

VIFORM (KS5) SURVIVAL GUIDE

2023-24



St. Lawrence College
The British School in Greece

Welcome to Key Stage 5, also known as the Sixth

Form. The next two years here at St. Lawrence will be among the most important of your life. Hopefully they will also be some of the most memorable and rewarding as well. You will choose academic subjects that you are interested in and passionate about and you will begin making important decisions about your future. We will be here to support and guide you every step of the way.



Our promise to you:

Academic

- To help you achieve the highest standards in your academic work.
- To help you develop as independent and active learners.
- To make you think about the world by providing opportunities for participation in both academic and non-academic activities and events.

Pastoral

- To help you develop organisational skills.
- To encourage a responsible attitude to your communities and to the wider world.
- To help you make decisions about your future.
- To support you in any way we can both academically and socially.

What are our basic expectations of you?

- Be prepared and **ready** to learn.
- **Respect** yourself and others - Be on time, don't disturb others who are trying to focus, Give it your best shot.
- Dress appropriately for school.
- Make as much of a contribution to the school community as you are able.
- Be role models for the younger pupils.

In a nutshell, have high expectations of yourselves and of us. Be ambitious and recognise that success will come only if you are willing to work hard for it.

We will spend a lot of time over the next two years telling you how to do better, we hope that you are able to do the same; please feel free to come to talk to us at any time to let us know if you have any concerns or if you have any suggestions.

Support & Guidance

Useful contact information:

Main Switchboard
Headmaster's Secretary Ms Elizabeth
Senior School Administrative Assistant- Ms Leda
F. Meritt (Deputy Head-Academic)
V. Walters (Deputy Head-Pastoral)
E. Panayiotopoulou (Senior Mistress)
R. Courts (Assistant Head)

210 891 7000
seniorschool@slc.gr
l.madoura@slc.gr
f.meritt@slc.gr
walters@slc.gr
epanayiotopoulou@slc.gr
r.courts@slc.gr

Form Teachers

E. Alexandrou
M. Cooney
E. Galata
A. Karyofilis_
D. Kladidis
V. Kyriakopoulou
C. McDonald
C. Michaelides
S. Stafford

e.alexandrou@slc.gr
m.cooney@slc.gr
e.galata@slc.gr
a.karyofilis@slc.gr
d.kladidis@slc.gr
vkyriakopoulou@slc.gr
c.mcdonald@slc.gr
c.michaelides@slc.gr
sstafford@slc.gr

In the Sixth Form (KS5), you are expected to organise yourself and be independent and self-motivated. **Part of being independent means learning to ask for help.**

Your first port of call is your form teacher. Your form teacher is responsible for helping you navigate the transition from Year 11 to Year 12 through university applications and into higher education. He or she will help you make your subject choices, settle in to sixth form life, discuss your academic progress with you and write your reference when you apply to universities.

Your form teacher will help you prepare your applications to universities in the UK, Europe, and the rest of the world apart from the **USA** or **Canada**. If you want to discuss applying to universities in the United States or Canada, you should see the **Assistant Head** (Mr Courts). There is more information about applying to universities later in the handbook.

You are also encouraged to make the most of the opportunities you have here to enrich both the school and yourself through extra-curricular activities; form period is a time when you will hear about the opportunities that exist in school and beyond.

If you have something you want to discuss regarding your academic progress or university applications that you don't feel comfortable talking about with your form teacher, you can make an appointment to see the **Deputy Head** (Ms Meritt), or your **Assistant Head** (Mr Courts).

Your form teacher will discuss your **academic progress** with you when the **EPMs** are released. In particular, if your teachers feel you have not been working hard enough, they will inform your form teacher who will, if necessary, set up a meeting with you and your parents. Your parents are also invited to parent teacher meetings and to contact teachers at any time either by email or through arranging meetings or phone calls through the headmaster's secretary.

If you feel you need support of any kind whether it is to do with academics, stress, or mental health, please don't hesitate to seek help from your form teacher, any of the heads, or any of your teachers. We are all here to support you. If you need more support than you feel your teachers can help with please make an appointment to speak to the **School Counsellor** who is also there for you.

Life in the Sixth Form

Attendance (absence, lateness, leaving early)

IF YOU KNOW YOU WILL BE ABSENT, YOUR PARENTS OR GUARDIAN MUST CONTACT seniorschool@slc.gr TO INFORM US.

YOU MUST ALSO TELL YOUR TEACHERS YOU WILL MISS THEIR LESSONS (this is just common courtesy).

For an unplanned absence you or your parent/guardian must call or email seniorschool@slc.gr as soon as possible.

You are expected to attend form from 8.40-8.50 if you have a lesson in period 1. If you arrive later than period 1, you MUST sign in with Ms. Elizabeth or Ms Leda at the front desk.

This is not optional; in an emergency, we have to know who is at school and who is not.

If you have no lessons and wish to leave early, you may, but only if you:

1. Bring in a signed copy of the authorisation letter from your parents or guardian at the beginning of the year and
2. **Pick up an Exit Pass from the front desk and sign out at the gate.**

You will not be allowed to leave school if you have lessons scheduled unless you have permission. Once again, your parents will need to contact seniorschool@slc.gr and you need to let your teachers know you will be missing their lessons.

If you are found to have left early without permission or to have come late without signing in, we will send an email home and you will not be allowed to leave before 3.15 for a period of time specified by the Assistant Head. **Repeat offenders will be scheduled in the Study Zone for all free periods until further notice.**

Careers

There will be 3 double periods over the course of the year dedicated to Careers advice.

Changing Subjects

If you want to change subjects or drop a subject, talk to your form teacher who will discuss it with you and then help you organise the change. The Deputy Head (academic) must authorise any subject change before your form teacher will allow it. Make sure you have the courtesy to inform your teacher if you are leaving their class.

Council

The Student Council will have representatives from each Key Stage, but we expect to see leadership roles taken on by the Sixth Formers in the group. Further details will be explained at the beginning of the school year.

Dress Code

You do not have to wear school uniform; however, you are considered to be role models to the rest of the school and thus are expected to be **appropriately dressed** for a school environment at all times. This means being clean and tidy and taking care of your appearance. So ...

- Lanyards will be introduced for all Year 12 and 13 pupils and must be worn at all times on school grounds.
- make sure your clothes are not revealing in any way (**DO NOT WEAR cropped or low-cut tops, thin leggings, trousers or vest tops that show your underwear, mini-skirts, short shorts etc.**) Also, no offensive slogans or designs.
- if you wear **jeans**, they must have **no rips, holes or obvious fraying** (this actually applies to all clothes).
- feel free to wear **discreet** make-up and earrings if you want to, but no other facial piercings.
- tattoos should be covered if inappropriate or unsuitable for school.
- beach shoes are not allowed. We don't mind smart sandals, but **no flip-flops or slides please.**



If you do not adhere to the dress code, you will be warned, your parents will be notified, and if it happens again, you will be given an internal exclusion in the Study Zone for that day.

Driving

If you have a full driver's license, you are welcome to drive to school; however, **you are absolutely not allowed to drive on the school grounds for any reason at any time.** You must park outside; the school does not take responsibility for your vehicle.

If you do drive to school, please drive responsibly. You are not allowed to give lifts to other pupils of the school without written permission from their parents given at least a day in advance.

Electronic Equipment

You may listen to music with earphones DURING FREE PERIODS WHEN YOU ARE STUDYING. **Do not listen while walking around the school, or outside during break times.** If you break this rule, your earphones will be confiscated and given to Elizabeth or Leda until the end of the day.

According to Greek law, mobile phones are not allowed at school, so **keep your phones switched off and in your pockets/bags at all times (even when you are listening to music on them).** **If you are seen with your phone it will be confiscated, and a letter will be sent home. If you commit multiple offences, you will have to hand your phone in at the front desk when you arrive at school for a stated time period.**

You may use a laptop to make use of the Wi-Fi in the Study Zone, or to take notes in class (you will have to get permission from your teachers for this), but be aware that **you bring such items to school completely at your own risk.**

Extra-Curricular Activities

If you have not been involved in extra-curricular activities before, sixth form is an excellent time to get started. From rugby to services society, we have dozens of clubs for you to join. Obviously, it looks good on your applications if you have taken part in these activities, but more importantly, it is fun and rewarding. It is also worth pointing out that it is a terrible idea to limit your extra-curricular activities because you, or your parents, think you need more time for studying. Doing physical activities and activities that are mentally enriching is very important if you are to cope with the stress and workload over the next 2 years. If you would like to start a new club, see Mr Courts.

Important Skills/Independent Learning

We expect you to do a lot more work on your own. Yes, we will set you homework, but we also expect you to develop and deepen your knowledge and understanding of your A-Level subjects by doing more than we ask you to. Your teachers will talk to you more about this, but as a rule, you should plan your time to spend about **20-30 hours (5-8 hours per subject) a week outside of class time** on homework and extra research combined. This is why you must use your time at school wisely.

Non-Contact Periods

This is the first time you will have had periods when you don't have lessons. By all means use a couple of them to relax (especially if you have lunchtime lessons but use them wisely. You will be expected to do work outside of your lessons so use your non-contact times to get some of that work done in the Study Zone, an outside table, or an empty classroom (with the classroom 'owner's' permission). **If you gather somewhere and make noise that disturbs classes, you will be told to leave, so if you want to relax, do so quietly, you are at school, not a social club. That said, the following areas are out of bounds:**

The back of the gymnasium, the road (including the path) between the swimming pool and the Science block, all roads – except where there is a marked zebra crossing, The area behind F1, the area behind D7 and D8, Under the bleachers on the courts, The photocopying room in the Administration building, Junior School-except to see the nurse, the grassland beyond the fence of the upper playground (where the amphitheatre is) and before the school outer perimeter fence.

The Upper and Lower Amphitheatre areas are also out of bounds during periods 1,2,& 3; All areas directly next to classrooms should be used for silent study only.

Study Zone

Feel free to use the Study Zone during your free periods. It is a calm quiet place for study, please respect that. You may listen to music quietly as long as it does not disturb other people. **YOU MAY NOT USE YOUR PHONES for anything other than listening to music.** Remember there is no food or drink in the Study Zone (other than water which must be kept on the floor, not on the desks).

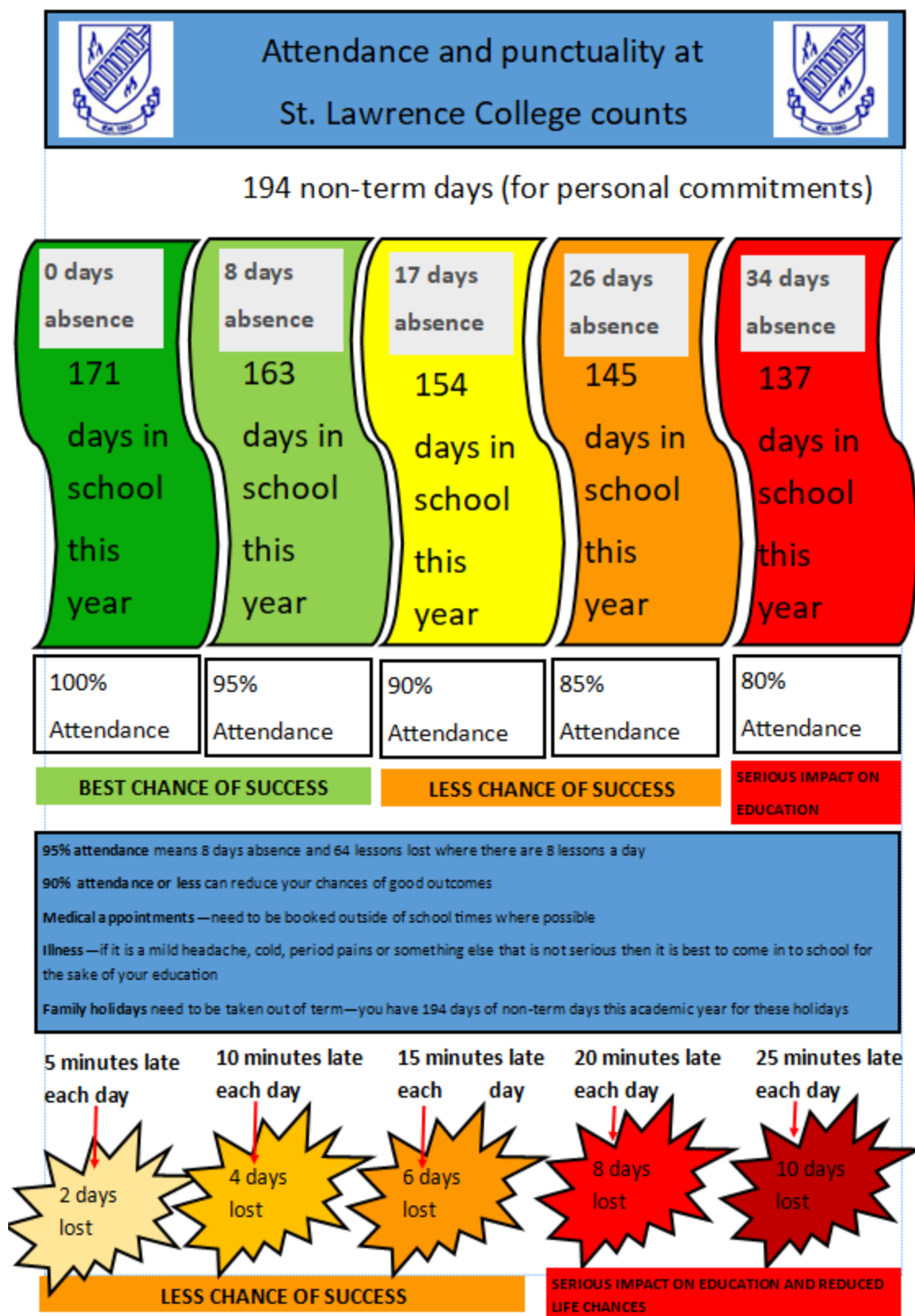
If you are in Year 12 and do three A levels or fewer, you **MUST** sign in with the teacher on duty in the study zone and **make sure he or she logs your attendance on the system.** You will probably be expected to sign in for 6 periods a week, but this can be negotiated with your form teacher.

Prefects

Prefects play an important role at St. Lawrence. **Mr Courts** will inform them of their duties and of our expectations.

Punctuality

Please respect your teachers and classmates by turning up on time. More importantly, when you roll in late to class it is disruptive and disrespectful. If you are continuously late, your teacher does not have to admit you to the lesson.



Smoking/Vaping, Drugs and Alcohol

As you know, this is a non-smoking campus. We don't care how old you are or whether your parents know you smoke. **St. Lawrence College is a non-smoking campus, full stop.**

If you are caught smoking or vaping, or if we suspect that you have been smoking or vaping on campus, in the vicinity of campus, or at school bus stops, you will receive an official warning for the first offence and receive an in-school-suspension which means you will spend time in the Study Zone doing extra work. A second offence will see you receive a full suspension and after that any punishments will be at our discretion and can include long term exclusion.

We have a zero-tolerance view of drugs and alcohol. The school rules are very clear on this. If you are caught with drugs or alcohol **or you are with someone** who is caught, you risk **being suspended, but, depending on the circumstances, you may well be excluded permanently.** If you are concerned that you or one of your friends may have a dependency problem, we will support you, but we cannot help you if you, or they, are caught on school grounds, so come and talk to us before it gets out of control.

TEAMS & EMAIL

It is absolutely vital that you check your Teams account daily as we will be sending you important information through the platform. We strongly suggest that you have notifications from your form tutor switched on. You also have an slc.gr email address that you should be using. This is the email we will use, so make sure you can access it. If you cannot access your email or your Teams accounts, please contact it@slc.gr for support.

UNIFROG

We will continue to use Unifrog to help guide you through the university application process and to discuss careers over the course of the year. The more you use this excellent platform, the more you will get out of it.

Work Experience/Volunteering

You are encouraged to organise to do some work experience over the next two years. We are in the process of trying to compile a list of companies who might be willing to accommodate you, but use all your contacts to try to set something up for a week or two in the holidays. Anecdotal evidence suggests that universities like applicants who have experience working in 'real' jobs at least as much as, if not more than, those who have done fancy internships. The truth is that any job has value whether it is an unpaid internship working for a heart surgeon or sweeping the floor at the local taverna.

Term 1

- The main focus is on getting your choices right and settling into life in KS5. You should try to be as active and involved in school life as you can.
- If you haven't already done so, sign up to Unifrog and start exploring.
- **If you are thinking of applying to the USA or Canada, you must set up a meeting with Mr Courts.** You should also be preparing for the ACT or SAT tests, but talk to Mr Courts first.
- Ask to join the St Lawrence College University Discussion Group on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/435130519871327/> Yes, we know Facebook is for old people, but there are over 400 alumni on there who are willing to share their advice with you.

Term 2

- You must start researching your options during this term; we will help you as much as we can, but you **need to do the bulk of the work on your own.**
- Your form teacher will introduce you to the concept of the personal statement and give you some advice about writing your first draft.
- If you are going to apply for Art or Design courses, talk to your art teachers about getting started on your portfolio.
- If you are applying to the USA and you are prepared, you could sit the SAT or ACT.

Term 3

- Do well in your AS level exams. It will help enormously when you are doing your application next year!
- If you are applying to the USA, you are prepared, and you have not already done so, you should sit the SAT or ACT.

Summer

- Do something interesting (or at least something that makes you look interesting).
- **Start working on your personal statement.** By September, you should have a first draft. As well as the information given to you by your form teacher, you can find lots of advice on Unifrog and UCAS.
- **Start preparing for UK admissions tests (UCAT, BMAT, LNAT, IELTS, TOEFL etc.).**
- If you are planning on applying for any course at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, or for most courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, you should come back in September with a second or third draft of your personal statement.
- If you are applying to the **USA**, you must return in September with a first draft of your **Common Application essay** and a longlist of universities to which you want to apply.
- If you are planning on applying **Early-Action or Early-Decision** to the USA, you must return in September with a draft of ALL of your application essays for your first choice and you need to have taken your SAT/ACT and subject tests by October.

Timeline

YEAR 13-Upper Sixth

Term 1

- Register on UCAS.
- Work with your form teacher on your applications.
- **Register for the UKCAT, BMAT, LNAT, IELTS, TOEFL or any other admissions tests that are required.**
- **The 2nd of October** is the deadline for early applicants to have completed the UCAS form, uploaded the personal statement and paid and sent the application. You will be informed of the regular deadline.
- Prepare for extra admissions tests.
- Many of these extra admissions tests take place at school in early November, but the UKCAT, LNAT, IELTS & TOEFL must be arranged outside of school.
- Interview support session will be arranged for those of you who get asked for interviews.
- **The 20th of October** is the deadline for all other applicants to have completed the UCAS form, uploaded the personal statement and paid and sent the application.
- If you are applying early to the USA, **the 20th of October** is also the deadline if you want feedback on your essays from Mr Courts. **Your final deadline to apply is the 1st of November.** For applications to **California**, the deadline for feedback is the **17th of November** and the submission deadline is the **30th of November**.
- Retake the SAT or ACT if necessary. Take SAT subject tests if necessary.
- Most **Regular Decision** applications to the USA are due by the end of December. If you want feedback from Mr Courts on your essays or help with your application, you will need to hand in copies by **Friday the 8th of December**.

Term 2

- If you are applying for **Art & Design** courses you have longer to complete your application, but you should be finishing your portfolio at this time.
- Decide on your firm and insurance offers for universities in the UK
- Accept a US university offer and pay the deposit.

Term 3

- A level exams and AS level retakes.

Summer

- Relax.....you deserve it.
- The results usually come out in the 3rd week of August.
- **If you did not meet your UK offer, you need to call Ms Meritt at school immediately to work on finding a place through clearing.**
- If you exceeded your offers significantly, you might want to consider UCAS adjustment, which allows you to try to find a place based on your high grades. Again, call Ms. Meritt.
- Start preparing for university life!

Year 12

	08:50-09:30	09:30-10:10	10:10-10:50	11:15-11:55	11:55-12:35	12:35-13:15	13:55-14:35	14:35-15:15
Monday	Bio/Eco/FM	Bio/Eco/FM	Maths/Lit	Maths/Lit	Art/Che/Pol	Art/Che/Pol	Phy/H/Geo	Phy/H/Geo
Tuesday	Greek	Greek	Bio/Eco/FM	Bio/Eco/FM	Art/Che/Pol/	Art/Che/Pol	Maths*/Lit*	Maths/Lit
Wednesday	Art/Che/Pol	Art/Che/Pol	Art/Che/Pol	Maths/Lit	Maths/Lit	Phy/H/Geo	Phy/H/Geo	Phy/H/Geo
Thursday	Phy/H/Geo	Phy/H/Geo	Art/Che/Pol	Art/Che/Pol	Bio/Eco/FM	Bio/Eco/FM	Greek	Greek
Friday	Bio/Eco/FM	Bio/Eco/FM	Bio/Eco/FM	Phy/H/Geo	Phy/H/Geo	Greek	Maths/Lit	Maths/Lit

*Lesson begins at/goes through lunchtime.

Year 13

	08:50-09:30	09:30-10:10	10:10-10:50	11:15-11:55	11:55-12:35	12:35-13:15	13:55-14:35	14:35-15:15
Monday	Phy/H/Geo	Phy/H/Geo	Greek	Greek	Maths/Lit	Maths/Lit	Bio*/Ec*/FM	Bio/FM
Tuesday	Maths/Lit	Maths/Lit	Art/Che/Pol Fr	Art/Che/Pol Fr	Greek	Greek	Phy*/H* Geo*	Phy/H/Geo
Wednesday	Bio/Eco/FM	Bio/Eco/FM	Eco/FM	Phy/H/Geo	Phy/H/Geo	Art*/Che* Pol*	Greek	Greek
Thursday	Bio/Eco/FM	Bio/Eco/FM	Phy/H/Geo	Phy/H/Geo	Art/Che	Art/Che Pol*/Fr*	Maths/Lit	Maths/Lit
Friday	Art/Che/Pol Fr	Art/Che/Pol Fr	Art/Che/Pol	Maths/Lit	Maths/Lit	Maths/Lit	Bio/Eco/FM	Bio/Eco/FM

*Lesson begins at/goes through lunchtime.

GCE AS and A-Level Subjects and Possible Combinations

Pupils starting their GCE AS-Levels and A-Levels must pick subjects from **the following choices**

- 1) Mathematics **or** English Literature
- 2) Biology **or** Economics **or** Further Mathematics
- 3) Chemistry **or** Politics **or** French
- 4) Physics **or** History **or** Geography
- 5) Art & Design
- 6) Greek



Notes: Pupils will be advised on whether to take three or four subjects by their form teacher, the Deputy Head and the Headmaster. Entrance to UK universities will require a minimum of 3 GCE A-Level passes. A very small fraction of universities will require a fourth subject.

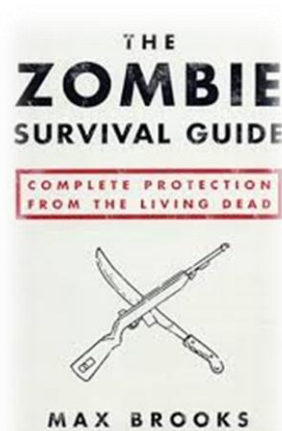
The only A-Levels that DO NOT require prior knowledge (usually an IGCSE) are Economics and Politics. However, you should not seriously consider Economics A-Level unless you did well in IGCSE Maths and First Language English. You should avoid Mathematics at A-Level unless you achieved a good grade at IGCSE.

The rest of the guide includes a brief introduction to the A-Level courses put together by the A-Level teachers.

And here is a useful source of more information

<http://russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/school-and-college-in-the-uk/subject-choices-at-school-and-college/>

and just in case...

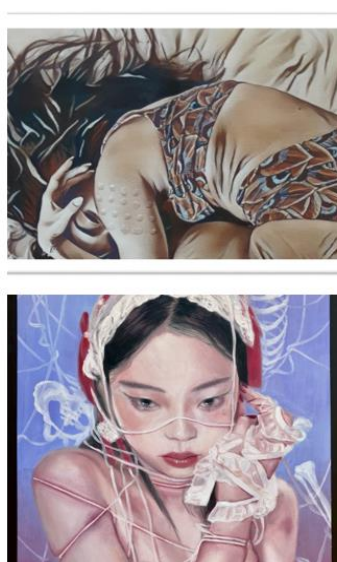


A brief summary...

The emphasis of this course is to be imaginative and creative in producing personal work. As well as teacher contact time, you will also be required to work independently out of school: practical work, gallery visits, research, working or communicating with artists, and much more.....

In the first year, you will produce a portfolio of coursework that represents you: hobbies, interests, passion etc. In January you will be given a choice of exam questions which are open-ended and exciting starting points for you to explore. This accounts for the first 50% of the course.

In the second year, you will be able to study and research your own areas of interest within the art world, including artworks and an essay of 1,500 words. This is called a 'Personal Investigation' and accounts for the final 50% of the two-year course.



St. Lawrence Artists!

On the Art and Design course you will experience a range of traditional materials; techniques and processes, gallery visits and artists, as well as exploring the diversity of digital media to enhance your learning and practical work.

Where will success take you?

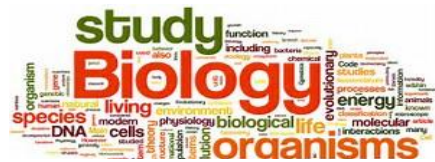
Many pupils go on to take higher education in art and design, some join the world of advertising as graphic designers, illustrators, typographers, while others go on to become painters, sculptors, architects, textile/fashion designers, stage designers, photographers to name just a few.

The Collins Cambridge International AS & A Level Art & Design book: ISBN: 9780008250997 is required for the course. You will find a range of practical exercises and interesting facts relating to Art and Design.

BIOLOGY

Why choose A-Level Biology?

The work of biologists is vital to us all. Choose Biology and you could find yourself advancing knowledge, pioneering new discoveries and tackling so many of the challenges facing the world we live in. Biology is fundamental to understanding the world as it is now and as it will be in future.



Career Opportunities.

Studying A-Level Biology will open up a list of career opportunities that is varied and endless. It can be used as a qualification for biologically based courses such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, psychology, physiotherapy, veterinary surgery, zoology, agriculture and forestry.

There are also many 'pure' biology courses including biochemistry, genetics and biological sciences. The rapidly expanding field of biotechnology offers many opportunities in 'applied' biology, including industrial microbiology, bacteriology and genetic engineering. Be part of the future, study A-Level Biology.

IGCSE Requirements?

A-Level biologists will have studied biology to IGCSE or equivalent and, ideally achieved at least a grade B.

Course Content:

The Edexcel International A-Level course is taught over a two-year period. There are 6 Units that are to be covered throughout the two years.

Units 1, 2 and 3 will cover the first year of the course (lifestyle, transport, genes and health, development, plants and the environment).

Units 4, 5 and 6 are covered in the second year of the course (The natural environment, species survival, energy, exercise and co-ordination).

There is also a significant practical component throughout the course which will be externally examined at the end of the first and second years.

Assessment:

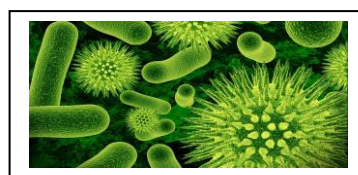
Year 1: As Assessment

Paper 1 (20%) Unit 1 → Lifestyle, transport, genes and health
Paper 2 (20%) Unit 2 → Development, plants, the environment
Paper 3 (10%) Unit 3 → Practical biology and research skills

Year 2: A2 Assessment

Prior Knowledge of the AS course will be assessed in A2 examinations:

Paper 4 (20%) Unit 4 → The natural environment and species survival
Paper 5 (20%) Unit 5 → Energy, exercise and co-ordination and the Pre-release article
Paper 6 (10%) Unit 6 → Practical biology and Investigative skills

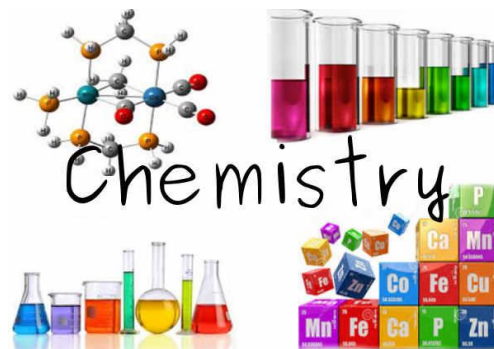


study of

CHEMISTRY

Is A-Level Chemistry for me?

If you are curious about what electrons really do all day, how chemistry can be green, how new polymeric materials can be both a blessing and a curse, and much, much more then Chemistry might be the A-Level for you.



Moving on from IGCSE...

Ideally you should have achieved a grade B or above in IGCSE Chemistry. However, A-Level does not assume much previous knowledge and there were so many simplifications at IGCSE that you might sometimes think you are learning a completely new subject! A-Level contains slightly more mathematics, but if you understand ratios then you should be fine. Chemistry is thought to be one of the most difficult of A-levels but despite this reputation many students achieve good grades: 27% of entries were awarded the A* in 2019. Textbook is optional as course is taught using prepared workbooks.

What do I gain from taking Chemistry A-Level?

By taking Chemistry you develop your problem solving, numeracy, and practical and organisational skills. You also learn to express abstract ideas in writing. As a result, it's a highly respected and useful qualification for higher education and employment in a wide range of areas.

Careers using Chemistry

It is essential if you wish to study chemical engineering, medicine, pharmacy, and other biomedical sciences like neuroscience or genetics. However, chemistry teaches you so many skills that some pupils have studied A-Level Chemistry and gone on to study finance and law.

Course content

Lower 6th contributes to 50% of the overall A-Level grade

Unit 1: Structure, Bonding and Introduction to Organic Chemistry

Unit 2: Energetics, Group Chemistry, Halogenoalkanes and Alcohols

Unit 3: Practical Skills in Chemistry I

Upper 6th

Unit 4: Rates, Equilibria and Further Organic Chemistry

Unit 5: Transition Metals and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry

Unit 6: Practical Skills in Chemistry II

Ask your IGCSE chemistry teacher or form teacher to help you decide if Chemistry A-Level is the right choice for you.

Economics A-Level Course Content

There are four themes to the A-Level. These are

Theme One – basic economic theory that explores how decisions and choices are made to produce and buy goods from the side of the supplier and customer. This theme also considers how these market forces can fail and produce undesirable outcomes.

Theme Two – this theme asks what government wants to achieve in the economy and what economic policy does it use to attempt to achieve those goals. This theme introduces big topics such as inflation, unemployment and economic growth.

Theme Three – this theme is concerned with business economics. This is how businesses set out to achieve their goals, which usually revolve around maximising profit. There is a study of the different market structures that businesses operate in and how the behaviour of firms will be affected by the type of market that exists. This theme also considers competition law and how firms are restricted from practices that are anti-competitive. It is by far the most mathematical theme.

Theme Four – this theme considers the global economy and explores globalisation, international trade, exchange rates, trade balances, the benefits of trading and monetary blocs such as the Eurozone and what countries can do to raise their international competitiveness. This theme also contains a study of development economics, looking at the features of less -developed economies and assessing potential solutions to the problems they face.

FAQ:

What standard of Mathematics is required?

Pupils who achieved an A or B grade at IGCSE Mathematics should not have too much difficulty coping with the maths in Economics A-Level. If you got less than a B grade at IGCSE you may find the mathematics seriously challenging.

What level of English is required?

Many pupils do not realise that more pupils struggle in Economics because of weak English than weak mathematics. To succeed you must be able to read challenging articles and textbooks well and often. You must be able to write extended answers employing appropriate terminology and using structured analytical paragraphs that communicate your thoughts in depth but also clearly. If you struggled with English IGCSE, you may find it very challenging to attain appropriate standards of depth in their written work. For these reasons, you are expected to have at least a B grade at IGCSE First Language English or an A grade in IGCSE English as a Second Language.

Do I need to have studied Business Studies at IGCSE to take A-Level Economics?

Not at all.

What can I study at university with an Economics A-Level?

Economics is a respected A-Level as it demonstrates that you can write well, that you are numerate and that you can analyse source material (if you get a good grade)! Of course, it can lead to economics-related degree courses but might also be taken by a student considering law, journalism, politics, finance, management and many other degree courses.

How is the course assessed?

The AS-Level consists of two exams taken at the end of the first year. Candidates are asked to answer every style of question, from multiple choice to mathematical questions to essays. The full A-Level consists of a further two exams taken at the end of the second year, which, combined with the Year 12 exams, make up the full A-Level. This is the International A-Level, and the Year 12 exams, which make up the AS-Level, also contribute to the full A-Level.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Literature undeniably expresses the joys, sorrows and concerns that we as human beings share. For example, we can read a poem written a hundred years ago and relate to the emotions and concerns expressed in the poem because we too have had similar experiences. In this respect, Literature is timeless and its appeal is universal.



The best motivation for studying English Literature is having a real passion for the subject. Yes, English has become the most widely spoken language in the world but one of the most appealing aspects of studying it is being able to immerse oneself in its broad range of literature: past and present. In recent years, pupils studying this subject at A level have read works written in English by writers from all around the world. In this way, the plays, stories, novels and poems studied have led to a deeper understanding of these widely different cultures and the ways in which these contexts have shaped meanings.

One of the key aspects of studying literature is interpretation. This is often not so straightforward and we have to build a strong argument for what we believe is a correct reading of a text. As such, some of the course's assessment objectives are specifically designed to help pupils refine their analytical and interpretative skills whilst forming an original personal response. Moreover, at A level, pupils will be introduced to various schools of literary thought with a view to incorporating and evaluating these informed opinions in their own responses.

From an A level course in English Literature a pupil will learn skills whose usefulness go beyond this subject and are highly valued by universities. These include developing higher order thinking skills, presenting ordered and coherent arguments, and engaging in independent learning and research.

English Literature is a highly esteemed academic subject and although many graduates eventually decide to enter the teaching profession, a wide variety of career paths is available to them. These range from media and journalism, publishing, advertising, marketing, PR, human resources, the creative arts, to name but a few.

What is the course content?

We follow the Cambridge International Examinations Syllabus (9695) which consists of seven set texts over the two years of the A level course. There is also an Unseen text paper in the AS exam.

In 2023-24, Year 12 will be studying Tennessee Williams' Southern Gothic: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, a play that asks challenging questions about honesty, isolation and the individual's moral obligations to their family and community. Another set text is *Atonement*, a postmodern novel that takes place in three time-periods: 1935 England, Second World War and present-day England; a selected anthology of poems from a range of genres and contexts.

Year 13 will be studying two very different drama texts: Shakespeare's tragic masterpiece *Hamlet* and Eugene O'Neill's semi-autobiographical play *Long Day's Journey Into Night*. For Paper 4, pupils will study Jean Rhys' novel *Wide Sargasso Sea*, as well as a collection of selected poems by highly acclaimed American writer, Walt Whitman.

How is the subject assessed?

The assessment of English Literature is purely exam-based. Pupils will sit two papers for AS and two more for A level, in which they will be required to answer either a passage-based or a general question on each of their set texts. There is specific weighting for each of the assessment objectives.

FRENCH

The first reason for studying any language is that it develops general and specific **cognitive** faculties, in allowing a balance between logical and creative abilities.

It is also an opportunity to **explore another culture** and through this understand one's own. It equally helps us dealing more efficiently with social relationships.

Research shows that 30 to 45 % of the words in **English** are of French origin. Thus, studying French allows us to better master English at an advanced level.

A **second language is a requirement for some university degrees** at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

Considered as one of the most influential languages in the world, not least in the world of diplomacy, French opens doors for **positions** in international law, politics, commerce, education, literature, arts...

French is a subject taught in most universities worldwide and is offered as a choice for lots of studies.

WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT?

The course is divided into topics:

- IAS:
 - **Youth** matters
 - **Lifestyle**, health and fitness
 - **Environment** and travel
 - **Education** and employment

- IAL:
 - The four AS topics
 - **Technology** in the French-speaking world
 - **Society** in the French-speaking world
 - **Ethics** in the French-speaking world

HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?

All four skills are assessed separately in AS (1+2) and A2 (3-4):

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| - Unit 1 (speaking: response + discussion) | 8-10 minutes |
| - Unit 2 (listening, reading, writing) | 2:30 hrs |
| - Unit 3 (speaking: debate) | 11-13 minutes |
| - Unit 4 (listening, reading, research*) | 2:30 hrs |

**The research topic consists in the critical analysis of a classic French movie.*

Speaking exams are held in early May, while written exams are later in May/June.





Geography is not only dynamic, up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today. So many of the world's current problems boil down to geography and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them. Global warming, sustainable food production, natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, the spread of disease, the reasons for migration and the future of energy resources are just some of the great challenges facing the next generation of geographers.

A knowledge of geography can enrich your life by stimulating your mind and as a subject possibly even encourage you to have the attitude to go out and see for yourself, rather than be told by others. Choosing A-Level Geography can open the doors to a university degree, either specifically in Geography or by combining Geography with other A-Levels to gain a place on a degree programme in another subject. A-Level Geography is recognised for its academic 'robustness' and the Guardian newspaper's view on Geography is that 'it's the must-have A-Level' (August 2015).

Most importantly, it also helps people into the world of work. So many employers prize the knowledge and skills that studying Geography can provide, be it knowing how the world works, planning research and report writing, working in a team, using new technologies and communication skills – and much more. You will find geographers working in a wide range of jobs, from cartography to planning, working in the environment to travel and tourism, or in international charities or retail. Studying Geography can help you achieve careers that are professionally and financially rewarding and also enjoyable.

WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT?

We follow the Cambridge International AS and A Level syllabus for Geography.

Y12

Physical Topics:

Hydrology and fluvial geomorphology
Atmosphere and weather
Rocks and weathering

Human Topics:

Population
Migration
Settlement dynamics.

Y13

Physical Topics:

Coastal environments
Hazardous environments

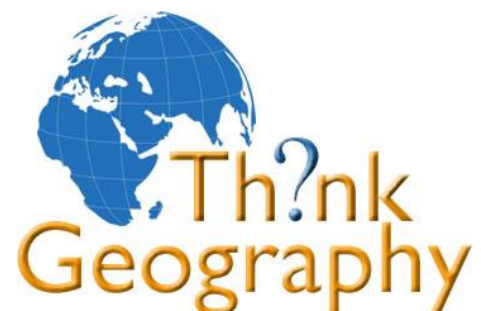
Human Topics:

Environmental management
Global interdependence

HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?

You will sit two exams at the end of Year 12, one on the core physical topics and one on the core human topics. Each exam is worth 50% of your AS-Level grade (or 25% of your final A-Level grade).

There are a further two exams at the end of Year 13, one on the physical topics and one on the human topics. Each one makes up 25% of your final A-Level grade. The exams are all 1 hour 30 minutes long and contain resource-based questions as well as essay questions.





GREEK

WHY CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

YOU CHOOSE TO LEARN GREEK BECAUSE THIS LANGUAGE HAS THE LONGEST HISTORY OF WRITTEN RECORDS IN THE WESTERN WORLD. THE OLDEST WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF THE GREEK LANGUAGE DATES BETWEEN 1450 AND 1350 BC. GREEK IS THE LANGUAGE OF HOMER, OF THE GREAT PHILOSOPHERS WHO INFLUENCED WESTERN THOUGHT, OF HERODOTUS-THE FIRST HISTORIAN, OF THE GREAT DRAMATISTS WHO SHAPED THEATRE AND INSPIRED THE WORLD OF ART. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE HAS BORROWED AROUND 100,000 WORDS FROM GREEK, WHICH MAKES UP 12% OF THE ENGLISH VOCABULARY. GREEK IS USED MAINLY IN MEDICINE, THE SCIENCES AND PHILOSOPHY.

You don't choose a subject because it seems easy. You choose a subject because you love it, and you want to broaden your knowledge. Therefore, you must be determined to work hard and have the will to overcome any difficulties that might arise. Whether you are Greek or not, the Pearson International A Level Course is a wonderful opportunity to improve and develop your language in all areas.

The standard of Greek which is taught at AS and A-Level is very high. It is not comparable at all with that of the IGCSE. It must be emphasised that both courses are very demanding and therefore a strong background in Greek, in all areas, is required.

The course consists of 2 Units

Unit 1: AS-Level

This Unit consists of three sections: A) Reading B) Grammar C) Essay

Section A: You will need to understand, retrieve and convey information from a short series of different language texts.

Section B: You will be assessed in your ability to manipulate the Greek language, grammar & vocabulary in order to form or complete meaningful sentences. You will be asked to carry out tasks such as sentence transformation and grammar exercises that require the correct form of certain structure.

Section C: You will be asked to write a 240-280 word essay in Greek, in response to a short Greek-language stimulus and related bullet points. You will be assessed on the effectiveness and relevance of your communication as well as the quality of language you produce.

Unit 2: A-Level

This Unit consists of three sections:

Section A: You will be expected to translate a short paragraph from English into Greek.

Section B: You will be asked to write a 240-280 word essay in Greek in response to a general topic. You will choose to write creatively or discursively on the topic through the two options provided.

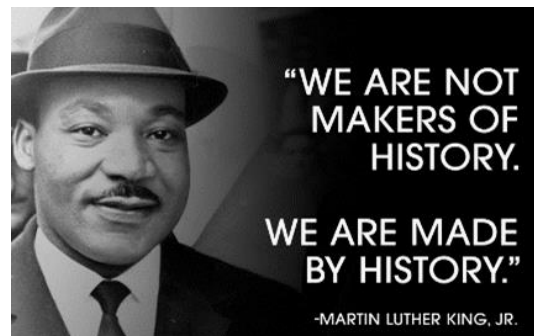
Section C: You must answer either ONE question in Greek that relates to the GREEK HISTORICAL PERIOD 1960-1974 or ONE question on KAVAFY'S POETRY.

A choice of the two questions will be offered for each of the prescribed topics and texts. It must be of 300-400 words and you will be assessed for the content, quality of language, critical analysis and organisation of ideas.

HISTORY

Studying history helps us **understand what it is to be human**. History helps us understand change and how we got to this point, so through studying history we can grasp how and why things develop as well as understand what elements of an institution or a society persist despite change over time.

History also allows us to examine our moral sense by examining the decisions people made in complex contexts. It forces us to ask “Why did they do that? Can I understand their motivations and behaviours and if not, why not?”



History teaches us how to read. It helps us develop the ability to distinguish between the objective and the self-serving among statements, it helps us to use evidence to evaluate interpretations both in the past and in the present. It helps us to question the versions of the past and the present that we are fed by politicians, the media and our cultural norms. In short, **it helps us spot fake news!**

BUT I'LL NEVER GET A JOB? Professional historians teach, work in museums and media centres, do historical research for businesses or public agencies or participate in the growing number of historical consultancies. **But most people who study history do not become professional historians.** Historians make great lawyers and are valued by employers right across the spectrum since by studying history they have developed research skills, the means to identify and evaluate explanations, they can handle complex data and are sought out by companies that need analysts since historians have been trained to identify, assess, and explain patterns.

There is no denying that it is less scary to study something that will lead to a clearly defined career path, but **studying history applies directly to many careers and can clearly help prepare us for the world of work.**

Ultimately, studying history **helps shape well-informed critical citizens** who can make a valuable contribution to the workplace as well as **question received wisdom**, teach, handle complexity and **communicate ideas convincingly**.

Plus, it's got some really good stories.

WHAT WILL I STUDY? In Year 12, we follow the Edexcel Route F syllabus: Searching for rights and freedoms in the twentieth century.

This consists of two courses for AS & A-LEVEL: Option 1F-**In search of the American Dream: the USA, 1917–96** and Option 2F.1-**India: The road to independence, 1914-48**.

In Year 13, we add Option 35.1: **Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914** as well as a coursework unit on **any topic of your interest**.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMS? The America and India options are assessed at the end of Year 12 through two exams which combine to give the pupils an AS-Level qualification. The two units are then re-examined at the end of Year 13 along with the British Empire unit and coursework, which all combine to give an A-Level grade.

More detail can be found on the subject blog <https://historyslc.wordpress.com/>

WHY CHOOSE MATHEMATICS A LEVEL?

Certainly, there is no unique answer to why someone should choose Mathematics A-Level. Choosing A level subjects is a big decision, and you need to make sure you enjoy the subjects and think about where those subjects can lead to. Mathematics A-Level opens a multitude of options afterwards and is a good choice for students considering higher education in any science or mathematics-based subjects, ranging from biochemical sciences, natural sciences, engineering, medical science and psychology to philosophy, economics, accountancy, management and actuarial science.

Pupils who choose A-Level Mathematics are encouraged to think logically and analytically. Studying Mathematics at A-level enables you to understand the statistics used in the news or helps you to make sense of the economy, medicine and even law. It provides you with the basic tools that are used in real-world applications along with some of those applications. For example,

- Prime numbers can help you understand what makes the internet secure
- Mechanics can help you understand how planes fly
- Statistics can help you understand how DNA tests work.
- Calculus can help you understand how the stock markets work.

These fundamental mathematical skills are useful across all kinds of disciplines and careers. Some people may not be interested in any of the above, but they may choose Mathematics A-Level simply because they can see the beauty of mathematics. They may choose it because they like the buzz after solving a difficult problem or the logical structure of the subject or how the different topics of mathematics fit together.

Career opportunities for students who study A-Level Mathematics are limitless, but could include: industry, accountancy, finance, economics, healthcare, medicine, veterinary science and engineering.

WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT?

As from September 2018 we will follow the new Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Mathematics. The full A-Level course consists of 6 units.

During the AS year pupils complete International Advanced Subsidiary – IAS. For this they need to complete 3 units, the Pure Mathematics 1 P1 and Pure Mathematics 2 P2, which are compulsory, and Statistics 1 which is our optional module.

During Year 13 pupils complete the International Advanced Level – IAL. For the IAL pupils must complete another 3 units, the Pure Mathematics 3 P3 and Pure Mathematics 4 P4, which are compulsory, and Statistics 2 which is our optional module. There is no flexibility to the optional modules.

HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?

Each module weighs $16\frac{2}{3}\%$ of the total A-Level mark. At the end of the Year 12 pupils are assessed on the P1, P2 and S1 units which count towards the 50% of the total mark. This mark is combined together with the mark of the P3, P4 and S2 units which are assessed at the end of Year 13 to give an A-Level grade.

There is no coursework involved.

WHY CHOOSE ***FURTHER MATHS*** A-LEVEL?

The simple answer is because it is complex and fascinating, it takes your knowledge of mathematics one step further!

You get a clearer idea of what mathematics at university level will be. You see topics more abstract than anything you were taught before, which gives you an amazing insight to what mathematics really is. You also see topics that have practical applications which helps you realise that mathematics is not just an exercise for the mind.

You discover where those things you have learnt but did not make sense come from. We do not learn off by heart, we explore different explanations and search to prove everything. So, in a way, the FURTHER you go into your MATHEMATICS, the more you understand what you were studying before.

Mathematics is one of humanity's most amazing achievements. It is abstract and yet it has to do with our reality in ways we do understand (bills or time ...) and in ways we do not YET (evolution of planets, stars and galaxies or ... time). It also has to do with much more than our reality, it has to do with space and time in higher dimensions which we do not perceive in our everyday lives, yet we CAN think about. If this is not out of this world, then what is?

But we need to be realistic! We need to talk about your future. Again, here the sky is the limit! With Further Maths, you embark on a serious and in-depth study of diverse branches of higher mathematics and you therefore have a better chance to guarantee a place in different engineering courses or to follow a career as a statistician, a great economist or artificial intelligence and robotics researcher.

Ultimately, studying Further Maths helps you in any career in science, not just because you will have a respected A-Level to present as a qualification but mostly because the effort you put into learning this subject is the best equipment for a career in mathematics, logic and philosophy, physics, biology, biotechnology, nanotechnology, astronomy, chemistry, computer science, engineering, architecture, economics, statistics and many more.

WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT?

We follow the new Pearson Edexcel International Advanced A Level in Further Mathematics which consists of six units. During the AS level year pupils complete the International Advanced Subsidiary – IAS in Further Mathematics. For this they need to complete 3 units, the Further Pure Mathematics Module FP1, the Mechanics Module M1 and the Decision Mathematics Module D1.

During the A Level year pupils complete the International Advanced Level – IAL in Further Mathematics. For the IAL pupils must complete another 3 units, the Further Pure Mathematics Module FP2, the Further Pure Mathematics Module FP3 and the Mechanics Module M2.

There is no flexibility to the optional modules.

HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?

Each of the modules weighs $16\frac{2}{3}\%$ of the total A-Level mark. At the end of Year 12, pupils are assessed on the FP1, M1 and D1 Modules which count towards 50% of the total A-Level mark. This mark is combined with the mark of the FP2, FP3 and M2 modules which are assessed at the end of Year 13 to give the total A-Level grade.

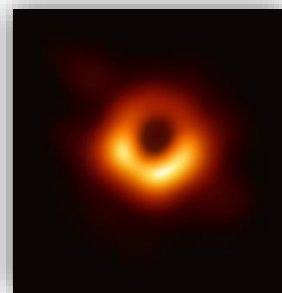
There is no coursework involved.

****Please note that the Further Mathematics A-Level is offered only to pupils who achieve a high A or an A* mark in their Mathematics IGCSE and are also taking Mathematics A-Level***

PHYSICS

Physics is crucial to understanding the world around us, the world inside us and the world beyond us. It encompasses the study of the universe from the largest galaxies to the smallest subatomic particles. Physics challenges our imagination and leads to great discoveries and technologies which change our lives.

Physicists gain skills that make them versatile and adaptable; they bring a broad perspective to any problem they work on. They are not bound by context because they learn how to consider **any** problem. This inventive thinking makes physicists desirable in any field. A bachelor's degree in Physics is a great foundation for careers in finance, computer science, biology, medicine, astronomy, engineering, law, journalism and many more!



A-Level Physics gives you the opportunity to explore the phenomena of the universe and to look at theories that explain what is observed. This subject combines practical skills with theoretical ideas to develop descriptions of the physical universe. You will learn about everything from kinematics to cosmology and many recent developments in fascinating topics, such as particle physics. If you are interested in the limits of space, the beginning of time and everything in between, this is the subject for you. Physics is more than a subject – it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries.

Studying Physics at A-Level, you will...

- ... develop critical thinking and use a range of mathematical and problem-solving skills that will support your knowledge and understanding of Physics.
- ... gain experience in a variety of practical techniques and procedures and develop an understanding of scientific methods.
- ... widen your learning through a number of key transferable skills valued by universities and employers such as adaptability, initiative, and teamwork.



What is the course content and how is the subject assessed?

We teach the Edexcel International Advanced Level Physics syllabus.

The AS-Level is examined at the end of Year 12 and includes

Unit 1: Mechanics and Materials

Unit 2: Waves and Electricity

Unit 3: Practical Skills in Physics I

The A-Level is examined at the end of Year 13 and consists of

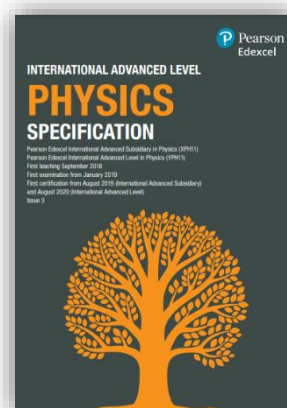
Unit 4: Further Mechanics, Fields and Particles

Unit 5: Thermodynamics, Radiation, Oscillations and Cosmology

Unit 6: Practical Skills in Physics II

For further information and to download the specification, visit

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20Advanced%20Level/Physics/2018/Specification%20and%20Sample%20Assessment/9781446957783_IAL_Physics_Iss3.pdf



|| POLITICS



Why choose this subject?

Who should study politics, and why? The short answer is that everyone should study politics - all members of society should have a better understanding of the general rules under which they live. For these rules to be effective, as many people as possible should actively participate in making them, upholding them and, maybe, changing them. A healthy society is a society in which citizens actively participate in political activity and do so with insight and understanding.

If politics exists because people disagree, studying politics must mean studying how, why and when people disagree and doing so not as neutral observers but as active participants. Politics is therefore particularly likely to suit pupils who:

- Have an interest in the world around them- ones who want to know more about British society, how it works and how it could work.
- Enjoy debate, discussion and argument- ones who are comfortable with the fact that in politics there are no simple 'rights' or 'wrongs'.
- Like to think for themselves- ones who want to develop their own views, rather than accept the views of others.
- Enjoy weighing up and evaluating evidence in order to assess and communicate ideas and arguments.
- Enjoy reading challenging articles and textbooks and writing extended answers employing appropriate terminology. (If you struggled with English or History IGCSE then this might not be the right A-Level for you).

What will you learn?

At **AS-Level** you will gain an understanding of how the UK political system works, and how it is linked to contemporary concerns and events.

- **Component 1: UK Politics** looks at how people in the UK are linked to government, through the themes of democracy, rights and duties of individuals and groups, elections and other forms of political participation, party policies and ideas, and voting behavior and the media.
- **Component 2: UK Government** focuses on the main institutions of UK government such as Parliament and the Prime Minister. Its core themes are distribution of policymaking power, the effectiveness of the key bodies in carrying out their roles, the European Union and relationships between the branches of government.

At **A-Level** you will study the core ideas and principles of four political ideologies (Conservatism, Liberalism, Socialism and Feminism).

- **Component 3: Global Politics** which gives you an opportunity to develop an understanding of the international and global dimensions of political activity through grounding abstract political concepts in contemporary real-world examples and case studies.

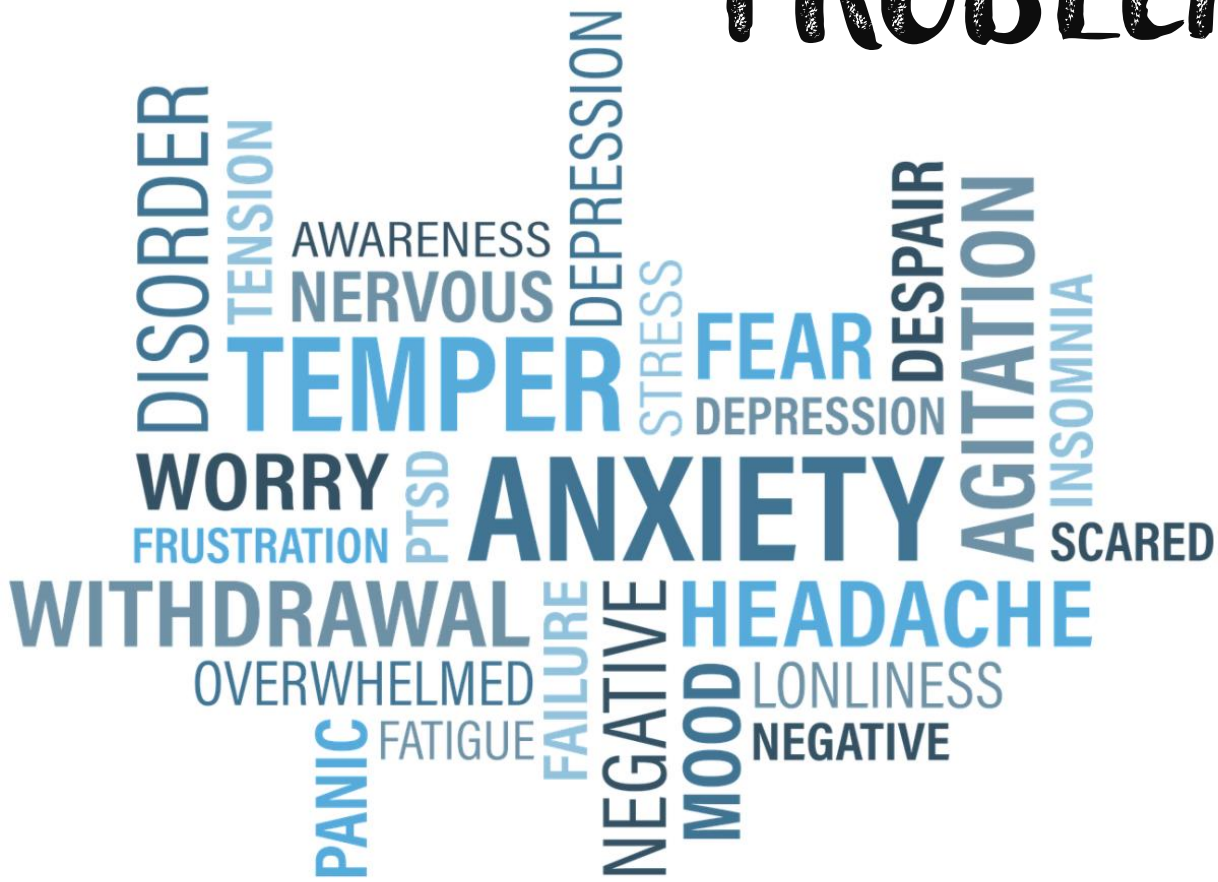
How is the subject assessed?

You will take three externally assessed exams: components 1, 2 and 3 in Year 13. You can also sit the AS-Level exam in year 12. The AS-Level is a stand-alone qualification, marks achieved in the AS will not count towards the A-Level.

What can I do after I've completed the course?

With a GCE in Politics, you can progress to higher education courses such as degrees in politics, international politics/relations and political science as well as to degrees in related subjects such as history, geography, economics, law, social policy etc. It can also lead to a variety of careers within areas such as journalism and broadcasting, management, publishing, public policy and policy research, interest groups, local government and the voluntary sector, as well as, of course, within politics itself.

PROBLEMS?



Whatever the current difficulty may be...

Ms Zarri, our school counsellor, offers confidential support and a friendly listening ear to help you with all aspects of your emotional well-being.

DON'T SUFFER IN SILENCE

Message Ms Zarri on Teams or
Pop by her office
(next to D7, in the Geography block)