbial growth
- Investigating activity within cells
- Investigating animal behaviour
- Investigating distributions of species in the environment

#### Examinations:

There is no coursework, however your performance during practicals will be assessed. There are three examinations at the end of the two years, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A level Biology are based on practicals.

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

A level Biology builds on the work covered in GCSE Biology/Double Award Science and so you will need excellent GCSE results in these subjects. Written communication is also important. Common degree courses chosen by students who have taken A level Biology include Biology, Psychology, Sports Science, Medicine, Veterinary Sciences, Anatomy, Pharmacology and Pharmacy. Studying these subjects at university offers many exciting career options, including molecular geneticist, nature conservation officer, research scientist, doctor or physiotherapist.

#### WHAT STUDENTS SAY:

*"It's so important to learn about the world around us. I'm planning to take Biochemistry at university. It is fascinating to see how the two subjects are connected."*

# CHEMISTRY

AQA 7405

## INTRODUCTION

Chemistry a part of our everyday lives. From the production of energy to power our society, to the cosmetics we use to express our individuality, the fabrics that we use to produce our clothing, to the food we consume, the solutions to the climate change emergency, or the pharmaceutical drugs that support our health – Chemistry has a role to play. The study of A Level Chemistry will help to develop many transferable skills that you will be able to utilise in your future studies. The course will develop your teamworking and leadership, teach you how to analyse data, enhance your problem solving and allow you the opportunity to exercise your creativity. You will learn how to communicate complex concepts elegantly, both in words and numerically. These skills are highly sought after at university and in many careers.

## COURSE CONTENT

The Lower Sixth:

- **Physical chemistry:** atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, equilibria, oxidation, reduction and redox reactions
- **Inorganic chemistry:** periodicity, the alkaline earth metals and the halogens
- **Organic chemistry:** introduction to organic chemistry, alkanes, halogen alkanes, alkenes, alcohols and organic analysis

The Upper Sixth:

- **Physical chemistry:** thermodynamics, kinetics, the equilibrium constant  $K_p$ , electrode potentials and electrochemical cells, acids, bases and buffers
- **Inorganic chemistry:** periodicity, transition metals and reactions of inorganic compounds in aqueous solution
- **Organic chemistry:** nomenclature and isomerism, compounds containing carbonyl groups, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymerisation, amino acids proteins and DNA, organic synthesis and analysis, structure determination and chromatography

### Practicals:

During the A Level Chemistry course you will complete many practical tasks, including twelve Core Practical tasks. As well as deepening your understanding of the course content, this will help you to develop confidence in your manual dexterity, enhance your communication skills and develop your independent study skills as you research procedures and complete risk assessments. Over the two years you will synthesise both organic and inorganic products, learn to carry out analytical techniques including TLC, explore multiple methods for following the rate of a reaction and much more!

### Examinations:

Chemistry A Level is assessed in three papers at the end of the two-year course:

Paper 1: Inorganic and Physical Chemistry (2 hours, 105 marks)

Paper 2: Organic and Physical Chemistry (2 hours, 105 marks)

Paper 3: Chemistry – including 40 marks on practical techniques and data analysis (2 hours, 90 marks)

## COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

Chemistry sits well with both the Biological Sciences and the Physical Sciences, as well as with humanities subjects to provide balance. It is a requirement for those who plan to study Medicine, Veterinary Science, and Dentistry, and is useful for those who may plan to study Natural Sciences, Biochemistry, Biochemical Engineering or indeed Chemistry! The skills developed in the course are highly desirable for many other degree subjects, meaning choosing to study Chemistry opens many doors.

Is there a jump from IGCSE Level to A Level? Much of the content that is covered in the IGCSE course is revisited in the A Level course, meaning that the key concepts are familiar. If you are interested in the subject and proactive in your own learning, A Level Chemistry is no harder than any other subject.

### WHAT STUDENTS SAY:

*“Chemistry taught me many skills that allowed me to better understand the world around me.”*

# CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

OCR H408

## INTRODUCTION

Classical Civilisation focuses on the civilisations of Greece and Rome and is a wide-ranging subject involving the study of literature, material culture, philosophy and ethics, and their historical contexts. From relationships in the ancient world, to the study of art and heroism, Classical Civilisation involves interesting discussions that are directly relevant to today's world. It prepares students to develop their ideas confidently, creatively and analytically both on paper and in class. Personal responses are highly encouraged. You do not need any knowledge of Latin or Greek, or to have taken GCSE Classical Civilisation. There is no coursework element to the qualification.

## COURSE CONTENT

### **Unit 1: The World of the Hero (40%); 2 hours 20 mins exam**

In this compulsory component, you will study Homer's *Odyssey*, as well as Virgil's *Aeneid*. You will develop an increasingly sophisticated level of knowledge and understanding of the epics themselves; the way in which they were composed; the characterisation of the heroes; and the religious, cultural and social values and beliefs of their societies. The epic poems of Homer and Virgil are considered to be the cornerstones of Western literature and remain enduringly popular.

### **Unit 2: Culture and the Arts – Invention of the Barbarian (30%); 1 hour 45 mins exam**

This unit allows you to explore concepts of identity and the Other in the Greek world. Our concept of the 'barbarian' has its origins in Greek beliefs that their culture was distinct from and superior to others. In this thought-provoking unit you will explore how Greek concepts of the barbarian evolved in drama, historical writing and artwork, and then you will compare that to how the Persians portrayed their own identity in their own culture. By comparing both Greek and Persian sources you will develop a much more nuanced understanding of how cultures view one another, and how significantly our own understanding of the ancient Near East can be warped by reading Greek texts at face value. This component will hone your visual and analytical skills, develop your ability to offer critical analyses, and enable you to articulate an informed personal response to the works under consideration.

### **Unit 3: Beliefs and Ideas - Love and Relationships (30%); 1 hour 45 mins exam**

Ideas about love and relationships are key aspects of the literature, thoughts, and ethics of any society, especially those in the ancient world. The ethical questions raised by these ideas continue to be wrestled over by successive generations and this unit will generate interesting and important discussions about love, desire, sex, sexuality and the institution of marriage. Ancient ideas about men, women and marriage enable you to discuss the reality of love and relationships in everyday life, whilst study of Seneca and Plato provides a more conceptual approach allowing you to draw comparisons and make judgements about ideal and reality, and the nature of 'right' and 'wrong' ways to love or be loved. The poems of Sappho, one of very few ancient female voices, provides a link between the Homeric poems and the literature of 5th and 4th century Athens, while Ovid offers a lighter presentation of relationships and concentrates on the fun and flirtation of budding romances.

## COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

If you are interested in examining other cultures, are curious about the origins of many aspects of modern society, you appreciate reading literature and looking at ancient objects, and enjoy writing in depth, then this is the subject for you! The location of the school is a tremendous bonus with a huge number of museums, exhibitions and lectures on our doorstep. Students also often have the opportunity to attend performances of classical plays throughout the year. Classical Civilisation is an excellent addition to nearly every other subject and can lead to a variety of different university subjects and careers.

### **WHAT STUDENTS SAY:**

*"Reading the Odyssey leads to so many connections with History, Geography, Art, Psychology and Philosophy."*

*"Classics really relates to everyday life. Everything today seems to have its origin in the Classical World."*

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

## OCR H446

### INTRODUCTION

This exciting course allows pupils to develop their critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills by developing computer programs and analysing computer systems. The course will equip girls with many highly desirable creative and technical skills by developing technical solutions to real world problems. Relevant to the modern, changing world of computing, the course is designed to boost computing skills essential for the 21st century, such as coding, computational thinking and the development and management of new systems.

### COURSE CONTENT

**The A level Computer Science qualification consists of three units:**

Units 1 and 2 cover the body of knowledge about computer systems on which the examinations will be based. Both Units 1 and 2 are assessed by means of formal external examination with Unit 3 being completed as a large programming project to which girls will analyse a real-world problem, with a real client or business. Girls will design and develop a system, code the solution, carry out industry standard testing and evaluate their successes against the client's requirements.

#### **Unit 1: Computer Science (40%)**

- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output storage devices
- Software and software development
- Exchanging data
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues

#### **Unit 2: Algorithms and Programming (40%)**

- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

#### **Unit 3: Programming Project (20%)**

- Real world clients or businesses
- Enterprising skills
- Analysis, design, implementation, testing and evaluation

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

To study A level Computer Science you would be expected to have an active interest in the subject and be willing to practise your coding skills at home, away from the classroom. You need to be able to think logically and be comfortable manipulating numbers. All computer scientists share a love of solving problems by creating elegant and effective solutions and girls will be expected to share this attitude. Computer Science is also a highly creative discipline, allowing pupils to produce pieces of work which are both significant and individual. This qualification offers a solid foundation in many of the key skills required for further study or a career in Computer Science.

**WHAT STUDENTS SAY:**  
*"I am glad I took this subject as it is so practical. I have learnt so much which I think will be useful to me in the future."*

# DRAMA AND THEATRE

AQA 7262

## INTRODUCTION

Drama and Theatre is an extremely varied course which enables you to explore theatre from a range of angles. It provides the opportunity to develop your performance skills and appreciation of a wide range of theatre practitioners and styles. You will work both collaboratively with your group to create a range of performances and individually to develop your written responses to theatre. You will perform and produce highly polished performance pieces and develop skills in devising and developing creative ideas. You will attend several contrasting theatre productions and learn to appreciate a variety of performance styles.

## COURSE CONTENT

**The A level course is split into three components:**

### **Component 1: Drama and Theatre (40%)**

This written component assesses knowledge and understanding of Drama and Theatre. You will study two set plays. This component includes analysis and evaluation of live theatre makers. It is assessed by a three hour open book written exam and is marked by AQA.

### **Component 2: Creating Original Drama (30%)**

This component gives you the opportunity to create devised Drama. You will be assessed on the performance of a devised piece of Drama. The piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner. It is assessed by a working notebook (40 marks) and a devised performance (20 marks) marked by a teacher and moderated by AQA.

### **Component 3: Making Theatre (practical 30%)**

This component involves practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts, each taken from a different play. The methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3. Extract 3 is then performed as a final assessed piece. You will write a reflective report analysing and evaluating the theatrical interpretation of all three extracts. It is assessed by the performance of an extract (40 marks), a reflective report (20 marks) and is marked by AQA.

## COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

It is not a requirement for A level Drama and Theatre to have studied GCSE Drama, although it is an advantage. You should be able to think for yourself and be prepared to develop your own ideas. Much work in Drama and Theatre is collaborative so you should enjoy working with others and be aware of the responsibilities this entails. There is a substantial written component in this subject which requires you to research material, interpret dramatic theory and review performance works. You are encouraged to take an active interest in theatre by attending productions in your own time, in addition to the opportunities provided at school. A level Drama and Theatre can be a personally challenging course and a highly rewarding experience. It is excellent preparation for further study of arts subjects at university including drama itself, literature and languages. You will be strong, resilient and ready for any challenge!

## WHAT STUDENTS SAY:

*“It allows you to explore multiple forms of theatre and build upon existing skills. You explore devising, written texts, and review live theatre, not to mention lots of laughs along the way!”*

*“Drama enables you to develop skills verbally and physically through the study of scripted and live theatre as well as loads of group fun through devising your own play.”*



# ECONOMICS

## AQA 7136

### INTRODUCTION

Economics is a popular subject at A level. It combines very well with Mathematics, the sciences, other humanities and languages. It is well regarded by university admissions tutors and provides a most useful introduction to a wide range of social science courses and careers. Although it is possible to read Economics at university without having studied the subject, there is no doubt that having studied the A level course gives first year undergraduates an enormous advantage. Economics embraces a wide and constantly expanding variety of topics, all of which relate directly to the everyday events that shape our lives. You will analyse how consumers decide which combinations of goods to purchase, why asset bubbles happen and how they decide what price to charge for their goods.

### COURSE CONTENT

**In the Lower Sixth the course covers the following:**

- Economic methodology
- Individual economic decision making
- The economic problem
- Price determination
- Production, costs and revenue
- Market and government failure
- Competitive and concentrated markets
- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- How the macroeconomy works
- Economic performance
- Macroeconomic policy

**In the Upper Sixth, economists study the following:**

- The labour market
- The distribution of income and wealth; poverty and inequality
- Financial markets and monetary policy
- Forms of government intervention
- The international economy

**Paper 1:** Microeconomics

**Paper 2:** Macroeconomics

**Paper 3:** Micro and macroeconomics

All examinations are of a two hour duration. Paper 3 will have a section of thirty multiple choice questions, otherwise the questions will consist of a variety of data interpretation, analysis and evaluation.

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

You need secure mathematical ability but the numerical aspects are no more difficult than GCSE level. You should also be genuinely interested in current affairs, including regularly reading a national newspaper and watching current affairs programmes. You should enjoy discussion and debate. You need to be happy to back up your arguments with graphs and statistics.

#### WHAT STUDENTS SAY:

*“This is such a useful and interesting subject. I have learnt so much.”*

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## OCR H472

### INTRODUCTION

English Literature is designed to prepare students for further study by encouraging a comparative approach to texts, informed by literary criticism. You will have the opportunity to develop as a confident, independent and reflective reader of texts and to express your responses effectively on paper and in class.

### COURSE CONTENT

#### **Paper 1: Pre-1900 Drama and Poetry (40%); 2 hours 30 minutes examination**

- **Section 1 Shakespeare** - study of one play from the following: *Coriolanus*, *Hamlet*; *Measure for Measure*; *Richard III*; *The Tempest* or *Twelfth Night*
- **Section 2 Pre-1900 Drama and Poetry** - comparative study of one play and one poetry text. The poetry text will be one of the following: Chaucer, 'The Merchant's Prologue and Tale'; Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Books IX and X; Coleridge, *Selected Poems*; Tennyson, *Maud* or Rossetti, *Selected Poems*. The play will be one of the following: Marlowe, *Edward II*; Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*; Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer*; Wilde, *An Ideal Husband* and Ibsen, *A Doll's House*

#### **Paper 2: Comparative and Contextual Study (40%); 2 hours 30 minutes examination.**

Teachers will select from the following five topic areas: American Literature 1880-1940; The Gothic; Dystopia; Women in Literature or The Immigrant Experience. Students will study at least two novels within the selected topic.

#### **Coursework: Post-1900 Literature (20%); two essay tasks; three texts (one poetry, one drama, one prose – one of these will be a post-2000 text)**

Task 1 – a 1,000-word critique of a passage from one of the three texts

Task 2 – a 2,000-word comparative essay on two texts, informed by critical and contextual reading and research

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

A level English Literature is intended to build on the skills that you have successfully demonstrated at IGCSE or GCSE English Language and Literature: in particular, the ability to read closely for meaning and form coherent, structured arguments on paper and in discussions. If you have enjoyed the study of Literature at IGCSE or GCSE and are passionate about reading and research, you will be well suited to this course. Developing the ability to critique texts, consider relationships across texts and explore social, cultural and historical contexts that underpin texts prepares you well for the study of English at university and also supports other subjects and careers in the Arts and Humanities.

#### **WHAT STUDENTS SAY:**

*"As a student of English Literature, I love History, and as a historian I love English: they go so well together."*

*"We read such a wide range of works. There's something for everyone."*

### INTRODUCTION

The French A level course will help you to develop highly effective oral and written communication, skills of crucial importance in the world of business and beyond. This course constitutes a considerable and exciting step up from IGCSE in terms of both fluency and depth. Emphasis is placed on understanding and analysing the political, intellectual and artistic culture of the French speaking countries, including social issues and trends. Independent research into an issue of personal choice allows for a deeper, more satisfying development of your personal interests.

### COURSE CONTENT

#### Themes you will study:

- The developing French society: changing family structures, education and the world of work
- Politics and arts in French speaking cultures: music, media, festivals and Traditions
- Immigration and the multicultural society
- The Occupation and Resistance

#### Areas you will be assessed on:

- Study of a film and a work of literature or two works of literature
- The four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing
- Translation skills to and from the target language

#### Sources you will use:

Sources you will use to explore the topics and develop your linguistic skills include: recorded or live news items, podcasts, films and documentaries, popular and classical music, excerpts from novels, poetry and magazine articles, and novels.

#### Skills you will develop:

You will learn to research and prepare for an oral presentation and debate, how to analyse and write essays on a film or a literary text, and how to translate material from a variety of sources effectively.

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

If you have enjoyed languages at IGCSE and are good at them you should seriously consider taking at least one language to A level. It is a good idea to combine a language with either the sciences or the humanities and it is also very common, and very useful, to take two languages at A level. Studying A level in French considerably enhances employment prospects, facilitates foreign travel, provides an insight into another culture and society, and builds a sound basis for further study of languages at university. Through your study you will acquire and practise many transferable skills, such as the ability to analyse and evaluate, to think independently and creatively, and, above all, to present your views clearly and confidently to others. Every year girls go on to read languages at top universities, often combining them with another subject, such as International Relations or Management.

#### WHAT STUDENTS SAY:

*“What I have enjoyed the most is learning about French culture and traditions, as well as being able to speak the language more confidently and fluently.”*

*“It was incredible; honestly the best A level subject I took.”*

# GEOGRAPHY

## OCR H481

### INTRODUCTION

Geography is an exciting, adventurous and valuable subject, which is uniquely placed in our understanding of the diverse range of issues facing the world today. It requires both a strong appreciation of temporal and locational change and an academic knowledge of the myriad of sub-disciplines that form geography.

Educational visits are an integral part of the subject, whether one day trips in London or further afield. They give pupils the opportunity to gain an enhanced awareness and understanding of different cultures and environments. Recent and upcoming expedition destinations include Iceland, Barcelona, Devon, and South Wales.

### COURSE CONTENT

The human elements focus on key components and skills particularly relevant to global connections. Topics range from the study of the implications of sweeping demographic change across the developed and developing worlds, to the nature of places and the fluidity of their changing representations. Time is also spent exploring the dynamic challenges posed by climate change and tectonic hazards, arguably two of the most disruptive influences facing the modern world.

Within the physical component, careful consideration is given to landscape systems, contextualised through coastal environments. Study of the carbon and water cycles provide an essential understanding of their pivotal roles in the inter-relationship between humans and the world around them.

The investigative geography module allows students to deepen their knowledge and understanding of their chosen topic whilst also developing a number of geographical and study skills relevant to undergraduate study. It is based around a defined question or issue and the analysis of primary data which has been collected in the field. Preparation for this module is by way of a residential field trip. Help and guidance is given throughout.

Assessment is by way of three written examinations (80% of the total A level) plus a non-exam investigation of between 3000 and 4000 words (20% of the total A level).

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

First and foremost, students should have an interest in the world around them. Ideally, they should also have studied GCSE Geography, although this is not a prerequisite. Geographers are both natural scientists and social anthropologists who are excellent at synthesising complex ideas, thinking critically and making informed decisions. Alongside these skills, they are also socially aware, strong communicators and brilliant at working in teams. As more and more of our students pursue careers with multi-national employers, it is no wonder that geographers are so much in demand. At A level, geography attracts students who are inclined towards the sciences, the arts, politics and economics.

#### WHAT STUDENTS SAY:

*“A brilliant subject - it has allowed me to delve into recent controversial debates and issues, challenging my view of the world we live in.”*

### INTRODUCTION

The German A level course will help you to develop highly effective oral and written communication skills through the correct use of grammar and a varied vocabulary. This course constitutes a considerable and exciting step up from IGCSE in terms of both fluency and depth. Emphasis is placed on understanding and analysing the political, intellectual and artistic culture of German speaking countries, including social issues and trends. Independent research into an issue of personal choice allows for a deeper, more satisfying development of your personal interests.

### COURSE CONTENT

#### Themes you will study:

- The developing German society: nature and environment, education and the world of work
- Politics and Arts in German speaking cultures: music, media, festivals and traditions
- Immigration and the multicultural German society: integration and multiculturalism
- The unification of Germany: the GDR before 1989, unified Germany since 1990

#### Areas you will be assessed on:

- Study of a film and a work of literature or of two works of literature (At FHS we study *Good Bye, Lenin!* and *Der Vorleser*)
- The four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing
- Translation skills to and from the target language

#### Sources you will use:

Sources you will use to explore the topics and develop your linguistic skills include recorded or live news items, podcasts, films and documentaries, popular and classical music, excerpts from novels, poetry and magazine articles, and novels.

#### Skills you will develop:

You will learn to research and prepare for an oral presentation and debate, how to analyse and write essays on a film or a literary text, and how to translate material from a variety of sources effectively.

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

If you enjoy speaking German and wish to expand and deepen your knowledge of the rich and incredibly diverse German speaking culture at the heart of Europe, then this course is for you. This programme embraces many topics and gives you scope to pursue your own interests. It also enriches and informs the study of other subjects from the humanities via the arts to the sciences. You will develop crucial transferable academic, linguistic and communicative skills which enhance your CV and your chances of employment in many different fields from commerce via law to research and education. At top universities, German is often studied combined with Economics, Science, or Marketing, as Germany continues to be one of the strongest economies globally and German continues to be the lingua franca for business and leisure in many European countries.

# HISTORY

## EDEXCEL 9HI0

### INTRODUCTION

This course covers British and European history and a wide range of time periods. The A level is made up of four papers, three of which will be assessed in written examinations at the end of the course, and one coursework unit. These papers offer considerable variety in terms of perspective and depth of study. You will have opportunities to develop analytical and critical skills, learn how to construct structured arguments, address historical claims and debates, and reach judgements by analysis and evaluation. Lessons are mostly in the style of seminars, giving you the opportunity to offer your own views and discuss your own research.

### COURSE CONTENT

#### **Paper 1: Breadth Study with Interpretations (30%); 2 hours 15 minutes**

##### **Option 1B: England, 1509 – 1603: Authority, Nation & Religion**

Paper 1 has two focuses: themes and historical interpretations. The four themes focus on developments and changes over a broad timescale and provide context for the historical interpretations without duplicating content. You will answer questions that target knowledge and understanding of the period, and analyse and evaluate historical interpretations.

#### **Paper 2: Depth Study (20%); 1 hour 30 minutes**

##### **Option 2B.2: The Dutch Revolt, c. 1563-1609**

Paper 2 focuses on depth, requiring more detailed knowledge and understanding of the topic, and over a shorter time period, than Paper 1. Based on four key topics, you will answer questions that target knowledge and understanding of the period, and analyse and evaluate sources.

#### **Paper 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth (30%); 2 hours 15 minutes**

##### **Option 36.2: Ireland and the Union, c.1774 – 1923**

The themes in breadth focus on developments and changes over an extended timescale of at least 100 years. You will answer questions that target understanding of long-term changes.

The aspects in depth require a more in-depth understanding and you will answer questions that target knowledge and understanding of the period, and analyse and evaluate sources.

#### **Paper 4: Coursework (20%)**

##### **Option 4: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Study**

You will carry out an independently-researched enquiry to analyse and evaluate interpretations. The assignment focuses on a question, problem or issue that has generated disagreement among historians.

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

A level historians should have IGCSE or GCSE History (it is very unusual to do A level without this) and an analytical turn of mind. You should be enthusiastic about the subject, ready to engage in debate, good at constructing arguments and drawing conclusions, willing to read around the subject and prepared to carry out independent research.

#### **WHAT STUDENTS SAY:**

*“History fuels a sense of curiosity and is a challenging but rewarding subject which makes you work independently. It changes the way you perceive the world. You can make links between ideas and it gives you confidence to put forward your own ideas.”*

# HISTORY OF ART

## EDEXCEL 9HTO

### INTRODUCTION

The study of Art History is a never-ending delight because it involves looking at, and thinking about, the splendid products of the human imagination. While the course concentrates on painting, sculpture and architecture, History of Art is a study of all forms of visual communication, including new media such as video and performance art.

Francis Holland is luckily in central London and you will make numerous visits to its marvellous collections, at the National Gallery, Tate Britain, Tate Modern, for example, as well as to the great number and variety of exhibitions which take place each year. You will also have the opportunity to make trips abroad to study at first hand the works which students otherwise know only through reproductions.

### COURSE CONTENT

This two-year A level course is an invaluable opportunity to study some of the greatest works of world art and architecture from Classical times to the present day. You will acquire a broad knowledge of civilisations and the artistic production of different cultures and individuals across the globe. You will learn how to analyse the formal characteristics of a work of art and learn art historical terminology in order to describe the works.

You will also study the historical, social and cultural contexts of works of art and see how important it is to understand these contexts to appreciate them fully. Throughout the course we will look at different genres of art, such as landscapes or portraits, and consider determining factors such as the role of the patron in the production of a work, the use of different materials and how they affect the appearance of a work, how the gender of an artist might be evident in the work or the development of new technologies. We will also consider the history of the museum and how gallery spaces have changed the course of contemporary art.

For the historical paper, there is one in-depth study of many of the masterpieces of the Italian Renaissance and another of works by British and American contemporary artists working from 1960 to the present day. There is also a thematic unit in which we will explore how past and present artists and architects from different cultures have represented identity, war, and/or nature.

#### **Paper 1: 3 hour (50%)**

Visual Analysis  
Themes in Art

#### **Paper 2: 3 hours**

Invention and illusion: the Renaissance in Italy (1420 – 1520)  
Pop Life: British and American contemporary art and architecture (1960-2015)

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

A student of A level History of Art needs no previous knowledge, but enthusiasm and an enquiring mind is essential. The subject is complemented particularly well by History and English, but in fact students of all disciplines have enjoyed History of Art and have found it a life-long interest. History of Art A level is not required to study the subject at university, but it is a great help. Many careers can be pursued following a course of study at university; for example, in museums and galleries, be they permanent collections or commercial; restoration and preservation of paintings, sculptures or national monuments; journalism, publishing, and beyond.

### INTRODUCTION

Latin A level develops the skills fostered at GCSE and extends students' appreciation of the Roman world. The course aims to nurture an enthusiasm for the classical world generally, and to enable students to develop a competence in the Latin language and to appreciate its influence on the languages of today. It focuses on first century literature; students will develop the skills to read, evaluate and make a personal response to both poetry and prose in the original language. There is no coursework element to the qualification.

### COURSE CONTENT

#### Language:

- **Unit 1: Latin Language – Unseen Translation (33%); 1 hour 45 minutes examination**
- **Unit 2: Latin Language – Prose Composition or Comprehension (17%); 1 hour 15 minutes examination**

You will build your knowledge of vocabulary (aided by the AS Defined Vocabulary List) and linguistic structures through reading and studying prose and verse texts in Latin.

You will study texts written by a range of prose authors and the verse unseen author to develop linguistic competence. You will need to demonstrate the ability to translate unseen prose and verse passages into English. The second paper involves either an optional passage to translate from English into Latin or to demonstrate your understanding of a passage of unseen prose text through comprehension, translation and questions on syntax and accidence.

#### Literature:

- **Unit 3: Latin Literature – Prose (25%); 2 hours examination**
- **Unit 4: Latin Literature – Verse (25%); 2 hours examination**

You will develop your language skills through an in-depth study of one or two prescribed prose texts and one or two verse texts (for example, Cicero & Tacitus and Horace & Virgil). You will critically analyse the literary style, characterisation, argument and literary meaning of a passage from a set text and write your own personal response to the texts studied. The units are synoptic and you will also be expected to read a section of the text in English to broaden your wider understanding.

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

If you enjoyed your study at GCSE, you are interested in how languages work, you appreciate reading literature, and enjoy a challenge, then this is the subject for you! It is highly valued by university admissions tutors for the linguistic, literary and analytical skills it fosters and it also appeals to those who prefer variety within a subject. The location of the school is a tremendous bonus with a huge number of museums, exhibitions and lectures on our doorstep. You will also often have the opportunity to attend performances of classical plays throughout the year.

#### WHAT STUDENTS SAY:

*“Latin is neat, mathematical and beautiful.”*

*“I love the fact that you can really see how the Romans lived through reading a Cicero speech.”*



# MATHEMATICS

## EDEXCEL 9MA0

### INTRODUCTION

Mathematics is an extremely popular A level at Francis Holland and is highly regarded by universities and the world at large. There is significant overlap between the first year of the course and the more advanced material in the IGCSE syllabus, so you will be very well prepared.

### COURSE CONTENT

A level Mathematics is a linear course, comprising of Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics. You will study these together. Most mathematics students will study the full A level which will be geared towards three terminal examinations at the end of Upper Sixth, two Pure Mathematics papers and one Applied Mathematics paper.

The Pure Mathematics content will extend your knowledge and understanding of algebra, calculus, geometry and trigonometry. You will also learn new areas of mathematics such as mathematical modelling and proof.

In the Applied Mathematics content you will study both Statistics and Mechanics. In statistics you will further your knowledge of probability and representation of data, as well as delving into new areas such as probability distributions and hypothesis testing. In the mechanics content you will learn about the mathematics behind physical concepts such as kinematics and dynamics.

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

If you enjoyed Mathematics during Years 10 and 11 and you achieve a Grade 9 at IGCSE, then you have strong reasons to continue to A level. It is very likely that, for many of you, Mathematics may help your other subjects. The course knowledge is useful in many disciplines including Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Psychology, Music, Medicine and Economics.

An A level in Mathematics will also provide a contrast to Modern Foreign Languages or Humanities subjects, demonstrating that you are numerate and capable of quantitative thinking. Studying Mathematics is very different from studying an essay-based subject. Many students enjoy an approach which is based on attempting questions rather than reading and responding to written material.

Mathematics is a required subject for certain degree courses such as Economics, Management, Architecture and PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics).

#### WHAT STUDENTS SAY:

*“The teachers don’t just tell you how to do something; they explain it or let you find it out for yourself.”*

*“Going to lectures at UCL was what got me really hooked on Maths: especially one on the applications of Maths in books, film and fashion.”*

# FURTHER MATHEMATICS

## EDEXCEL 9FM0

### INTRODUCTION

Further Mathematics is becoming increasingly popular at Francis Holland and if you are very able and have a real passion for Mathematics, you may also be interested in taking the Further Mathematics course. Further Mathematics is highly recommended (and sometimes essential) for the study of mathematics, physics and some economics and engineering courses, especially at top universities.

### COURSE CONTENT

A level Further Mathematics is now a linear course, comprising of Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics. You will study these together.

Most Further Mathematics students will study the full A level which will be geared towards four terminal examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth, two Further Pure Mathematics papers and two option papers.

The new course will consist of four modules:

- Two compulsory Further Pure Mathematics modules which cover new topics and build upon those studied in the Mathematics A level
- The two applied modules we study are Further Statistics and Further Mechanics. These are chosen as they provide the most comprehensive grounding in the three areas of Mathematics (Pure, Statistics and Mechanics). They are also the most generally useful to girls progressing into a number of scientific or mathematical courses of study after Sixth Form

Topics in Further Pure Mathematics include: proof, matrices, further calculus, vectors, further algebra, complex numbers, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, and differential equations.

Topics in the Applied modules include:

- Statistics: regression and correlation, further probability distributions and chi squared tests
- Mechanics: momentum and impulses, collisions, centres of mass, work and energy, springs and strings, kinematics, dynamics, circular motion, statics, and elasticity

Please note that it is not possible to study Further Mathematics without also studying Mathematics A level.

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

You must be committed to your Mathematics studies and have a genuine interest in the subject to succeed at Further Mathematics. You should be prepared to work hard and accept new ideas at speed. If you are planning on studying a STEM subject at university (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) then you should seriously consider whether Further Mathematics may help your application. It can be useful to set yourself apart from other candidates when applying for competitive courses, and is a requirement for some of the most academically challenging courses for Engineering and Economics.

#### WHAT STUDENTS SAY:

*“What’s good about A level Maths and Further Maths is that you suddenly ‘get’ how you are going to apply what you are learning.”*

## INTRODUCTION

Studying Music to A level is a very rewarding, exacting and highly regarded discipline with valuable transferable skills; this is for a pupil who is passionate about any type of music and is interested in performance, composition and the appreciation and theoretical understanding of music.

## COURSE CONTENT

The new Music A level is 100% externally assessed. **Option A** is weighted slightly more heavily towards performing and less towards composition. There are three core components comprising:

**Component 1: Performing (35%)** A performance consisting of a minimum of three pieces (total duration of 10-12 minutes). At least one of these pieces must be as a soloist. The other pieces may be either as a soloist or playing/singing a unique part in an ensemble. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study. At least one other piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one other different area of study. This is a non-exam assessment – an external examiner comes to the school to hear and record the performances which are externally marked.

**Component 2: Composing (30%)** Two compositions (total duration of 4-6 minutes), one of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a brief set by WJEC. Students will have a choice of four set briefs, released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the assessment is to be taken (UVI year). The second composition is a free composition. This is a non-exam assessment – sent off to WJEC for marking.

**Component 3: Appraising (40%)** A written exam (approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes – including listening questions) which takes place during the regular summer exam period on the following information:

### Three areas of study:

Area of Study A: **The Western Classical Tradition** (The development of the Symphony 1750-1900) which includes 2 set works:

For detailed analysis: *Symphony no.4 in A major, 'Italian' by Mendelssohn*

For general study: *Symphony no.104 in D major, 'London' by Haydn*

A choice of one area of study (we choose Area of Study C): *Music Theatre*

A choice of one area of study (we choose Area of Study E): *Into the Twentieth Century* with 2 set works:

*Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano, Movement II by Poulenc*

*Three Nocturnes, Number 1, Nuages by Debussy*

Questions:

Set work analysis with a score

- Extended responses on wider context of the set works
- Unprepared extracts of music with and without a score
- Comparison questions

## COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

Music could be the subject for you if you are passionate about music; if you learn an instrument or sing to at least Grade 5 standard; if you enjoy alternative approaches to work (other than written work); and if you like small class sizes; if you are prepared to put in a lot of time on your work and to contribute to the Music Department. The ability to read music is also a definite advantage. Pupils who take Music often go on to study at university or a conservatoire; there are also vocational sound engineer courses. There are a wide variety of different aspects of music from Classical to Pop that can be studied. A music degree is a very highly regarded arts degree.

### WHAT STUDENTS SAY:

*"We are encouraged to make our own minds up about the meaning of music. But all the time we are being guided to a solid understanding of the harmony beneath it."*

# PHYSICS

## OCR H556

### INTRODUCTION

Physics is the study of the physical world around you. The A level course will help you understand our world from the very tiny (quantum physics) to the overwhelmingly huge (cosmology). It will also introduce you to a different way of thinking as we discover deeper explanations of phenomena that you have always wanted to understand. We will attempt to answer some of the biggest questions about the universe.

Physics is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities such as investigating the properties of materials, electrical properties, measuring the wavelength of light and exploring quantum effects.

### COURSE CONTENT

- **Forces and Motion:** Covering many aspects of Newtonian physics that you have met before, but in more depth.
- **Electricity:** You will learn about how electricity is described at the molecular level and many examples of how the concepts are applied to real-life situations.
- **Waves:** You will discover phenomena such as polarization, stationary waves, harmonics and how to accurately measure something as tiny as the wavelength of light.
- **Quantum Physics:** An introduction to the branch of physics that has had enormous implications for our modern world.
- **Thermal Physics and Gases:** Temperature, changing states and the kinetic theory of gases.
- **Circular Motion and Oscillations:** Exploring the mechanics of how objects such as planets, moons, satellites and electrons move in orbit and how this can relate to such things as apparent weightlessness and rollercoaster rides.
- **Gravitational Fields:** The study of gravity (what actually is it?) and the application to planetary motion.
- **Stars and cosmology:** Studying different objects in the universe, the life cycle of stars, stellar categories, analysing starlight, measuring astronomical distances, the Big Bang and the evolution of the universe.
- **Capacitors and Electric Fields:** How electricity is stored in electronic circuits.
- **Magnetic fields:** Understanding magnets, electromagnetic induction and transformers.
- **Particle Physics and Radioactivity:** The family of subatomic particles and the structure of the atom and the nucleus, radioactive decay and its application to dating.
- **Nuclear Physics:**  $E = mc^2$ , nuclear fission and nuclear fusion.
- **Medical Imaging:** The physics behind X-rays, CAT scans, the gamma camera, PET scans, ultrasound and Doppler imaging.

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

To study A level Physics, you would be expected to have done well at GCSE. You need to be comfortable manipulating numbers, but it is not necessary to study mathematics at A level to do well.

An A level in Physics opens up many doors to university courses and future careers. As well as learning about how the universe works, you will get a broad training in skills that all employers value – an ability to grasp concepts quickly, a determination to find coherent answers, not to mention problem-solving, analytical, mathematical and IT skills. Even if you do not end up working in a physics-related industry, these skills are still highly regarded. Studying Physics is a good way of keeping your options open. Physics students take up careers in as diverse areas as space science, medicine, architecture, engineering, law, banking, computer game design, film special effects and many more.

#### WHAT STUDENTS SAY:

*“If you’ve ever seen something and found yourself asking ‘why’, then Physics is the subject for you.”*

# POLITICS

## EDEXCEL 9PL0/01

### INTRODUCTION

Politics is a cutting-edge subject which is constantly changing and developing. Studying Politics will allow you to take a fresh look at the issues of power and conflict. Political decisions shape all our lives in the present and in the future, and for that reason alone everyone should be aware of how their system of government operates. The study of politics is an exciting intellectual challenge that invites debate and discussion. At FHS, politics students visit Parliament, meet with an MP and have had the opportunity to participate in a trip to New York to visit the United Nations Headquarters.

### COURSE CONTENT

#### Overview

Politics A level will develop your knowledge and understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the UK and globally.

#### Course Breakdown

##### Unit 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas (33⅓ %)

- UK Politics: democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media
- Core political ideas: conservatism, liberalism and socialism

##### Unit 2: UK Government (33⅓ %)

- UK Government: the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, and relationships between the branches
- Optional Political Idea: Feminism

##### Unit 3: Global Politics (33⅓ %)

- Theories of global politics, and sovereignty and globalisation
- Human rights and the environment, and political and economic global governance

#### Assessment

- Short and long essays
- There is no coursework

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

If you are curious about current affairs and enjoy reading, researching and writing essays then Politics could be the ideal subject for you. You do not require any prior knowledge of politics, but a willingness to stay up to date with this dynamic and ever-changing subject is essential. Politics works well with almost any combination of subjects, be it sciences, mathematics, languages or other humanities. It complements the study of subjects where there is an emphasis on evaluation and analysis, such as Economics, History and English. It is valuable for those wanting to go on to work in public affairs, the media and for those wishing to study Politics, International Relations or PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) at university.

This is a very exciting time to be studying Politics and to enhance your understanding of the world around you.

#### WHAT STUDENTS SAY:

*“Politics gives you the opportunity to make sense of the world around you – literally!”*

# PSYCHOLOGY

## AQA 7181/7182

### INTRODUCTION

Psychologists strive to understand why people behave in certain ways, examining all aspects and stages of life. This subject provides an excellent opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills that are invaluable in higher education, the world of work or any situation that requires an understanding of people. The subject combines well with Biology and Mathematics, but is also often taken successfully by students studying a range of other subjects. Psychology is looked upon favourably by universities as it teaches the scientific method but also develops the critical skills required by the humanities.

### COURSE CONTENT

A level Psychology is assessed via three terminal written examinations.

#### Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology (33⅓ %)

2 hour examination consisting of multiple choice, short answer and an essay section.

- **Social Influence:** This module explores why we conform and why we obey. We discuss the consequences of human nature's drive to belong and how this can be manipulated.
- **Memory:** This module investigates how we remember and why we forget. We also consider the application of memory research to the courtroom.
- **Attachment:** This module asks questions about early infant years and their impact upon our later adult life. We explore case studies and experiments that investigate this in the real world.
- **Psychopathology:** This module considers how we define abnormal behaviour, how it can be explained and what methods are there for treatment. We investigate OCD, depression and phobias.

#### Paper 2: Psychology in Context (33⅓ %)

2 hour examination consisting of multiple choice, short answer and an essay section.

This module provides an overview of the major approaches used in psychology to understand the mind and behaviour. We look at how each approach attempts to explain behaviour and how research is conducted through this approach.

#### Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology (33⅓ %)

2 hour examination consisting of multiple choice, short answer and an essay section.

In this final module the teacher will choose specific topics that suit the requirements and interests of the class. Topic options include: Relationships, Eating Behaviour, Schizophrenia, Aggression, Forensic Psychology, Stress, Addiction and much more!

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

Psychology is credited as a science and offers excellent rewards in providing a deeper understanding of human behaviour. There are many opportunities for practical and interactive work which girls enjoy. Career options within the field of psychology are varied and interesting and many girls go on to study the subject at degree level.

Psychological knowledge, however, is empowering and useful for any career or just for enhancing one's life skills.

#### WHAT STUDENTS SAY:

*"My favourite topics have been abnormality and stress! The lessons are always fascinating!"*

### INTRODUCTION

The Spanish A level course will help you to develop highly effective oral and written communication, skills of crucial importance in the world of business and beyond.

This course constitutes a considerable and exciting step up from IGCSE both in terms of fluency and depth. Emphasis is placed on understanding and analysing the political, intellectual and artistic culture of the Spanish speaking countries, including social issues and trends. Independent research into an issue of personal choice allows for a deeper, more satisfying development of your personal interests.

### COURSE CONTENT

#### Themes you will study:

- The developing Spanish society: changing family structures, education and the world of work
- Politics and Arts in Spanish speaking cultures: music, media, festivals and traditions
- Immigration and the multicultural society
- The Franco dictatorship and transition to democracy

#### Areas you will be assessed on:

- Study of a film and a work of literature, or of two works of literature
- The four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing
- Translation skills to and from the target language

#### Sources you will use:

Sources you will use to explore the topics and develop your linguistic skills include recorded or live news items, podcasts, films and documentaries, popular and classical music, excerpts from novels, poetry, and magazine articles.

#### Skills you will develop:

You will learn to research and prepare for an oral presentation and debate, how to analyse and write essays on a film or a literary text, and how to translate material from a variety of sources effectively.

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

If you have enjoyed languages at IGCSE and are good at them, you should seriously consider taking at least one language to A level. It is a good idea to combine a language with either the sciences or the humanities and it is also very common, and very useful, to take two languages at A level. Studying Spanish A level considerably enhances employment prospects, facilitates foreign travel, provides an insight into another culture and society, and builds a sound basis for further study of languages at university. Through your study you will acquire and practise many transferable skills, such as the ability to analyse and evaluate, to think independently and creatively, and, above all, to present your views clearly and confidently to others. Every year girls go on to read languages at top universities, often combining them with another subject, such as International Relations or Management.

# THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY

## WJEC/EDUQAS 601/8700/1 RELIGIOUS STUDIES

### INTRODUCTION

The Theology and Philosophy department offers the Eduqas Religious Studies A-Level (Philosophy of Religion, Ethics, and Christianity) which is an invigorating course of study which seeks to examine the views and ideas of a range of thinkers including Karl Rahner, Jeremy Bentham and Bertrand Russell. In examining and evaluating such a range of ideas, it is hoped that students will be able to form their own answers to questions of an existential, metaphysical and ethical nature. As such, this subject seeks to develop the skills of analysis and reflection that are intrinsic to what it means to be a thinking person in the 21st Century.

### COURSE CONTENT

#### Philosophy of Religion

- Philosophical issues and questions concerning how God's existence can be proved
- The nature and influence of religious experience
- Problems of evil and suffering
- Philosophical language
- Questions concerning the afterlife and miracles

#### Ethics

- Significant concepts in issues or debates in religion and ethics
- A study of ethical theories: Natural Law, Situation ethics, Utilitarianism and Egoism
- Application of ethical theories to issues of importance such as sexual ethics
- Medical ethics: beginning and end of life issues, especially euthanasia and abortion
- Determinism and free will

#### Christianity

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings
- Sources of wisdom and authority
- Practices that shape and express religious identity
- Social and historical developments
- Works of scholars and analysis of primary texts

### COULD THIS SUBJECT BE FOR ME?

This subject will appeal particularly to pupils who have an interest in conceptual thought, who have a capacity for analytical thinking, who like arguing a case and who can write clearly and fluently. It has been successfully combined with almost all other A level subjects; scientists as well as artists have studied Religious Studies with pleasure and success. This subject is a particularly relevant preparation for studying Philosophy, Theology, Religious Studies as well as Politics and Law. However, the range of skills and concepts involved in this flexible subject make it an effective preparation for all humanities and many of the social sciences. It is not necessary to have studied Religious Studies before at GCSE.

#### WHAT STUDENTS SAY:

*"I found the Religious Studies A level to be a really good choice, because there was plenty of debate and discussion in which we were all free to express our views. You also gain valuable essay writing skills which help you in every humanities subject, whether at A level or degree level."*



# DESTINATIONS OF RECENT LEAVERS

## UK

Anglia Ruskin .....	Medicine
Bath .....	Economics and Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Business, Psychology in Education, Natural Sciences, Education with Psychology
Birmingham.....	Psychology, Drama and English Literature
Brighton .....	Economics
Bristol .....	Anthropology, Classical Studies, Law, French, Sociology, Modern Languages, Geography, International Business Management, English, Physics & Philosophy, Film and Television, Economics, Classical Studies, Politics and Spanish
Cambridge (Newnham).....	Natural Sciences
Cambridge (Robinson).....	Law
Cardiff .....	Architecture, Neuroscience, International Relations, Chinese, Chemistry
Central St Martins.....	Art Foundation
City .....	Business Management
City & Guilds.....	Art Foundation
Durham .....	Anthropology and Archaeology, History, Psychology, Theology & Religion, Computer Science, Computer Science and Maths, Music, Chemistry, Visual Arts and Film, Archaeology, Finance, Psychology, Visual Arts and Film, Anthropology
Edinburgh .....	Photography, Sociology & Social Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics, Psychology, History of Art & Architectural History, History, English and French, Classical Studies, Architecture, Biological Sciences, Philosophy and Theology, Celtic & English Literature, Arabic and Politics, Art, Computer Science, Veterinary Science, Economics, English Literature, Chemistry, German and Politics, Social Anthropology, Spanish and Politics, History of Art
Exeter .....	English, English & Creative Writing, International Relations, Sociology, Geography, Psychology, Art, Neuroscience, Politics, Theology & Religion, Maths with Finance, Modern Languages, Anthropology, English with Study in North America
Goldsmith's .....	Music, Psychology
Hartpury.....	Bioveterinary Science (with Foundation Year)
Hull York Medical School .....	Medicine
Imperial College, London .....	Medicine, Chemical Engineering, Physics with Theoretical Physics
King's College, London .....	English, International Relations, Computer Science, Law, Management and Modern Language, Maths, Psychology, Physics, Mathematics and Philosophy, Music, Medicine, Natural Science, Electronic Engineering, English with Film Studies, European Studies, Neuroscience, Maths and Philosophy, Classical Studies with English, Comparative Literature, English Law & French Law, Geography, European Studies, History and International Relations
Leicester .....	Ancient History, Medicine
Leeds.....	International Relations
Liverpool .....	Medicine, Veterinary Science
Loughborough .....	Biochemistry, Economics, Product Design Engineering
London School of Economics .....	History, Philosophy and Logic, International Relations, Law, Philosophy, Politics and Economics, International Relations and History
Manchester .....	American Studies, History, History of Art, Modern History with Economics, Medicine, Music, International Business, Finance and Economics, Liberal Arts with International Study, Politics & Modern History, Computer Science, Social Anthropology
Manchester Metropolitan .....	French and Arabic
Medway School of Pharmacy.....	MPharm (Pharmacy) with Preparatory Year
Newcastle .....	Marketing and Management, Music, Geography and Business, Geography, Computer Science, Architecture, Marketing, English Literature
Nottingham.....	Mechanical Engineering, Physics, Medicine, Accountancy
Oxford (Lady Margaret Hall, Oriel, Pembroke, St Hilda's, St John's, St Edmund Hall)	History, Physics, Classics with Oriental Studies, Classics, English, Theology & Philosophy, Engineering
Oxford Brookes .....	History of Art, Social Anthropology, Economics and Finance, Psychology, Sociology
Queen Mary, London.....	Neuroscience, Dentistry, Maths, English, Mathematics, Finance & Statistics
Reading .....	Archaeological Science
Royal Holloway .....	Management with Marketing, Classical Studies, Business/Management, Psychology and Criminology, Management with Accounting, Biology
Sheffield .....	Mechatronics and Robotics
SOAS, University of London.....	History, International Relations, Law, Chinese and World Philosophies, Korean Studies
Southampton .....	Medicine
St Andrews .....	Geography, Psychology, Social Anthropology, Mathematics, Medicine, German and Philosophy

St George's, University of London	Biomedical Science
Surrey	Acting
Sussex	History of Art, Anthropology, Psychology
UCL	Chemical Engineering, Human Sciences, Maths, Modern Languages, Biochemistry, Chemistry, PPE, Arts & Sciences, Global Humanitarian Studies, Urban Planning, Design and Management, Politics and International Relations, Russian Studies, Comparative Literature, Maths, Neuroscience, Bioprocessing of New Medicines
University of the Arts, London	Architecture, Animation, Art Foundation, Graphic Design, Strategic Fashion Management
University of Law	Law
Warwick	History of Art, Psychology, International Management, Sociology, English Literature, Chemistry, Biomedical Science
York	Criminology, Interactive Media, Law, English, Music, Politics with International Relations

## INTERNATIONAL AND US UNIVERSITIES

Babson College, USA	Johns Hopkins, USA	UCLA, USA
Bocconi University, Milan	McGill, Canada	Universidad Francisco de Vitoria, Madrid
University of Boulder, Canada	New York University ('NYU'), USA	University of Chicago, USA
University of Brisbane, Australia	Northeastern University, USA	University of Miami, USA
Chapman University, USA	Parsons, The New School, NYC	University of Notre Dame
Columbia, USA	Polimoda, Florence	University of Queensland, Australia
Davidson College, North Carolina	Princeton University, USA	University of Southern California, USA
Duke University, USA	Sciences Po, Paris	University of Toronto, Canada
EHL, Singapore	Southern Methodist University, USA	University of Virginia, USA
Georgetown University, USA	Stanford University, USA	
IE, Spain	Tulane, New Orleans, USA	

## A LEVEL RESULTS 2018- 2023

A LEVEL	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
% A*	29%	40%	43%	28%	17%	9%
% A* to A	62%	75%	80%	63%	49%	41%
% A* to B	89%	97%	99%	87%	75%	80%
% Pass	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



## CREATIVITY INNOVATION ENTERPRISE

39 Graham Terrace  
London SW1W 8JF  
Tel: 020 7730 2971  
[registrar@fhs-sw1.org.uk](mailto:registrar@fhs-sw1.org.uk)  
[www.fhs-sw1.org.uk](http://www.fhs-sw1.org.uk)

