PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

GCE Advanced Level Courses

Welcome to Plymouth High School Sixth Form from the Head teacher

Plymouth High Sixth Form offers a diverse range of A level courses taught by our specialist teachers who are well qualified and enthusiastic. We pride ourselves on the quality of our teaching, the positive relationships we forge with our students and the happy environment we create. Lessons in the sixth form are challenging and interesting giving each learner the opportunity to achieve the very best grades they can. Teachers give students detailed feedback to help them continue to improve throughout their time with us. We have high expectations of ourselves and of our learners. We provide a thorough and comprehensive post sixth form support programme, whether that be for University application, moving onto an apprenticeship or employment or further afield, enabling students to have the best chance of being successful. Right from the first day in the sixth form to the A level results day, we support and guide our students so that they get the very best experience and outcomes. I look forward to welcoming you into the Sixth Form.

Mr S Underdown

A Level Art Exhibition

Art (Fine Art) A Level

Examination Board: AQA
Contact: Head of Art: Mr T Varrall
(t.varrall@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: Students applying to study the course must have achieved a grade 6 or above in this subject at GCSE. If the course is oversubscribed then a 6 does not guarantee a place as those with the highest GCSE grades will be given priority. We welcome applications from enthusiastic students with a commitment to study and a passion to engage with the visual world around them.

Why Choose to Study Fine Art?

Most of the information we receive about the world is visual. Design and aesthetics are a crucial aspect to the world in which we live. A Level Fine Art provides students with many subject-specific skills, standing pupils in good stead to work in creative industries (these industries make up a third of the UK's economy and depend on visual literacy).

Fine Art creates students who have a strong sense of their own identity – by exploring and making individual decisions on areas of interest, students begin to understand themselves better, knowing what inspires, motivates and interests them.

Fine Art allows students to understand how they fit into the world around them, by engaging with artwork and ideas of others, both from the past and from today. Fine Art empowers students, showing them that they can be active participants in their world.

Fine Art gives students the confidence to manage their own projects – to make critical decisions in order to move forward. These skills transcend the subject, as they teach students that, through hard work, by taking informed risks and by making effective decisions, they can take their skills to very high standards that they have within themselves the ability to achieve excellence.

How will your work be assessed?

Course Breakdown

Unit 1 – Personal Investigation - (60%) - Individual project, title decided by student. Written component - 3000+ words related to individual practice.

Unit 2 – Externally Set Title Assignment (40%) - pupil-led project with teacher support.

Unit 1 – Personal Investigation – 60% - Hand in - end of Jan Yr13

- **Toolbox** (not submitted)

  This first project is exciting, challenging and very different from GCSE. Students pull in all aspects of their lives into their personal projects. Work created in this series of briefs, under the title of "Change" can be submitted if relevant in the later Personal Investigation (CW) but doesn't have to be, so students can enjoy experimenting and developing new skills, without the pressure of the work being necessarily submitted. The series of briefs will introduce students to many different approaches, techniques and artists that we absolutely love. Students will decide how to approach this series of challenges, often responding in very different ways to their classmates – which makes for very interesting group critiques as you see how others have approached the same problem as you. The briefs will cover Painting, Drawing, Photography, Photoshop, Photo-montage, Textiles, Sculpture, Typography, Etching, Lino printing. Students record their experiments and note artists to return to in their sketchbooks.

  In the autumn term, A Level Art students go, with school, on a trip to visit two major galleries in London (Tate Modern; Saatchi; National Portrait Gallery; National Gallery). This encourages students to start to consider exhibition spaces and curating as well as seeing lots of inspiring artworks in real life.

- **Personal Investigation**

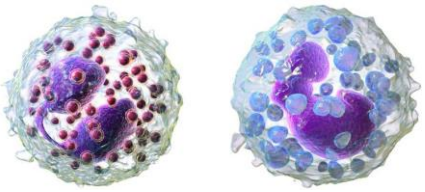
  The coursework unit is called the Personal Investigation and is worth 60% of an A Level Art student's final grade. Students choose a title from a list provided and then lead their project from idea to outcome/s, with all Art staff supporting them in their journey. Students will need to be reflective, open-minded, determined and passionate to get the best from the course. These characteristics will help you to push your work forward, to refine your visual ideas into highly proficient outcomes.

Unit 2 – Externally Set Exam – 40% - Starting Feb Yr13

- A deep and thorough personal project developed from an externally set title over an 8-week period, led by the student with teacher guidance.
- Students will receive the exam paper and decide on their own area of study. Students will then lead their own project and will develop their work, (students develop skills or areas of interest from the previous Unit) to a final piece undertaken in exam conditions for 15 hours (3 school days).

Where will it lead?

A Level Fine Art is necessary and relevant to many courses and careers including Advertising, the Media, Fashion & Textiles, Cultural Studies, Film, Game, Interior, Graphic Design, Architecture, History of Art, Museum Work and Teaching. Fine Art is also recognised in professional areas that require hand/eye co-ordination, e.g. Surgeon/Dentist. A full portfolio of work will be produced which can be tailored for entry into any Visual Arts course.



Biology A Level

Examination Board: OCR Specification A
Contact: Head of Biology: Mr D Britz-Colwill
(d.britzcolwill@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: Students should have achieved minimum grades of 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science or grade 6 in both GCSE Biology and GCSE Chemistry. You should also have achieved a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and English Language. All students will be considered on individual merit. In some cases, entry to Year 1 may be on a trial basis and progression onto the second year of A Level will be dependent on performance.

A Level Biology continues the mastery of big scientific ideas explored in previous years, namely **Organisms**, **Ecosystems** and **Genes**. We welcome applications from enthusiastic, independently-minded students. Biology is a challenging subject at A Level and a serious commitment to study is required. Students should not underestimate the quantity of vocabulary and biological processes they will have to master. Self-regulation is key to your overall success at A Level and so you must arrive with, or be prepared to develop a disciplined and self-motivated approach to your studies.

Why choose to study A Level Biology?

Biological concepts at GCSE are often simplified to make them easier to understand for younger students. At A Level we will add fascinating new details and complexity to most of those ideas, introducing you to many new key phrases and processes. Just one example, the GCSE Biology course teaches students about 8 key structures found in plant cells. At A Level we reveal more than 14 structures and their functions, and how to recognise them from microscope images.

A Level Biology brings together knowledge and understanding from the other natural sciences, including chemistry, mathematics and physics. It will give you a thorough understanding of the chemical oxidation and reduction reactions that keep living organisms alive. We will use statistical mathematics to analyse and compare data sets, including the Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient. We will apply physics knowledge about wavelength to explain how microscopes work and how plants transfer energy between photons and electrons during photosynthesis.

What will you study and how will your work be assessed?

The course comprises 6 units over the two years, reintroducing students to many of the Big Ideas studied previously between Years 7 and 11.

Module 1: Practical skills
Module 2: Foundations in Biology
Module 3: Exchange and transport
Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease
Module 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy
Module 6: Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Assessment: There are 3 exams at the end of two years. Biological Processes: covering modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 (2h15). Biological Diversity: covering modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 (2h15). Unified Biology: this covers all units (1h30).

There is a minimum of 12 required practicals that must be completed satisfactorily. This performance is recorded next to your A Level grade on your certificate and is known as your "practical endorsement". It is assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Where will it lead?

A Level Biology is a sound academic subject which will support applications to any higher education course. Science-related courses which students have progressed onto include Anthropology, Biochemistry, Bioinformatics, Dentistry, Environmental Science, Marine Biology, Medicine, Pharmacy, Radiography, Veterinary Science, and Zoology.

Business A Level

Examination Board: AQA
Contact: Head of Business: Mr P Goodchild
(p.goodchild@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: Our expectations are that students applying to study this Level 3 course for 2 years will have achieved a grade 6 or above in English and Mathematics at GCSE. In some cases, entry onto the course may be on a trial basis and progression to A2 Level will be dependent on performance.

Why choose to study A Level Business?

Business is closely related to the world of work. The course aims to increase your awareness of the impact of business decisions upon a number of groups that are affected by them, and how external factors affect the nature of business decisions. Businesses are studied in national and international contexts. The social and environmental impact of business decisions are considered as important as the economic reasoning behind them.

You will be expected to analyse and interpret business data in a variety of ways and a degree of numerical skill is required. Background reading is stressed as an integral part of the course and an awareness of current affairs and business news items are necessary for a full appreciation of how this course relates to the real world of business.

What will you study and how will your work be assessed?

A Level: The new Business specification has increased the level of rigour at A Level, removing overlap between the GCSE and A Level syllabi. Students on this course will study business in a variety of contexts (e.g. large/small, UK focused/global, service/manufacturing). Students will utilise quantitative and qualitative data to support decision making in a variety of contexts, considering four main areas of business; finance, marketing, human resources and operations management.

The topics lend themselves to studying and engaging with the business world, while most of the assessment is based around real business situations. It is important for all students to engage with the world of business and students will be offered opportunities to visit both UK and international businesses to gain a deeper understanding of the course.

Assessment: A Level Business is assessed by three synoptic 2-hour examinations. All three papers are equally weighted and are tested through a mixture of short answer and essay answer questions based around a stimulus case study. Paper 1 only contains a small percentage of multiple-choice questions.

Where will it lead?

Business A Level is regarded by higher education institutions as a strong academic subject, and one which complements almost any other Arts or STEM subject. This course does not require any previous knowledge or qualification in Business. Students who show an interest in current and business affairs will gain maximum benefit from this course.

Chemistry A Level

Examination Board: OCR (Chemistry A)
Contact: Head of Science: Mr D Britz-Colwill
(d.britzcolwill@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: Students should have achieved minimum grades of 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science or grade 6 in both GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Biology. You should also have achieved a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and English Language. All students will be considered on individual merit. In some cases entry to Year 1 may be on a trial basis and progression onto the second year of A Level will be dependent on performance.

Why choose to study A Level Chemistry?

Chemistry is the study of matter, what they are made of, how they react and what role they play in living things. Chemistry is a fundamental subject and bridges the gap between the physical and biological sciences. The big ideas covered in Chemistry are **Matter, Reactions** and **Earth**. These build on the big ideas taught in year 7-11.

A Chemistry qualification opens wide the door to the future. Chemistry is named as an essential or acceptable A Level for more degree courses than virtually any other subject.

- It offers excitement — discovering a new life-saving drug.
- It is creative — inventing new compounds or new uses for existing ones.
- It is a challenge — solving the problems of the world, hunger, disease, pollution.
- It is satisfying — reducing suffering, improving living conditions.
- It is HARD WORK, academically challenging but interesting as well.

What will you study and how will your work be assessed?

In Year 12 you will study: Inorganic Chemistry; the structure of the atom, the periodic table and chemical bonding, Physical Chemistry; the energetics of a reaction pathway and Organic Chemistry; an introduction to the main organic functional groups with a detailed study of key homologous series. You will also complete Practical Skills related to those topics.

In Year 13 you will develop your studies: Inorganic Chemistry; the transition metals and fuel cells, Physical Chemistry; the effect of entropy on reactions and Organic Chemistry; the study of benzene and amides including chemical synthesis, a key component of Medicinal Chemistry. You will also complete Practical Skills related to those topics.

Both years contain high levels of numeracy with mathematic skills making up nearly 50% of the course. Being able to apply both GCSE and A Level maths skills to unfamiliar chemistry situations is important.
Exams are in June of Year 13. Chemistry will be assessed by 100% examination, with a practical endorsement.

Where will it lead?

Chemists are in demand in many unrelated and diverse careers, not only Medicine and Veterinary Science Forensic but Science, Sport, Art Restoration, Environment, Cosmetology, Brewing and Food, to name but a few. Many other professions recognise and reward the numeracy, problem-solving and logical thinking skills that Chemistry develops.

Economics A Level

Examination Board: Edexcel Economics A
Contact: Mr A Jenkins and Mrs V Carter
(a.jenkins@tsatrust.org.uk) (v.carter@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: Our expectations are that students applying to study this Level 3 course for 2 years will have achieved at least grade 6 in Mathematics and an essay-based subject at GCSE. In some cases, entry onto the course may be on a trial basis and progression to A2 Level will be dependent on performance.

Why choose to study A Level Economics?

"Studying Economics in the Sixth Form will not only ensure you stay up-to-date with current affairs; you will also develop the facilities to critically analyse a range of issues in finance, business and politics."

Economics helps you understand how we need to make the best possible use of the world's scarce resources. It plays a big part in politics and society and will help you understand the decisions made by individuals, businesses and governments. You study how the UK and international economies work and the implications of government decisions. You will also study the psychology behind individual decision making. Economics will improve your analytical, evaluative and critical thinking skills and is a subject which is well respected by universities

What will you study and how will your work be assessed?

Economics has two major components:

Microeconomics looks at decisions that affect individuals such as how much they earn and how they choose to spend it. We examine individual markets such as the labour market, the market for oil or the market for soft drinks; we look into how these markets sometimes fail and the reasons why governments intervene with policies such as taxes, subsidies and legislation.

Macroeconomics looks at what governments can do to help generate more money in the economy, to reduce the number of people unemployed and to encourage international trade and we will look at the policies and tools the government can use to support the economy such as fiscal policy and monetary policy. Some of the following topics are covered: • Should Raheem Stirling be allowed to earn £200,000 per week whilst the poor in developing countries often live on less than $1 per day? And, why do pilots earn more than teachers? • Should the high-speed link project go ahead or could the money be better spent on other things such as education and healthcare? • Should the government raise the tax on petrol to help cut pollution and global warming? • Is globalisation good for the UK? • Why is child poverty on the increase in the UK and should the government increase or reduce taxes on the rich? • How will the government keep the economy on track whilst paying off the debts it has accrued owing to Covid?

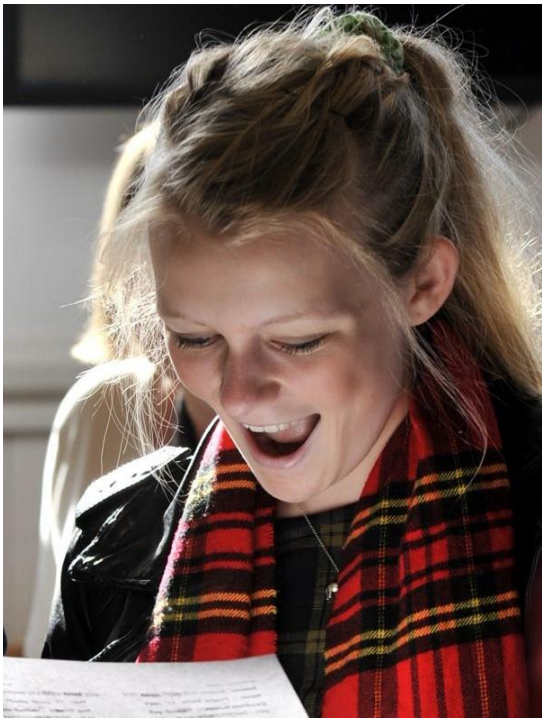
All assessment is completed via examination at the end of the second year. There are three exams of two hours each and the format is a combination of multiple choice, data response and extended written question.

Where will it lead?

Economics can be studied with many other subjects and goes particularly well with Politics, History, Mathematics, Accounting, Business, Geography, Law, Psychology and Computer Science.

Economics can lead to a variety of careers in: financial or management consultancy, investment banking, accounting, the legal profession, retail, distribution, politics and local government as well as journalism. Economics graduates are, on average amongst the highest income earners nationally.


6th Form students
Have you checked your emails today?
Important school messages may be in your inbox.



English Literature A Level

Examination Board: OCR
Contact: Head of English: Mrs S Blunden-Currie
(s.blunden-currie@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: Our expectations are that students applying to study this Level 3 course for 2 years will have achieved good GCSE grades. A grade 6 or above in English Language and English Literature is required. In some cases entry onto the course may be on a trial basis. We welcome applications from enthusiastic students with a commitment to study who must be willing to engage with texts from a variety of genres, periods and cultures, and keen to develop disciplined and rigorous reading skills. All candidates will be expected to demonstrate an informed personal response through discussions, pair and individual presentations, and essays. The ability to work to tight schedules, have skills in organisation and write clearly and accurately is essential.

Why choose to study A Level English Literature?

English has much to offer in its development of skills in critical analysis and logical argument and its focus on written and oral expression. Students have the opportunity to extend their critical judgement through the close reading of texts, all of which are in their own way both intellectually exciting and demanding.

The study of literature encourages students to identify imaginatively with a variety of situations and characters and to consider issues beyond their immediate experience in an academic – yet congenial – atmosphere. In addition, theatre trips and visits to places of literary interest are a bonus and contribute greatly to the 'Eng Lit' experience.

What will you study?

The course consists of three components which will lead to an A Level. Components cover literature from different genres and time periods.

How will you be assessed?

Component 1: Drama and poetry pre-1900. Two and a half hour closed text examination; 40% A Level. Candidates will study and answer two questions on one Shakespeare play. Candidates will also study one drama and one poetry text published before 1900 and write one comparative essay chosen from a list.

Component 2: Comparative and contextual study. Two and a half hour closed text examination; 40% A Level. Candidates study one topic area from a choice of five. They will answer one close reading question and one comparative and contextual question.

Component 3: Literature post-1900. 20% A Level. Candidates will produce a folder of coursework of a maximum of 3000 words with two tasks. At least one of the texts studied must have been published after 2000; one poetry text, one drama text and one novel must be covered in the coursework folder.

Where will it lead?

English is recognised by universities as a demanding and academic course and by employers as a valued A Level subject. The challenge of the wide range of literature on offer at A Level coupled with the skills of argument, analysis and interpretation that students develop enable them to be highly successful in their chosen degree courses. Many students continue their English studies to degree level whilst some choose the subject as a way of developing their interest in the subject and exploring in more detail the wealth of inspiration that English Literature can offer. Not all students of English Literature become English teachers — the career paths available are many and varied, most jobs require you to write fluently.

Tuscany Trip

Environmental Science A Level

Examination Board: AQA
Contact: Head of Science: Mr D Britz-Colwill
(d.britzcolwill@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements:

Essential:
6-6 for GCSE Combined Science / 6 for both GCSE Biology and GCSE Chemistry.
6 for GCSE Mathematics
6 for GCSE English Language.

Desirable:
6 for GCSE Geography

Why choose to study A Level Environmental Science?

"What happens next is up to every one of us." - Sir David Attenborough

Climate change and habitat destruction are emergencies confronting your generation. In order to face these problems, it is crucial that people develop an understanding and respect for our planet.

A Level Environmental Science brings together knowledge and understanding from a range of subjects including biology, chemistry, geography and physics. It will provide a strong foundation in topics such as ecology, the biophysical environment, energy resources, pollution and sustainability. With opportunities to learn about real life case studies, this contemporary qualification has never been more relevant.

A Level Environmental Science continues the mastery of big scientific ideas explored in previous years, including **Organisms**, **Ecosystems** and **Genes**. Environmental concepts studied at GCSE often lack depth, so this course adds fascinating new details and complexity, introducing you to many new key phrases and processes.

Environmental Science complements a number of A Level subjects including Geography, Biology and Chemistry. Environmental Science is also entirely suitable for those students who wish to continue with just one science subject, without studying pure chemistry or biology.

What will you study and how will your work be assessed?

The course comprises 7 units over two years:

1. The living environment
2. The physical environment
3. Energy resources
4. Pollution
5. Biological resources
6. Sustainability
7. Research methods

Assessment: There are 2 exams at the end of two years of study.

- Paper 1: Units 2, 3, 4 and 7 (3 hours)
- Paper 2: Units 1, 5, 6 and 7 (3 hours)

The exams are a combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Where will it lead?

A Level Environmental Science is a sound academic subject which will support applications to any higher education course. Related degree courses could include: Biological Sciences, Geography, Environmental Engineering, Conservation, Zoology, Sustainable Product Design, Sustainable Business Management, Environmental Science, Marine Biology, Environmental Media Communications, or Ecology.


Food Science and Nutrition Level 3 Diploma

Examination Board: EDUQAS

Contact: Head of Design & Technology: Miss G Westaway (g.westaway@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: The range of units available would support learners' progression from study at Level 2, in particular GCSE`s in Food and Nutrition, Biology, Physical Education, Humanities and Design and Technology. Our expectations are that students applying to study this Level 3 course for 2 years will have achieved a grade 6 or above in this subject but all students will be considered on individual merit. We welcome applications from enthusiastic students with a commitment to study.

Why choose to study Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition?

Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition will be of interest to a wide range of candidates including those intending to directly follow a higher education course or career within. An understanding of food science and nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Care providers and nutritionists in hospitals use this knowledge, as do sports coaches and fitness instructors. Hotels and restaurants, food manufacturers and government agencies also use this understanding to develop menus, food products and policies that support healthy eating initiatives. Many employment opportunities within the field of food science and nutrition are available to graduates.

This is an Applied General qualification. This means it is designed primarily to support learners progressing to university. It has been designed to offer exciting, interesting experiences that focus learning for 16 - 19-year-old learners through applied learning, i.e. through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in purposeful, work-related contexts, linked to the food production industry.

Students will gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of advanced practical food preparation, cooking and presentation skills such as; boning, larding, piping, couverture and sugar work.

How will your work be assessed?

The structure of the qualification is shown below

Unit Number	Unit Title	Structure	Assessment
1	Meeting nutritional needs of specific groups	Mandatory	Internal and External
2	Ensuring Food is safe to Eat	Mandatory	External
3	Experimenting to solve food production problems	Optional	Internal
4	Current issues in food science and nutrition	Optional	Internal

Learners complete three units: two mandatory and one optional.

The first mandatory unit will enable the learner to demonstrate an understanding of the science of food safety, nutrition and nutritional needs in a wide range of contexts, and through on–going practical sessions, to gain practical skills to produce quality food items to meet the needs of individuals.

The second mandatory unit will allow learners to develop their understanding of the science of food safety and hygiene; essential knowledge for anyone involved in food production in the home or wishing to work in the food industry. Again, practical sessions will support the gaining of theoretical knowledge and ensure learning is a tactile experience.

Studying one of the two optional units will allow learners the opportunity to study subjects of particular interest or relevance to them, building on previous learning and experiences.

What will you learn?

The course requires learners to consider how the use and application of their learning impacts on themselves, other individuals, employers, society and the environment. The applied purpose will also enable learners to learn in such a way that they develop:

- skills required for independent learning and development
- skills to ensure their own dietary health and well being
- a range of generic and transferable skills
- the ability to solve problems
- the skills of project-based research, development and presentation
- the ability to apply mathematical and ICT skills
- the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment
- the ability to apply learning in vocational contexts.

Together with other relevant qualifications at Level 3, such as AS and A levels in Biology, Chemistry, Sociology and Math's and/or Level 3 qualifications in Hospitality or Science, learners will gain the required knowledge to be able to use the qualification to support entry to higher education courses such as:

- BSc Food and Nutrition
- BSc Human Nutrition
- BSc (Hons) Public Health Nutrition

French A Level

Examination Board: AQA
Contact: Head of MFL: Mrs H Walsh
(h.walsh@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: Our expectations are that students applying to study this course for 2 years will have achieved a good GCSE grade. A grade 6 or above in this subject is required but all students will be considered on individual merit. In some cases entry onto the course may be on a trial basis and will be dependent on performance. We welcome applications from enthusiastic students with a commitment to study.

Why choose to study A Level French?

The syllabus allows you to develop the practical skills of GCSE to a high level of competence and to understand the grammatical structures, pronunciation and intonation of French.

Learning about another society and culture is interesting in itself; to do so through studying what it says about itself in its media, music, films and literature and through direct contact with its people adds a new dimension to learning.

What will you study?

The French language is the first area of study, so that you develop your vocabulary and your knowledge of the rules that underlie French grammar. The skills and understanding you develop will also help in learning any other language now or later.

In the first year of study, you will study one theme from Social Issues and Trends, for example, the changing nature of family, the "cyber society" and the place of voluntary work. You will also study one theme from Political and Artistic Culture, for example, demonstrations and strikes, immigration, contemporary francophone music and the cinema. In addition to these two themes, you will study a French book or film.

In the second year of study, you will study a further theme from Social Issues and Trends, a further theme from Political and Artistic Culture as well as a second French book or film. In addition to this, you will carry out an individual research project for the speaking assessment only.

As you can see, you will study francophone culture and learn principally about France, but also about other countries where French is spoken. The syllabus covers a wide range of topics, relating to contemporary society and its problems, to art, music and literature. You will learn about these topics by reading articles or poems; or by listening to radio interviews or songs and by watching and listening to French news programmes.

Typical Activities

- Grammar exercises
- Discussions, arguments and debates
- Working with songs, films and video clips
- Reading factual and literary texts
- Listening work
- Translation work into English and French

How will you be assessed?

- Throughout the course you will be assessed by your teachers on your oral and written skills in preparation for the end of year two exams.
- **Paper 1** is a mixed skill exam combining listening, reading and writing skills.
- **Paper 2** is a written exam which will assess the book and film (or two books) that you have studied.
- **Paper 3** is an oral exam during which you will discuss a sub theme on a stimulus card. You will then give a two minute presentation on your individual research project followed by a discussion with the teacher examiner.

Where will it lead?

Whether you continue into higher education or not, your language skills will be an asset in your leisure and working life. French combines well with other subjects. Universities and employers value the discipline, learning skills and ability to communicate, necessarily developed by a good linguist. There is a very wide range of university courses combining language with everything from engineering to music. Most include one year spent in work placements or universities overseas.

Language skills are increasingly in demand by employers, as is the ability to empathise with other cultures, which is encouraged by the advanced study of languages. Industries that welcome language graduates are the Media, PR, Finance, Banking, Tourism, Consulting or Working Internationally with a Charity or as part of a Business that Trades Internationally. The communication skills acquired during a languages degree are highly sought after by many employers and can be applied across many sectors.

Careers might include Teaching, International Law or Business, any type of job with strong links to France.

Possible A Level Courses	Examples of Degree Courses	Example of Careers
French + Maths / Chemistry / Biology	Pharmaceutical, Engineering, medical (all with strong links to Germany)	Pharmaceutical work, Estate Manager, Civil Engineer, banking and finance
French + Business + Economics	Business Studies, Politics, Economics, Planning, International Law, International Human Rights	Local Government Officer, Systems Analyst, Accountant, Planner, Community Worker, Civil Servant, Personnel Manager
French + Geography / History / Politics / English / German	International Law, Modern Languages, European Studies, Politics	Solicitor, Journalist, Marketing Manager, tourism

Geography A Level

Examination Board: Edexcel
Contact: Head of Geography: Mr L Graves
(l.graves@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: Our expectations are that students applying to study this Level 3 course for 2 years will have achieved a good GCSE grade. A minimum grade 6 in English and Geography (or an equivalent Level 2 qualification) is required. However all students will be considered on individual merit. We welcome applications from enthusiastic students with a commitment to study.

Why choose to study A Level Geography?

Geography examines the questions, issues and problems that arise from the interaction of people with their varied environments using an enquiry-based learning approach. Fieldwork, research and individual study are integral parts of this course.

GCSE Geography studied in this school is an excellent preparation for further study in this subject.

Studying Geography helps to develop transferable geographical skills and many of the key skills that are relevant to the needs of employment and higher education.
Students studying A Level Geography in this school believe that they are "involved in their own learning, have more independent work and that Geography combines with a wide range of subjects such as History, Languages, Economics, Biology etc."

What will you study?

- Dynamic Landscapes - Tectonic Hazards, Coastal Landscapes
- Dynamic Places — Globalisation, Regenerating Places.
- Physical Systems and sustainability - Water Systems, Energy, Climate Change
- Human Systems and Geopolitics - Superpowers, Globalisation and Human Rights
- Independent Investigation **

**Research and Fieldwork Based.

"Fieldwork"

Where will it lead?

Geography can be combined successfully with many other subjects. It is considered to be both a Humanities subject and a Science so does not narrow your choices for later. Careers might include Environmental Engineering, Renewable Energies, Town Planning, Landscape, Architecture, working with NGOs, working in the Oil and Gas industries, Leisure and Tourism – in other words a very wide variety of careers are open to you

Possible A Level Courses	Examples of Degree Courses	Example of Careers
GEOGRAPHY & SCIENCES E.g. + Maths and Physics · Chemistry and Biology	Meteorology, Geophysics, Agriculture, Soil Science, Geology, Environmental Science, Engineering, Geoscience	Meteorologist, Surveyor, Geologist, Estate Manager, Civil Engineer
GEOGRAPHY & SOCIAL SCIENCES E.g. + Politics and History · Economics and Maths	Business Studies, Politics, Economics, Planning, International Law, Human Rights	Local Government Officer, Systems Analyst, Accountant, Planner, Community Worker, Civil Servant, Personnel Manager
GEOGRAPHY & ARTS E.g. + History and English · Modern Languages	Law, Library Studies, Modern Languages, European Studies	Solicitor, Journalist, Marketing Manager

"A Level classes are smaller allowing each of us to get a bigger chance at getting a top grade"

"Lessons are even more interesting than GCSE as there is so much discussion"

"Teachers are really friendly and treat everyone as equals"

German A Level

Examination Board: AQA
Contact: Head of MFL: Mrs H Walsh
(h.walsh@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: Our expectations are that students applying to study this Level 3 course for 2 years will have achieved a good GCSE grade. A grade 6 or above in this subject (or an equivalent Level 2 qualification) is required. However all students will be considered on individual merit. In some cases entry onto the course may be on a trial basis. We welcome applications from enthusiastic students with a commitment to study.

Why choose to study A Level German?

Studying German at A Level affords the opportunity not merely to gain a high degree of competence in the language, but it also allows for expansion of knowledge in areas such as culture, literature, society, history and current affairs. This is achieved through a number of media such as films, literature, poetry and music.

Classes are taught by two different teachers which allows for a variety of learning styles. Groups are also fairly intimate, which allows pupils to gain confidence quickly.

What will you study?

The German language, i.e. the acquisition of vocabulary and the expansion of grammar structures, is the first area of study. This is achieved through topic work via short articles, radio excerpts and video. You will also study German culture and touch upon other German speaking countries, though you will predominantly study issues relating to Germany itself.

The syllabus covers a wide variety of contemporary issues, looking at the place of the young person in society, the working world, the international scene, environment and citizenship. These things are viewed from the perspective of the German-speaking peoples. You will read a German novel and study a German film.

Typical Activities

- Discussion and debates
- Grammar activities
- Newspaper articles
- Essay writing
- Poetry
- Short stories

- Online & computer/based learning
- Visiting German websites
- Spoken presentations to the group, using ICT where appropriate
- Videos and songs
- Independent research of oral topics

How will I be assessed?

Throughout the course you will be assessed by your teachers on your oral and written skills in preparation for the end of year two exams.

- **Paper 1** is a mixed skill exam combining listening, reading and writing skills.
- **Paper 2** is a written exam which will assess the book and film (or two books) that you have studied.
- **Paper 3** is an oral exam during which you will discuss a sub theme on a stimulus card. You will then give a two minute presentation on your individual research project followed by a discussion with the teacher/examiner.

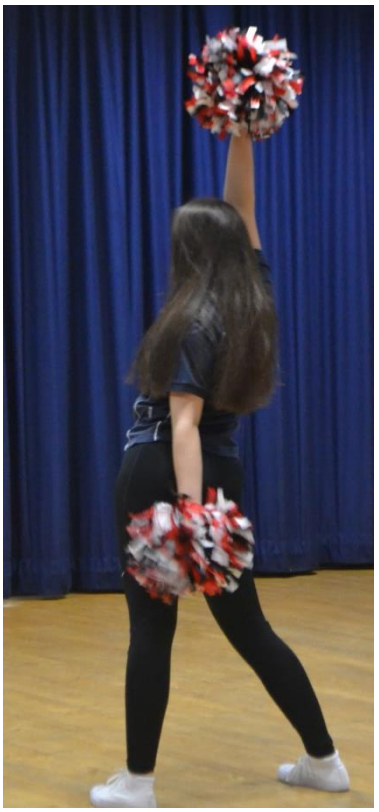
Where will it lead?

The knowledge of a foreign language is an asset regardless of whether you continue into higher education or not. German combines well with any other subject and especially with subjects where any sort of communication is at the forefront. There is a wide range of university courses combining languages and other subjects. Most of these can include time spent abroad either in work placements or at universities.

Careers might include Teaching, International Law or Business, any type of job with strong links to Germany, such as Pharmaceuticals, Engineering, Medical, Political, just to name a few. Industries that welcome language graduates are the Media, PR, Finance, Banking, Tourism, Consulting or Working Internationally with a Charity or as part of a Business that Trades Internationally. The communication skills acquired during a languages degree are highly sought after by many employers and can be applied across many sectors.

Possible A Level Courses	Examples of Degree Courses	Example of Careers
German + Maths / Chemistry / Biology	Pharmaceutical, Engineering, medical (all with strong links to Germany)	Pharmaceutical work, Estate Manager, Civil Engineer, medical work, banking and finance
German + Business + Economics	Business Studies, Politics, Economics, Planning, International Law, International Human Rights	Local Government Officer, Systems Analyst, Accountant, Planner, Community Worker, Civil Servant, Personnel Manager
German + Geography / History / Politics / English / French	International Law, Modern Languages, European Studies, Politics	Solicitor, Journalist, Marketing Manager, tourism

Young Enterprise



House Festivals

“Being part of the Head Student Team is a very positive experience, as it allows you to take on a leadership role. It also gives you the opportunity to interact with younger years of the school which is something you wouldn’t normally do.”

History A Level

Examination Board: AQA
Contact: Head of History Mr R Mallard
(r.mallard@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: 'An interest in History, an enquiring mind and a love of reading are the main entry requirements of the course.'

You do **NOT** need GCSE History to do A Level History; we are welcoming & supportive of all those who opt for History.

Our expectations are that students applying to study this 2 year A Level course will have achieved a level 6 or above in English GCSE because of the analytical skills and written fluency required to succeed. However, you do not have to have GCSE History as we will teach you the necessary skills and no prior knowledge of any topic is required in order to do A Level. It is expected that students will do an additional 4-5 hours per week of independent study. Above all you need to prove to us that you are curious, can research independently, and have a real personal interest in understanding the past, and what it can teach us today.

Why choose to study A Level History?

The A Level course is demanding but intellectually rewarding. The skills required are relevant for a range of careers. Students who choose the course are able to develop skills of communication, presentation, synthesis of ideas, critical evaluation of sources, as well as effective reading and writing. Ultimately though, we believe the course we have chosen is intrinsically interesting, building on the experiences of GCSE to allow for a smooth transition to the challenge of A Level study and beyond.

What will you study?

The Department has chosen topics with a proven track record of interest and success. These topics also reflect the academic specialisms and enthusiasm of the staff, helping the acquisition of excellent results.

History GCE AL Course
Unit 1: Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855-1964
A Non British period study:

- The Preservation of Autocracy - how the Tsar's attempted to maintain power in the late 19th Century
- The Beginning of the End - the 1905 Revolution and onset of World War One
- Causes of the 1917 Russian Revolutions
- Lenin's Dictatorship - establishing a Bolshevik legacy
- The Stalinisation of Russia - how the 'Great Turn' changed the world?

- Stalin vs Hitler - the Great Patriotic War
- The Death of Stalin and the reaction to dictatorship under Khrushchev

Exam: 2 hours 30 minutes (55 marks) 40 % of final grade

Unit 2: The Making of Modern Britain 1951-2007
A British period study and enquiry:

- Society in change - Britain in the 1950s and 60s
- The changing face of Britain - impact of immigration and multiculturalism in Britain
- Britain's leaders - how effective were the governing elite in the 1950s and 60s
- The collapse of consensus and the rise of trade union militancy 1964-1979;
- Thatcher's revolution - how far did she transform Britain in the 1980s?
- The Rise of New Labour - Britain in the new millennium and the 'end of the party'
- Britain's place in the world - the collapse of empire and rise of the Superpowers
- Post 9/11 – Britain's role in the war on terror

Exam: 2 hours 30 mins (55 marks) 40 % of final grade

Unit 3: Coursework:
Topic Based Essay Assessment of 3000-4000 words (20% of A Level)

The idea behind this is for students to develop their own study of an historical controversy which runs separate to the two modules studied. They have a range of possible topic areas to develop and study including:-

- The Abolition of Slavery in Britain
- The Causes of the French Revolution
- The Causes of the American Revolution
- The Tudor Rebellions

The coursework must cover a period of 100 years and requires students to combine their skill of source analysis and using interpretation as well as focusing on issues of significance, causation continuity and change. The work is independently researched with the student developing their own question and conducting the subsequent enquiry. Students will be expected to find their own mix of contemporary sources and interpretations to help develop their arguments.

This is ultimately an excellent opportunity for students to really immerse themselves in the subject and produce a piece of work that will prepare them well for life at university.

Where will it lead?

History A Level is highly respected by universities and employers. Skills acquired are applicable to a wide range of disciplines, opening the door to a variety of career options. An obvious link is with the legal profession as students practise their skills of evaluating evidence and argument. This also applies to business and management where coherent argument and selection of evidence is crucial to success. Other careers which see History as a relevant starting point include the Civil Service, Politics and Teaching. A major area, however, remains the media with many history graduates taking up careers in Journalism and the Broadcast Media upon completion of their degree.

LAW

A-LEVEL

Examination board: OCR
Contact: Miss L Findlay
l.findlay@tsatrust.org.uk

Requirements: Our expectations are that students applying to study this 2 year A-Level course will have achieved a level 6 or above in English at GCSE because of the analytical skills and written fluency required to succeed. No prior understanding of law or legal systems is necessary. It is expected, as with all A Level subjects, that students will do an additional 4-5 hours per week of independent study.

Why choose to study A-Level Law?

If you enjoy debating current affairs and can see both sides of an argument, then Law may be the perfect subject for you.

Law is an exciting, varied and challenging subject, interesting by its very nature. Legal rules permeate all aspects of our lives, from those that govern the creation of embryos to those that control the manner in which a person may die. Studying this subject gives a fresh perspective on why certain rules exist and, once you have studied the law behind the attention-grabbing news headlines, you will find that you will never passively receive information again without dissecting the implications.

A-Level Law is a valuable qualification which is recognised by all universities as being relevant to a number of different types of Higher Education courses, not just Law degrees, and is also a sound basis for a variety of careers. It illustrates to both universities and employers that you possess logical, analytical thought processes and have an understanding of a broad spectrum of issues. A good result also demonstrates that you have desirable skills such as the ability to research and construct arguments with an articulate expression of complex ideas.

The study of Law at A-Level requires you to be able to apply knowledge to given factual situations in order to reach a reasoned conclusion. A-Level Law thus demands a thoughtful and critical approach. You will need to evaluate legal rules, theories and principles and provide evidence to support your arguments so there is a need to develop good memory skills and learn to write concisely.

There are extra-curricular activities available to enrich study, such as visits to the Houses of Parliament and local courts. The school's Bar Mock Trial Competition teams have a history of success including being crowned national champions by Sir Brian Leveson.

What will you study and how will your work be assessed?

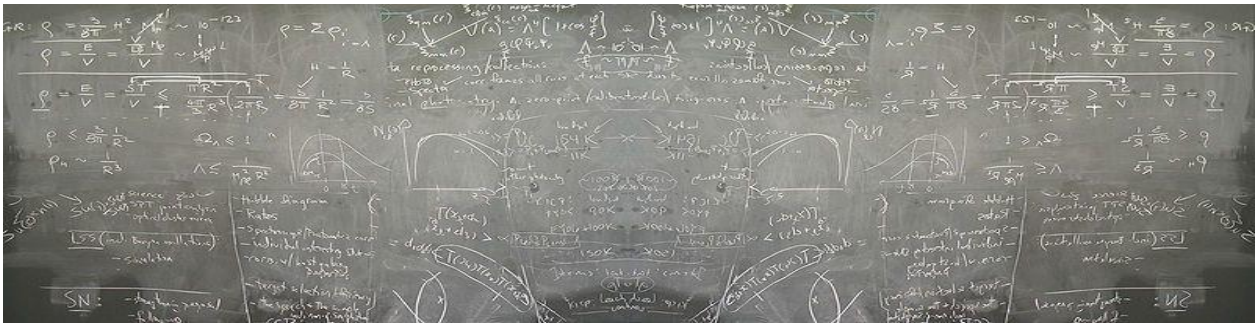
There are six units over the two-year period. The first units are **'the Legal System'** and **'Law making'** where we gain an understanding of the fundamental systems and processes involved in creating and applying the law. We then go on to study the exciting topic of **'Criminal Law'** which involves studying the elements necessary to convict someone of a criminal offence like robbery or grievous bodily harm and how defences such as intoxication may be applied to absolve a defendant of liability. So you really do learn how people 'get away with murder'! Following that is **'Tort Law'** where we look at how the duties we owe to each other can result in claims and the defences that can be used to negate responsibility. The **'Contract Law'** unit examines how a contract goes from being an agreement to becoming legally binding and the remedies available when there is breach of that contract, both for independent consumers and large businesses. Finally, the **'Nature of Law'** unit brings together knowledge gained throughout the course and allows for research into the theory behind law. We also explore how these principles will be reflected in how the law deals with novel issues to balance interests, for example with facial recognition software.

There is no formal coursework. The A Level is assessed by three equally-weighted examinations, each lasting two hours. Substantive law is generally assessed by application of law to an unseen exam scenario whereas the theory of law is assessed by written essays in response to exam questions. Throughout the course there is regular examination practice and detailed feedback.

Where will it lead?

A-Level Law is not just for those who wish to enter the legal profession, though it is not uncommon for students to decide they enjoy it so much that they would like to take the subject further. By studying A-Level Law you, will gain many transferable skills that will be applicable to a wide range of career paths. These include:

- Legal careers
- Business Management
- Journalism
- Police
- Civil Service
- Social work
- Human Resources
- Politics



Mathematics A Level

Examination Board: OCR - MEI Syllabus
Contact: Head of Mathematics: Miss G Freeman
(g.freeman@tsatrust.org.uk)

In all cultures and throughout time, Mathematics has been a core subject in schools and universities. It has an inner beauty and majesty capable of stimulating the imagination. It is the universal language used to describe and understand the world we live in. It possesses a rich core of puzzles and problems that continue to entertain and bemuse.

Requirements: Our expectations are that students applying to study this level 3 course for 2 years will have achieved a good GCSE grade. A grade 7 or above in this subject is required. We welcome applications from enthusiastic students with a commitment to study.

Why choose to study Mathematics?

The main reason for studying Mathematics to an Advanced Level is that it is interesting and enjoyable. People like its challenge, its clarity, and the fact that you know when you are right. The solution of a problem has an excitement and a satisfaction. You will find all these aspects in the course. You will also become more aware of the wider importance of Mathematics, and the way in which it is advancing at a spectacular rate. Mathematics is about pattern and structure; it is about logical analysis, deduction, calculation within these patterns and structures. When patterns are found, often in widely different areas of science and technology, the mathematics of these patterns can be used to explain and control natural happenings and situations. Mathematics has a pervasive influence on our everyday lives, and contributes to the wealth of the country.

What will you study?

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques
- understand coherence and progression in mathematics and how different areas of Mathematics are connected
- apply Mathematics in other fields of study and be aware of the relevance of mathematics to the world of work and to situations in society in general
- use their mathematical knowledge to make logical and reasoned decisions in solving problems both within pure Mathematics and in a variety of contexts, and communicate the mathematical rationale for these decisions clearly
- generalise mathematically and construct mathematical proofs
- use their mathematical skills and techniques to solve challenging problems which require them to decide on the solution strategy
- recognise when Mathematics can be used to analyse and solve a problem in context
- represent situations mathematically and understand the relationship between problems in context and mathematical models that may be applied to solve them

- interpret solutions and communicate their interpretation effectively in the context of the problem
- read and comprehend mathematical arguments, including justifications of methods and formulae, and communicate their understanding
- read and comprehend articles concerning applications of Mathematics and communicate their understanding
- use technology such as calculators and computers effectively and recognise when such use may be inappropriate

An Outline of the A Level Mathematics course

Students must complete Components 01, 02 and 03 to be awarded OCR A Level in Mathematics B (MEI). Content is in three areas:

1 Pure Mathematics

2 Mechanics

3 Statistics

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
Component 01 assesses content from areas 1 and 2	Pure Mathematics and Mechanics (01) 100 marks 2 hours	**36.4%** of total A Level
Component 02 assesses content from areas 1 and 3	Pure Mathematics and Statistics (02) 100 marks 2 hours	**36.4%** of total A Level
Component 03 assesses content from areas 1 (areas 2 and 3 are assumed knowledge)	Pure Mathematics and Comprehension (03) 75 marks 2 hours	**27.3%** of total A Level

Where will studying Mathematics lead?

Advanced GCE Mathematics is a much sought after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full-time courses in higher education. There are also many areas of employment that see Mathematics A Level as an important qualification. Higher Education courses or careers that either require A Level Mathematics or are strongly related include Economics, Medicine, Architecture, Engineering, Accountancy, Teaching, Psychology, Physics, Computing and Information and Communication Technology. For those unsure where their future choices lie, Mathematics is an excellent way in which to keep one's options open.

Further Mathematics A Level

Examination Board: OCR - MEI Syllabus
Contact: Head of Further Mathematics: Miss G Freeman
(g.freeman@tsatrust.org.uk)

There is an opportunity for those students who have a natural interest in mathematics to study Further Mathematics at AS and A2 level.

Students must take the mandatory Core Pure paper and at PHSG we will sit the Statistics Major papers. The optional minor paper will be in Modelling with Algorithms.

<table>
<tr><th>Content Overview</th><th colspan="2">Assessment Overview</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">The qualification comprises one mandatory Core Pure paper and then a combination of optional papers:
• Core Pure Content[2]
• Major options
  ◦ Mechanics Major (Y421)[2]
  ◦ Statistics Major (Y422)[2]
• Minor options
  ◦ Mechanics Minor (Y431)[2]
  ◦ Statistics Minor (Y432)[2]
  ◦ Modelling with Algorithms (Y433)[2]
  ◦ Numerical Methods (Y434)[2]
  ◦ Extra Pure (Y435)
  ◦ Further Pure with Technology (Y436)

The Overarching Themes must be applied along with associated mathematical thinking and understanding, across the whole of the subject content. See Section 2b.

1. One third of the Core Pure content, and one half of the content of each major option can be co-taught with AS Further Mathematics. This material is labelled (a) throughout Sections 2c to 2e.

2. These minor options can be co-taught with AS Further Mathematics.</td><td>Mandatory paper: Core Pure

144 raw marks (180 scaled)

2 hour 40m mins Written paper</td><td>50% of total A Level</td></tr>
<tr><td>Major Option

120 raw marks (120 scaled)

2 hour 15 mins Written paper</td><td>33⅓% of total A Level</td></tr>
<tr><td>Minor option

60 raw

marks (60 scaled)

1 hour 15 mins Written paper (1 hour 45 mins Written paper for Y436)</td><td>16⅔% of total A Level</td></tr>
</table>

For more details about Further Mathematics, please contact Mr Goodchild

If you are interested in Mathematics then please let us recommend the following website:

www.plus.maths.org

Provided by the Millennium Mathematics Project, the +Plus Magazine site has a wealth of enrichment material and is highly recommended. There are hundreds of interesting problems and an archive full of accessible articles, as well as a 'Careers with Maths' section. It has an excellent search facility — I tried 'vectors,' a topic I find quite dry to teach, and came up with an article about how vectors are used in the creation of CGI in films!

Core Mathematics A Level

Examination Board: AQA syllabus 2b
Contact: Head of Core Mathematics: Miss G Freeman
(g.freeman@tsatrust.org.uk)

"Maths is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be. At AQA, we design qualifications and support to enable students to engage with, explore, enjoy and succeed in maths. By putting students at the heart of everything we do, our aim is to support teachers to shape what success in maths looks like for every student. Our question papers are designed with students in mind. We're committed to ensuring that students are settled early in our exams and have the best possible opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of maths, to ensure they achieve the results they deserve." (taken from the AQA website)

The course should enable students to:

- study a mathematics curriculum that is integrated with other areas of their study, work or interest leading to the application of mathematics in these areas
- develop mathematical modelling, evaluating and reasoning skills
- solve problems some of which will not be well defined and may not have a unique solution
- solve substantial and real life problems encountered by adults
- use ICT as an exploratory tool for developing mathematical understanding and when solving problems
- develop skills in the communication, selection, use and interpretation of their mathematics
- enjoy mathematics and develop confidence in using mathematics

Assessment is in the form of two papers, both 1 hour 30 minutes in length.

This course is ideal for those students studying subjects such as the sciences, Geography, Design and Technology and Psychology. The content of the course is designed to support the analytical aspect of mathematics that many other curriculum areas need.

Media Studies A Level

Examination Board: EDQUAS
Contact: Head of English: Mrs S Blunden-Currie
(s.blunden-currie@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: Our expectations are that students applying to study this Level 3 course for 2 years will have achieved good GCSE grades. A grade 6 or above in English Language is required. We welcome applications from enthusiastic students with a commitment to study who must be willing to engage with texts from a variety of media.

Why choose to study A Level Media?

Media Studies concerns communication: a fascinating subject, this A Level affords you the opportunity to learn about a variety of forms including newspapers, magazines, television, advertising, marketing, film, online, music video, radio and video games. The course is varied and stimulating and considers these media through a theoretical lens.

Assessment is divided into three components:

Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences
Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes
35% of qualification

The examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts. It consists of two sections:

Section A: Analysing Media Language and Representation
This section assesses media language and representation in relation to **two** of the following media forms: advertising, marketing, music video or newspapers. There are **two** questions in this section:

- **one** question assessing media language in relation to an unseen audio-visual or print resource
- **one** extended response comparison question assessing representation in one set product and an unseen audio-visual or print resource in relation to media contexts.

Section B: Understanding Media Industries and Audiences
This section assesses **two** of the following media forms – advertising, marketing, film, newspapers, radio, video games - and media contexts.
It includes:

- **one** stepped question on media industries
- **one** stepped question on audiences.

Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth
Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes
35% of qualification

The examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts. It consists of three sections:

Section A – Television in the Global Age
There will be **one** two-part question or **one** extended response question.

Section B – Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media
There will be **one** two-part question or **one** extended response question.

Section C – Media in the Online Age
There will be **one** two-part question or **one** extended response question.

Component 3: Cross-Media Production
Non exam assessment
30% of qualification

An **individual** cross-media production based on **two forms** in response to a **choice of briefs set by WJEC**, applying knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework and digital convergence.

There are four areas of theory you will cover:

- Media language
- Representation
- Media industries
- Audiences

The theorists you will explore include:

Media Language

- Semiotics, including Roland Barthes
- Narratology, including Tzvetan Todorov
- Genre theory, including Steve Neale
- Structuralism, including Claude Lévi-Strauss
- Postmodernism, including Jean Baudrillard

Representation

- Theories of representation, including Stuart Hall
- Theories of identity, including David Gauntlett
- Feminist theory, including Liesbet van Zoonen
- Feminist theory, including bell hooks
- Theories of gender performativity, including Judith Butler
- Theories around ethnicity and postcolonial theory, including Paul Gilroy

Media Industries

- Power and media industries, including Curran and Seaton
- Regulation, including Livingstone and Lunt
- Cultural industries, including David Hesmondhalgh

Audiences

- Media effects, including Albert Bandura
- Cultivation theory, including George Gerbner
- Reception theory, including Stuart Hall
- Fandom, including Henry Jenkins
- 'End of audience' theories - Clay Shirky.

Where will it lead?

With communications skills being at the foreground of this subject, Media Studies is a versatile option which lends itself to almost every possible career path. Typically, however, students of media often pursue careers in Creative and Broadcast Industries such as Marketing, Television and Film, Digital Media, and Writing (whether as writers themselves or as key members of the publishing world).

Physical Education A Level

Examination Board: OCR
Contact: Head of Physical Education: Mrs A Pickles
a.pickles@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: Our expectations are that students applying to study A Level PE will have achieved a good GCSE grade of 6 or above in PE or Biology. It is advised that you compete or take part in a practical activity to a good standard outside of school. All students will be considered on individual merit.

Why choose to study A Level PE?

The course allows learners to study Physical Education (PE) in an academic setting, enabling them to critically analyse and evaluate their physical performance and apply their experience of practical activity in developing their knowledge and understanding of the subject. In the theory element you will gain a deep understanding into how the body works when exercising. You will delve into the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs and the influence that modern technology is having on sport. You will develop a wide range of skills such as communication, decision making, interpreting data and analysing performance along with many more.

What will you study and how will you be assessed?

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
Physiological factors affecting performance: • Anatomy and physiology • Exercise physiology • Biomechanics	Written Paper (2 Hours) 90 marks	30% of total A Level
Psychological factors affecting performance: • Skill acquisition • Sports psychology	Written Paper (1 Hour) 60 marks	20% oftotal A Level
Socio-cultural issues in physical activity: • Sport and society • Contemporary issues in sport	Written Paper (1 Hour) 60 marks	20% oftotal A Level
Performance in Physical Activity • Practical performance/coaching • Evaluation and analysis for improvement	Practical performance in 1 sport. Observation and oral	30% of total A Level

Where will it lead?

PE goes extremely well with lots of other subjects such as Biology and Psychology and Sociology so PE could add diversity and breadth to your course choices. It can lead onto further education or careers such as: Sports Science, Coaching, Sports Development and Management, Leisure and Recreation, Exercise and Health, Dietician, Physiotherapy or Occupational Therapy.

Trips

We visit the sports science laboratory either at Marjons or Exeter University to use the equipment and consolidate the theory elements of the course through practical.

Olympic Pentathlete, Heather Fell's Inspirational Talk

Physics A Level

Examination Board: Edexcel
Contact: Head of Physics: Mr M Thackray
(m.thackray@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: Students should have achieved minimum grades of 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science or grade 6 in both GCSE Physics and one other GCSE science subject. You should also have achieved a grade 7 or higher in GCSE Mathematics. All students will be considered on individual merit. In some cases entry to Year 1 may be on a trial basis and progression onto the second year of A Level will be dependent on performance.

Why choose to study A Level Physics?

A Level Physics continues your mastery of big scientific ideas like **Forces, Electromagnetism, Energy and Waves.** This course puts an emphasis on the applications of Physics in the everyday world. You will need good Mathematical skills to get the most out of the course. You might be interested in understanding topics such as the mechanical properties of confectionery and chocolate, linking this to more practical applications; forces in rock climbing; energy in bungee jumping, how CDs work, or how to measure and improve the performance of the school's F24 electric racing car.

What will you study?

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
Paper 1 • Working as a physicist • Mechanics • Electric circuits • Further mechanics • Electric and magnetic fields • Nuclear and particle physics	Written Paper (1 hour 45 minutes) 90 marks	30% of total A Level
Paper 2 • Working as a physicist • Materials • Waves and particle nature of light • Thermodynamics • Space • Nuclear radiation • Gravitational Fields • Oscillations	Written Paper (1 hour 45 minutes) 90 marks	30% of total A Level
Paper 3 • Synoptic questions • Understanding of experimental methods	Written Paper (2 hours 30 minutes) 120 marks	40% of total A Level

Some of the modules give a flavour of the course:

- Students use time-series video clips and laboratory practical activities to study some of the physics behind a variety of sports. Mechanics and equations of motion are applied to both practical and theoretical situations.
- Electrical energy transfer is explored using solar cells and how power supplies can be engineered to provide optimum energy transfer and greatest efficiency.
- Harmonics and resonance are studied in the context of music and recorded sound, focusing on the production of sound by musical instruments, and the operation of a noise cancelling headphones.
- Fluid dynamics, including viscosity and turbulent flow are applied to lubricating oil and honey, with some rather messy practical work!
- Wave-particle duality and calculations using the photon model of light allow understanding and interpretation of the photoelectric effect, and determination of energies of the electromagnetic spectrum.

How will your work be assessed?

The course is assessed through theory exam papers and there is the requirement that all candidates will regularly demonstrate high levels of competence in practical skills.

Where will it lead?

A Level Physics opens up a vast number of career opportunities – not only in Science, Engineering or Medicine. A Physics qualification also serves as an indication of a clear, logical and adaptable mind — much in demand today in business and industry. The ability to make decisions based on logical thought and to explain concepts clearly and precisely are qualities often sought by employers.

Politics A Level

Examination Board: Edexcel
Contact: Head of Politics: Mr R Mallard
(r.mallard@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: With an ever-changing global political landscape it is essential students have a keen interest in current affairs and the news of the day. As well as this, students require a love of reading, a curiosity to research independently and an openness to new ideas and ways of thinking. As a result, we recommend that students have at least a grade 6 at GCSE English as proven English skills are essential to source work and for essay writing.

Why choose to study A Level Politics?

The A Level course is both engaging and intellectually challenging and seeks to develop students' wider understanding of the world around them. The skills required are relevant for a range of careers and students who choose the course are able to develop skills of communication, analysis and evaluation, interpretation, presentation, synthesis of ideas, use of sources as well as effective reading and writing. Ultimately, this course looks to broaden understanding of how the modern political world operates allowing them to build on their own experiences whilst giving them the knowledge and skills to help them progress through their A Levels and beyond.

Politics Unit

Paper One - UK Politics and Core Political Ideas. Students will investigate in detail how people and politics interact. They will explore the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and the similarities, differences, connections and parallels between direct and indirect democracy. They will focus on the role and scope of political parties that are so central to contemporary politics, including the significance of the manifestos they publish at election time and their relevance to the mandate of the resulting government. It will also focus on the role of the individual in the political process and their relationship with the state and their fellow citizens. Students will examine how electoral systems in the UK operate and how individuals and groups are influenced in their voting behaviour and political actions as well as the role played by the media.

Furthermore, students will explore the three traditional political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism. Students will learn about the core ideas and principles and how they apply in practice to human nature, the state, society and the economy, the divisions within each idea and their key thinkers.

Students will sit a 2 hour exam on this module

Paper Two - UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas. This component is fundamental to understanding the nature of UK government, since it enables students to understand where, how and by whom political decisions are made. The component also gives students a base of comparison to other political systems. It further introduces students to the specific roles and powers of the different major branches of the government – legislative, executive, and judiciary – as well as the relationships and balance of power between them, and considers where sovereignty now lies within this system. This section will also allow students to explore one of five additional political ideas such as nationalism, anarchism, feminism, multiculturalism and ecologism. Students will learn about the core ideas and principles and how they apply in practice to human nature, the state, society and the economy, the divisions within each idea and their key thinkers.

Students will sit a 2 hour exam on this module

Paper Three - Global Politics. Global politics gives students an opportunity to develop an understanding of the local, national, international and global dimensions of political activity. It also gives them the opportunity to explore the political issues that affect all of us. Students will gain understanding of abstract political concepts through grounding them in contemporary real-world examples and case studies that will develop an international awareness and knowledge of multiple perspectives. Global politics encourages discussion and debate and requires students to study and present different global perspectives, as well as interpreting competing and contestable claims. The key mainstream perspectives on global politics are liberalism and realism, and students will be expected to understand how these perspectives are applied throughout all elements of the global politics content.

Students will sit a 2 hour exam of this module

Where will it lead?

Politics A Level is valued positively by universities which recognise the discipline as providing a sound intellectual base for further study at university in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Studying politics at A Level or university will aid students interested in a career in Politics, the Civil Service, Research, Broadcasting, Law and Journalism.

EU Referendum

Trips

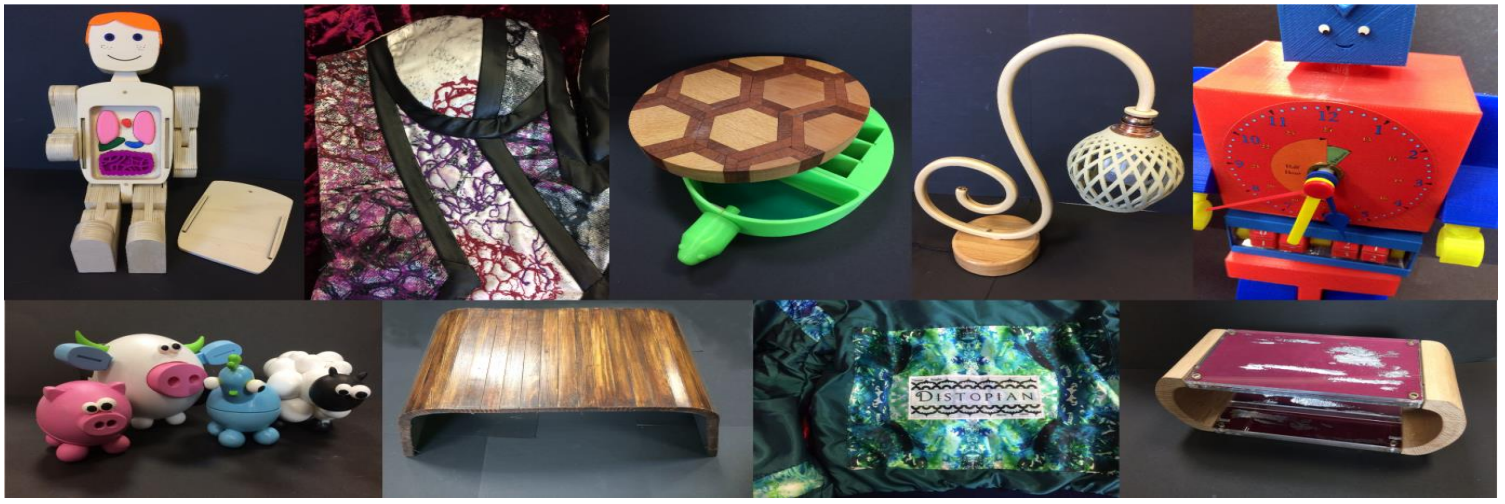
We take part in the Bath Model United Nations debating weekend each year.

Each July we take 40 Sixth Formers abroad for an enjoyable week of history and culture.

The Department also runs an annual Parliament trip looking at the history of the key institution at the heart of British society.

"We enjoyed the UN conference because it was interesting to meet people from different schools I wouldn't normally have

met and the debates were fun!"



Product Design: Design Technology A Level

Examination Board: EDUQAS
Contact: Head of Design & Technology: Miss G Westaway
(g.westaway@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: Our expectations are that students applying to study this Level 3 course for 2 years will have achieved a good GCSE grade. A grade 6 or above in this subject (or an equivalent Level 2 qualification) is required but all students will be considered on individual merit. We welcome applications from enthusiastic students with a commitment to study.

Why choose to study A Level Product Design?

A Level Product Design will be of interest to a wide range of candidates including those intending to directly follow a higher education course or career in Design, Technology, Engineering, or an associated area of which there are many. Those with other interests and aspirations will also benefit from the many transferable skills inherent in this course of study. It is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject in which learners use creativity and imagination to develop their design ideas both independently and as part of a team; solving problems and making critical decisions that build their ability to learn and adapt.

It can be seen as an extension of your work at GCSE, developing your particular interests through gaining deeper knowledge and understanding of the materials area chosen to study. Real life skills will form part of the learning process, being both taught and through visits to exhibitions and industrial situations.

You will design and produce high quality products using your initiative, innovation and creativity and utilising CAD/CAM technology where appropriate. Ideas, research and manufacturing methods will be communicated via freehand sketches, 2D and 3D modelling and ICT generated images. Product analysis is also an important feature of this course as well as a continued analytical approach.

How will your work be assessed?

Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century
- Written examination: 3 hours
- 50% of qualification

The examination includes a mix of structured and extended writing questions assessing learners' knowledge and understanding of technical designing and making principles, along with their ability to analyse and evaluate wider issues in design and technology.

Component 2: Design and make project

- Non-exam assessment: approximately 80 hours
- 50% of qualification

A sustained design and make project, based on a brief developed by the candidate. This will demonstrate the candidate's ability to identify, investigate and outline design possibilities, design and make prototypes, analyse and evaluate design decisions and outcomes.

What will you learn?

The specification allows students to work creatively when designing and making, and apply technical and practical expertise in order to:

- develop intellectual curiosity about the design and manufacture of products and systems, gaining an insight into the creative, engineering and/or manufacturing industries
- take design risks, showing innovation and enterprise whilst considering impact on daily life and the wider world as responsible designers and citizens
- work collaboratively to develop and critically refine their ideas, responding to feedback and the needs of users, peers and expert practitioners
- develop knowledge and experience of real world contexts for design and technological activity
- develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of materials, components and processes associated with the creation of products that can be tested and evaluated in use
- be able to make informed design decisions through an in-depth understanding of the management and development of taking a design through to a prototype/product
- be able to create and analyse a design concept and use a range of skills and knowledge from other subject areas, including mathematics and science, to inform decisions in design and the application or development of technology
- be able to work safely and skilfully to produce high-quality prototypes/products
- have a critical understanding of the wider influences on design and technology, including cultural, economic, environmental, historical and social factors

Where will it lead?

A Level Product Design can lead to many creative courses in higher education including; Architecture, all forms of Engineering, Interior Design, Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Advertising, Industrial Design, Product Design and Manufacture, Costume Design, Prop Design, Stage Design. Product Design is also recognised and welcomed in professional areas that require excellent hand/eye coordination, e.g. Surgeon/Dentist. The UK's creative industries contribute almost £90bn net to GDP and employment in this sector is growing faster than any other.

Psychology A Level

Examination Board: AQA (A)
Contact: Head of Psychology: Mr E Baines
(e.baines@tsatrust.org.uk) @psychphsg

Requirements: Our expectations are that students applying to study this Level 3 course for 2 years will have achieved a grade 6 or above in English and Mathematics at GCSE. In some cases, entry onto the course may be on a trial basis and progression to A2 Level will be dependent on performance.

Why choose to study A Level Psychology?

Psychology: the scientific study of mind, behaviour and experience. Psychology has a very relevant role to play in the modern world. We are not all doctors, taxi-drivers or shop-assistants, but in a very real sense we are all psychologists because we try to understand behaviour in our world everyday. The psychology course allows for this understanding to become more rigorous and based on research methods from across the breadth of Psychology. This means you will develop skills in experimental psychology including the use of observational research to understand the many complexities of brain and behavior. If you want to explore explanations for why people behave the way they do, then Psychology could be the course for you.

What will you study?

In Year 1 you will study human memory, including eyewitness testimony; attachments in childhood; explanations for when people suffer from mental health disorders and social psychology, including some very controversial studies on obedience.

In Year 2, the choice is flexible but at the moment we study forensic psychology, relationships and schizophrenia. We look in more detail at approaches in psychology and also cover a section on issues and debates including ethics in psychological research. Feel free to look at our twitter feed @psychphsg for some of the types of research that we will be looking at.

How will you be assessed?

As well as regular assessments with both written and verbal feedback, the course is broken up into three papers which are examined individually. Two papers will be sat as a full mock exam at the end of Year 1 and all three papers will be sat at the end of year 2.

Where will it lead?

A qualification in Psychology can lead to a wide range of careers including Teaching, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Clinical Psychology (where you work alongside doctors and psychiatrists in a hospital setting), Personnel Management, Social Work, Forensic Science, to name but a few. It is also a respected qualification for any employer that wants an understanding of human behaviour, an analytical mind and a balanced view of the world itself.

Eastern and Western Philosophy and Ethics: Religious Studies — A Level

Examination Board: OCR

Contact: Head of Religious Studies: Miss T McAuliffe (t.mcauliffe@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: Our expectations are that students applying to study this Level 3 course for 2 years will have achieved good GCSE grades. A grade 6 or above in Religious Studies (or an equivalent Level 2 qualification) is required and a 6 in English. All students are considered on individual merit and consideration will be given to students who have not studied GCSE Religious Studies. We welcome applications from enthusiastic students with a commitment to study. An enquiring mind and a willingness to work hard are essential.

Why choose to study A Level Eastern and Western Philosophy and Ethics?

- You want to be a critical thinker, not someone who just accepts what they are told.
- You want to explore some of the most powerful challenges ever made to dominant modes of thought.
- Some of the world's most successful professionals have backgrounds in Religion and Philosophy.
- Success in this subject demonstrates that you have a broad mind and a willingness to listen to ideas other than your own — a key skill in the modern job market.

You will enjoy this subject if you are interested in the type of issues it covers. You will be good at it if you can train yourself to think logically and accurately, to understand a range of theories and to evaluate them critically, to study primary source material carefully and to represent the ideas of others fairly, and to write clear, well-structured essays. It will keep you thinking!

What will you study and how will you be assessed?

Philosophy and Religion	Religion and Ethics	Buddhist Philosophy
Arguments for the existence of God - inductive and deductive Challenges to religious belief - the problem of evil and suffering and religious belief as a product of the human mind Religious Experience Religious Language	- Ethical Thought: Naturalism, Intuitionism, Emotivism - Deontological Ethics: Natural Law - Teleological Ethics: Situation Ethics, Utilitarianism - Determinism and Free Will	Buddhist figures and sacred texts Buddhist concepts and religious life Significant social and historical developments in Buddhist thought Buddhist practices that shape religious identity

Philosophy of Religion

Philosophy is one of those subjects that will at times make you feel like your head is going to burst and at others will give you the most amazing sense of accomplishment. The aim of Philosophy is to explore the BIG questions about the universe, life, meaning and purpose…the answers seldom come easily!

Religion and Ethics

Ethics is about making moral choices. It is about the values that lie behind our choices, the reasons they give for them and the language to describe them. The study of Religion and Ethics will give you the opportunity to examine what it means to live a good or bad life and to consider a number of contemporary moral issues. In studying Religion and Ethics you will be challenged to examine what it is you value in life and what is worth doing.

Buddhist Philosophy

Have you ever stopped to wonder whether the way in which we think, speak and act actually agrees with reality? Why is it that Monday mornings are so depressing after the expectation of Friday afternoons? Why is it that life seems to hurt so much – just when we are least expecting it? These questions, and more, were at the heart of the Buddha's quest — and are central to ours too — if we are ever honest.

Where will it lead?

Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhist Studies are fascinating subjects that will enable you to develop skills of analysis, logical thought, and literacy. These are essential skills- preparing you well for university and beyond. The course provides a foundation for further study of Philosophy, Religious Studies and Theology. The skills and challenges involved in studying Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhist Studies at A Level are highly relevant to a wide range of courses in the humanities, arts and social sciences.

This qualification is particularly relevant to people aiming for careers in Law, Medicine, Politics, Government and Education.

Buddhism Conference

The department has close links with the Department of Religion and Theology at the University of Bristol and has run successful Buddhist Studies conferences with the University.

Theatre Studies (Drama) A Level

Examination Board: Edexcel
Contact: Head of Theatre Studies: Miss C Crouch
(c.crouch@tsatrust.org.uk)

Requirements: Our expectations are that students applying to study this Level 3 course for 2 years will have achieved a good GCSE grade. A grade 6 or above in this subject (or an equivalent Level 2 qualification) is required. All students will be considered on individual merit. Our expectations are that students must be both committed and enthusiastic. Ability for group co-operation is also essential.

Why choose to study A Level Drama & Theatre?

If you enjoy subjects that require a practical and creative approach to the exploration of texts then A Level Drama and Theatre studies will provide you with many opportunities to develop your own interpretations and performance skills. You will also gain a new understanding of the great theatre practitioners and companies, as well as an appreciation of how Theatre has developed through time.

What will you study and how will you be assessed?

Pupils who opt for this course will study 3 different units over the two years.

UNIT 1: Devising (40% of the qualification) – Students will be required to devise an original performance piece using one key extract from a text and one theatre practitioner as stimuli. They will also be required to produce a portfolio of written evidence which records the process undertaken; this is 2500-3000 words.

UNIT 2: Text in Performance (20% of the qualification) – Students are required to further demonstrate their performance skills by completing:

1. A monologue or dialogue from one key extract from a performance text.
2. A group performance and one key extract from a performance text.

UNIT 3: Theatre makers in Practice (40% of the qualification) – This is a written examination the duration of which is 2 hours 30 minutes and contains three sections.

Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation
Students answer one extended response question from a choice of two requiring them to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen- students are allowed evaluation notes up to a maximum of 500 words.

Section B: Page to Stage
Students answer two extended response questions based on an unseen extract from a performance text studied. Students answer from the perspective of a performer and a designer and they explain how they, as theatre makers, intend to realise the extract in performance.

Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text
Students answer one extended response question from a choice of two using their chosen text. Students will demonstrate how their re-imagined production concept will communicate ideas to a contemporary audience and will also outline how the work of their chosen theatre practitioner has influenced their concept. Students must also demonstrate an awareness of the text in its original performance condition.

Where will it lead?

The course can lead you to studying drama at university, drama school or a Performing Arts course at the end of your A Level. Many students do go on to study Drama and Theatre.

Studying Performing Arts at a higher level can progress to careers working in Theatre, Television, Film and Media. It has also proved invaluable in the Journalistic, Teaching and Legal Professions.

When students study Drama and Theatre Studies at A Level it equips them with highly useful and transferable skills in: articulating thoughts and opinions, analysing different interpretations, exploring ideas, insightful communication skills and providing a confident ability to work within a group in any given situation.

Year 12 students on work experience at the Peninsula University of Medicine & Dentistry.

Improving your work readiness skills during Sixth Form

Whatever your aspirations are it is important to improve your employability skills. Voluntary work, even if it is just for a couple of hours every other week, shows dedication and commitment. It can give you the edge when you apply for paid employment and will look great on your personal statement.

All students, who are on top of their academic workload, are able to access voluntary or work shadowing opportunities during their study periods.

Mrs Longford, the **Careers Coordinator**, can offer guidance on where to apply for your area of interest.

We recognise that it can be difficult for students to access work shadowing in certain **medical areas.** Biology teacher, Dr Doddrell, has strong links within the NHS for students who are aspiring to a medical career. We offer Taster sessions and events including;

- Link talks with the Medic Portal
- UCAT and BMAT guidance and practise
- Mock Interviews
- Physiotherapy Talk
- Nursing and Midwifery Talk
- Talk from a former student who is now a GP
- Work shadowing arrangements in the research laboratories at the Medical School
- Healthcare Taster Day at UOP for KS5 and KS4
- Medical/Healthcare debates
- Medical TLP Day
- Health Visitor talk
- Anatomy Table Visit
- Medical Scenario visits from the University

Former students have gained valuable experience in a variety of job sectors including, Primary Schools, Derriford Hospital, St Lukes Hospice, Accountants, Charity Work, Law Firms and Social Care.

CDI CAREER DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE Registered Professional

The Quality in Careers Standard

Extended Project

Examination Board: Edexcel
Contact: Head of Sixth Form: Mr A Jenkins
(a.jenkins@tsatrust.org.uk)

The Extended Project is an exciting qualification which provides the opportunity for students to demonstrate knowledge and skills by addressing a topic of their choice. It should be stressed that this is a high level qualification with learning outcomes of A Level (not AS) standard. It is looked on favourably by ALL Universities in terms of its actual outcomes rather than just a UCAS point count.

Key Features

The qualification will enable learners to:

- Have significant input into the choice and design of their project and take responsibility for an individual task or a defined task within a group project.
- Develop and improve their own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent learners.
- Develop and apply decision making and where appropriate problem solving skills.
- Extend their planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills.
- Where appropriate, develop as e-confident learners and apply relevant technologies in their studies.
- Develop and apply skills, creatively demonstrating initiative and enterprise.
- Use their learning experiences to support their personal aspirations for further education and/or career development.

Learners will be required to select, draft, plan and research a project in the form of one of the following;

- A Dissertation
- An Investigation/field study
- A Performance
- An Artefact

They will then manage the project through to its outcome in one of these forms and present the findings to an audience. Assessment will be by a tutor-assessor and will look at all aspects of the project management process not just the outcome. The qualification is at level 3 (AS).

Students taking this option will have 2 hours per fortnight timetabled but as the whole nature of the work is an 'independent' project this time will not necessarily all be spent in teacher contact.

NOTES TO GUIDE YOUR CHOICES

Plymouth High School provides the freedom and security for you to be yourself