

Sixth Form Options information booklet

for September 2023 entry



This booklet is designed to give you information on the A level courses offered at The Purcell School for Sixth Form studies (years 12 and 13) as well as a brief introduction to life in the Sixth Form.

Students should expect to choose two additional subjects to study alongside Pre-U Music, which is a required course for all.

Please also note that not all courses may run each year: the School may adjust the curriculum choices according to demand.

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Ziggi Szafranski

Head of Sixth Form



The Sixth Form at The Purcell School is a unique and exciting experience.

Music lies at the centre of life at Purcell, with ample and varied opportunities to develop your performing skills and to prepare for auditions or university entrance. At the heart of our classroom curriculum, you will go beyond the scope of the standard A-Level course in Music in order to enable you to deepen your understanding of your art, to make new connections and to capitalise on your performing experience.

We ask our students to select **two** further classroom subjects to complement their studies in music. We know that the most creative, expert and informed musicianship happens when there is an exciting context for your wider growth as a musician. That's why we ask that you are ambitious about all your classroom learning and why we offer a boutique curriculum with expert teaching in subjects which we know that young musicians enjoy. Some students may be allowed to study only one additional subject, particularly those who opt to study English as an Additional Language, but this can only be offered after consultation with the Head of Sixth Form and Director of Teaching and Learning.

Our aim is that, whatever subjects you choose to complement your academic music studies, you will find subjects that inspire you and give you useful qualifications with which to enrich your CV, whether you are destined for conservatoire or university music, or if, like a handful of students each year, you decide to take on a different subject at university or an alternative path.

Choosing your subjects can be a daunting task, especially if you're not yet sure what you want to do after you leave school! Whether you have it all planned out or whether you're taking each day as it comes, my best advice to you is to ask around and find out which course is right for you.

Speaking to the teacher who teaches that subject is a great way to do this, but it's also worth speaking to students who are currently studying to get their impressions of the course. Please don't hesitate to get in touch, and as Head of Sixth Form I'm always happy to discuss your choices with you. Different future plans require different choices to be made but please don't feel you're alone in doing so! If you have any questions please drop me an email at z.szafranski@purcell-school.org and I'll be happy to help.

A Day in the Life of a Sixth Former

Whether you're a boarder or a day student, you get more flexibility and control of your time when you reach the Sixth Form. You're expected to manage your own time and practise, although we will always be on hand to help you with this!

The day starts at 8am for boarders with registration and breakfast (8:30am for day students' arrival at school) and may be different from one day to the next. However, there are some basics which can help you plan. Every A-Level subject has just under 5 hours' contact time and, as you can see from the sample timetable below, leaves you plenty of time to organise work, practise and, importantly, some down time too!

Monday

	P1	P2		P3	P4		P5	P6		P7
08.40-09.00	09.00-09.40	09.40-10.20		10.40-11.40	11.40-12.40		13.40-14.40	14.40-15.40		16.00-17.00
Assembly	6th Form Choir	Free Period	B R E A K	French	Music History	L U N C H	Free Period	English Literature	B R E A K	Symphony Orchestra

Pastoral Support

Your wellbeing is key to your ability to thrive here and so we want to make sure you have the best opportunities for pastoral support that we can provide. You will be in a tutor group of around 12 students in your year with a tutor available to provide support on both a pastoral and an academic level and you will stay with this tutor throughout your time here. Beyond your tutor, you will also have house staff available alongside medical support and an on-site counsellor who you can speak to, in confidence, should you wish to.

At the Purcell School we believe that everyone has the right to be safe, happy and healthy. Everyone is unique and has their own approach to life and this is something we want to celebrate. We don't have a school uniform and students are encouraged to wear clothes in a style they feel comfortable in and this allows our students a greater form of self-expression than you might find elsewhere. Most of our students will be going off to a conservatoire or university when they leave us and we run a bespoke programme of events throughout the two years aimed at preparing you for life beyond Purcell.

Safeguarding is also a vitally important part of our work together and everyone plays a part. There is a member of the Safeguarding team available at all times when students are on site and are here to help when things may not go as planned. If you have any questions you can always email safeguarding@purcell-school.org or drop in and see us when you're here.

The staff may change slightly from year to year but are currently as follows for the 2022 - 2023 academic year:

Tutors

Year 12 (Lower Sixth)

Dr Martin Entrialgo
Academic Music



Mr Pigott
History



Mme Gille
French



Dr Patel
Chemistry



Year 13 (Upper Sixth)

Dr Fardon
Academic Music



Mr Long
English



Mrs Whitty
Learning Support



Medical and Counselling

Mrs Austin
Registered Nurse
Daytime



Nurse Carol
Registered Nurse
Evenings and
Weekends



Nicky Morris
School Counsellor
Monday - Thursday



Dr Upjohn
Physiotherapist
Wednesdays only



Choosing a Subject

This booklet is designed to enable students to make informed decisions about their subject choices and gives information for each subject on course content, costs and entry requirements.

Our subjects are arranged in blocks, which have been created in the timetable using the combination of subjects chosen by students in recent years. When selecting options, you will need to pick two subjects from different blocks - but you don't have to pick one from all three!

Any choices you make now are still provisional; the same applies if a student wishes to change their options post-GCSE results. Obviously we very much hope that students will enjoy the courses they start in September. However, should you realise early in the course that you have made the wrong choice, we will try to facilitate a change provided the request comes within the first few weeks of term. Please also be aware that the school may not be able to run subjects if insufficient numbers of students opt for them.

Block A	Block B	Block C
Mathematics	German	French
Art <i>or</i> Photography	Drama	Biology
Music Technology	English Literature	Physics
	Music Technology	History
	Chemistry	

Once you are ready to make your initial selection of subjects, you can do so by filling out an online form which you can access by following [this link](#), if you're looking at the digital version of this booklet, or by scanning the QR code below with your phone.

Deadlines

Current Students	Indicative	Wednesday 22nd February 2023
	Final*	Friday 30th June 2023
New Students	Final*	Friday 30th June 2023



* please remember that you are welcome to change your mind at any point until term starts in September - do speak with Mr Szafranski if you have any questions

All students at the Purcell School study A Level Music. Additional musicianship classes are also available.

Course Overview

Area 1 (Music History and Analysis)

All students will study the two core modules and choose **two** elective modules.

Core Modules		Elective Modules (choose 2)			
Instrumental Music of Haydn Mozart and Beethoven	Popular Song: Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band	Developments in Instrumental Jazz 1910 to the present day	Religious Music of the Baroque Period	Programme Music 1820–1910	Innovations in Music 1900 to the present day

Area 2 (Composition and Musicianship)

Core Modules			Elective Modules (choose 2)			
Aural Analysis	Fundamentals of Harmony / The Bach chorale style	Composition	Year 12	Classical Harmony	Arrangement and Orchestration	20th Century Compositional Techniques
			Year 13	Advanced Counterpoint	Nineteenth Century Harmony	Popular Song

Assessment

Component	Duration	Assessment	Weighting
1: Listening and Appraising	2 ½ hours	Written paper. Externally set and marked.	40%
2: Performing	Minimum 6 minutes	Two contrasting pieces. Performances in school, marked externally.	25%
3: Composing	Coursework	Compositions with a combined duration of at least 8 minutes . One to a brief set by OCR. One to a brief written by the learner.	25%
4: Extended Project (choose performance or composition)	Coursework	Option 1 - Performance: At least one additional piece. Option 2 - Composition: Three technical exercises.	10%

Costs

The total cost over the two years for scores and other resources is around £45, though this is slightly variable depending on which elective modules are chosen.

Entry Requirements

All students will take OCR A Level Music

Additional Information

For more information on the course: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/music-h143-h543-from-2016>

Are you creative and imaginative? Do you enjoy exploring ideas and looking at things in different ways? If so, you should consider a course in Fine Art or Photography.



Photography. The course is about looking, learning, thinking and communicating. You will enjoy developing your understanding of the visual world, learning practical skills and responding to ideas and issues in ways that are personal to you. You will develop your understanding of creative processes, your ability to observe and to think, to solve problems and to communicate in a visual way. It will enable you to work independently



and to make your own discoveries by exploring ideas, other artists' work, different materials and techniques. This is a broad-based course exploring practical, critical and contextual work through a range of processes and media. Students can choose to focus on a specialist area of study to suit their individual interests and abilities. Art is a great companion to all other subjects as it develops creativity, imagination & problem-solving skills.

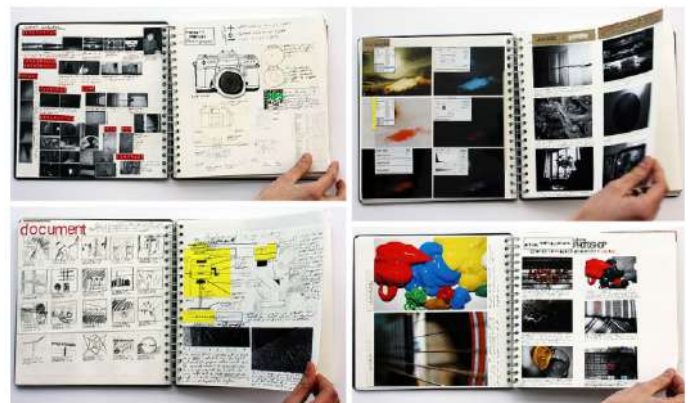


Students will experience artworks first hand, and regular visits to galleries and museums are an important part of the course. A term's programme of weekly life classes will also form the foundation for the coursework units. Regular workshops are given to familiarise students with a variety of mediums. Students will be encouraged to develop their own ideas and independence of mind.

Fine art: *drawing, painting, mixed media, sculpture, ceramics, installation, printmaking, moving image (video, film, animation),*

photography, mixed media and textiles. There is, therefore, an in-built flexibility that allows for developing skills, in a broad variety of specialisms

Photography: *portraiture, landscape photography, still life, documentary, photojournalism, fashion photography, experimental imagery (pinhole, cyanotype), multimedia, photographic installation & moving image (video, film, animation)*



Assessments : During Component 1 they will develop work for a personal investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme supported by written material, 60% of the total A-level marks, this will also include a 3000 word Essay. In Component 2 they will produce personal work in response to one of eight exciting starting points, 40% of the total A-level marks.

Costs: The following materials are issued and billed at cost: A-Level art pack, containing a range of materials (brushes, pencils, sketchbooks etc.) to enable students to work within school and at home. It would be beneficial for students to have access to a digital camera, however the department has a range of DSLR and SLR cameras available to sign out.

Entry Requirements: None, although an ability to work independently and a keen interest in the subject is desirable. It is desirable for you to have taken an

Art/Design based subject at GCSE or equivalent. To support students throughout the course the department operates an open studio policy, allowing students to gain access to the art room during the day, evenings and weekends. In addition, a weekly after school art club, run by a member of the department, provides an opportunity for students to get extra technical help and access to more specialised equipment.

Additional Information

For more information on the course:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/as-and-a-level/art-and-design/specification-at-a-glance>

A-Level Biology will give you an exciting insight into the world around us. As biology is fundamentally an experimental subject the required practical activities will allow you the opportunity to link theory to reality and to embed your skills and knowledge. There is no coursework, but your performance during practicals will be assessed. At least 15% of the marks are based on what you learn in your practicals.

A Level Biology will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you and open the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

You should study biology if

- You have an interest in and enjoy biology;
- You are interested in the natural world and biology;
- You enjoy problem solving and applying your knowledge to unique situations;
- You want to pursue a career in some aspect of biology including medicine, physiology, virology and immunology or ecology.

The aims of the course are to encourage candidates to:

- develop your interest in and enthusiasm for biology, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject;
- appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society;
- develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods;
- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of biology and how they relate to each other.

Topics covered in the first year of A Level: 1. *Biological molecules*, 2. *Cells*, 3. *Organisms exchange substances with their environment and Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms*.

Topics covered in the second year of A-Level: 5. *Energy transfer between organisms*, 6. *Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments*, 7. *Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems*, 8. *The control of gene expression*.

Assessments

Paper 1: Written Exam 91 marks: 76 marks short and long answer questions and 15 marks extended response questions. Topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills.	Examination 2 hours	35% of A-Level
Paper 2: Written Exam 91 marks: 76 marks short and long answer questions and 15 marks extended response questions. Topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills.	Examination 2 hours	35% of A-Level
Paper 3: Written Exam 78 marks: 38 marks structured questions, 15 marks critical analysis of given experimental data and 25 marks one essay from a choice of two titles. Topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills.	Examination 2 hours	30% of A-Level

Costs

A single textbook covering the whole of the A-Level course (AS and A2) costs around £45.

Entry Requirements

You will need a good science GCSE grade (6 or above in double science or similar, it is worth looking at the content for the triple award prior to commencing the course). Good maths skills are essential, as the mathematical requirements are significantly above GCSE.

Additional Information

For more information on the course:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/biology/specifications/AQA-7401-7402-SP-2015.PDF>

A-Level Chemistry will give you an exciting insight into the world of chemistry. You will learn about chemistry in a range of different contexts and the impact it has on industry and many aspects of everyday life. As chemistry is fundamentally an experimental subject the required practical activities will allow you the opportunity to link theory to reality and to embed your skills and knowledge.

You should study Chemistry if

- You want a career in the science industries, medicine, teaching, catering & many other fields.
- You want to develop an interest and enthusiasm for chemistry, including developing an interest in further study.
- You wish to gain the skills and understanding to make decisions about the way chemistry affects your everyday life by applying concepts into contemporary areas of chemistry, including climate change, green chemistry, pharmaceuticals and chemical research.
- You feel you are an effective problem-solver and are able to communicate efficiently both orally and with the written word.
- You want a challenge in your academic studies.
- You want an A-Level that is highly respected by both employers and universities
- You want to be at the forefront in the development of energy sources (eg. fuel cells used in electric cars) to replace fossil fuels (petrol, diesel, etc). There is now a concerted effort in this area across the world to mitigate the effects of climate and improve air quality.

During the course you will

- Develop a wide range of practical skills. Overall, at least 15% of the marks for the A-Level course will require the assessment of practical skills.
- Learn about how and why reactions take place and how they affect people and the environment
- Improve a large number of skills including problem solving, communication, research and planning skills.

Assessments

Paper 1: A-Level: 105 marks short and long answer questions.	Examination	2 hours	35% of A-Level
Paper 2: A-Level: 105 marks short and long answer questions.	Examination	2 hours	35% of A-Level
Paper 3: A-Level: Any content and any practical skills. 40 marks practical techniques and data analysis. 20 marks testing across the specification. 30 marks multiple choice questions.	Examination	2 hours	30% of A-Level

Costs

A single textbook covering the whole of the A-Level course (AS and A2) costs around £45.

Entry Requirements

You will need a good science GCSE grade (6 6 or above in double science or similar, it is worth looking at the content for the triple award prior to commencing the course). Good maths skills are essential, as the mathematical requirements are significantly above GCSE.

Additional Information

For more information on the course, the specification can be found at:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/chemistry/specifications/AQA-7404-7405-SP-2015.PDF>

A-Level Drama is an exciting and in-depth exploration into the work of different practitioners and theatrical styles through both practical and theoretical studies.

This course is suitable for students who are interested in

- learning about theatrical techniques, forms and structures
- going to the theatre and analysing performance
- working creatively in a group
- creating and performing plays

There is a requirement for self-led rehearsals and additional work outside the classroom, so students should expect to put in the additional time when required. There is also a written analytical component that requires good self-reflective and written skills in addition to the written examination.

Assessments

A-Level

<p>Component 1: Devising Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devise an original performance piece based on a text and a theatrical practitioner. • Write a 2500-3000 word evaluation of the devised performance and the creative process leading up to it 	<p>Coursework Internally Assessed</p>	<p>40% of A-Level</p>
<p>Component 2: Text in Performance Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform an extract from one play with others in your group. • Perform a monologue from a different play. 	<p>Coursework Externally Assessed</p>	<p>20% of A-Level</p>
<p>Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write an evaluation of a live theatre performance. • Answer two essay questions on a set play text. • Answer an essay question on one other set play text. <p>The two set texts are likely to be <i>Lysistrata</i> by Aristophanes and <i>Accidental Death of an Anarchist</i> by Dario Fo. However, these may change depending on the strengths and interests of the group.</p>	<p>Written Examination 2 hours</p>	<p>40% of A-Level</p>

Costs

Copies of your studied play texts and any required textbooks will be bought as required and re-charged on the school bill at the retail price. There is a requirement to see live theatre performances and these will be charged as notified to parents in advance.

Entry Requirements

GCSE Drama is not a requirement for entry to this course. However, students should have a keen interest in theatre and be prepared to contribute to all lessons by taking an active part physically and vocally. Due to requirements from the exam board this course requires a minimum of three students in order to run.

Additional Information

For more information on the course:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/drama-and-theatre-2016.html>

The A-Level course is a two year course that encourages students to develop their interest in and enjoyment of a broad range of English literature. They apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation to engage critically and creatively with both set texts and others of their own choosing. Final choices on text options are usually made after consultation with students during the course, but if you are interested in seeing the full list this can be done on the OCR website (see below).

Assessments

<p>Component 1: Shakespeare and Drama and Poetry Pre-1900 This involves a study of three texts: a play by Shakespeare, a second play by a different author and the study of a major poet. All texts must have been written before 1900. This is a closed text exam.</p>	<p>Examination 2 hours 30 minutes</p>	<p>40% of A-Level</p>
<p>Component 2: Comparative and Contextual Study This is a Thematic Component which requires the study of three texts. The texts must include two Prose texts and an unseen passage. This is a closed text exam.</p>	<p>Examination 2 hour 30 minutes</p>	<p>40% of A-Level</p>
<p>Component 3: Literature Post-1900 This is a coursework component which requires the study of three Post-1900 texts, one Prose, one Drama and one Poetry. There are two tasks, a Close Reading essay and a Comparative essay. This coursework is awarded at the end of the two year course, though its completion date will need to be much earlier in the course.</p>	<p>Coursework 3000 words (suggested)</p>	<p>20% of A-Level</p>

Costs

Copies of your textbooks and literary texts will be bought as required and re-charged on the school bill at the retail price.

Entry Requirements

GCSE English Literature or equivalent qualification.

Additional Information

The English Literature course has seven periods a week.

For more information on the course:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce/english-literature-h072-h472-from-2015/>

The Sixth Form language courses build on knowledge acquired at GCSE or equivalent, and will be taught over the two Sixth Form years with the A Level exam taken in May / June of Upper VI (year 13).

In the Sixth Form, students are expected to acquire more independent study skills and supplement class work with individual study such as listening work, vocabulary learning, research for the speaking topic and wider reading. They should be prepared for a more grammatical approach to language learning and should ideally have grade 7, 8 or 9 at GCSE. Although not essential, they will benefit enormously from any visits, exchanges or courses in countries where the target language is spoken so as to build up their spoken fluency.

The courses aim to develop linguistic competence in speaking, listening, reading and writing while also fostering an appreciation of the culture, society, literature and film of the target language countries. Students will develop an understanding of various styles of written and spoken language and strengthen their ability to talk and write fluently and accurately about a range of topics. In addition, they will develop useful transferable study skills such as independent research, critical thinking and analysis, thus equipping them for Higher Education and enhancing their employability profile. Clearly, an A level in a language is hugely beneficial for any musician considering performing or studying abroad, although please note that the A level is much broader in scope than the purely language-focused tests often required for entry to conservatoires abroad, so the two should not be confused.

The specifications prescribe four themes (typically *Social Issues and Trends* and *Political and Artistic Culture*, plus two language-specific cultural/historical themes) for Papers 1 and 3, and set literature / film works for Paper 2.

Assessments

A-Level

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation Various comprehension tasks (and translation)	Examination 2 hours	40% of A-Level
Paper 2: Written Response Two essays in the target language (on 1 set literary text and 1 set film)	Examination 2 hour 40 minutes	30% of A-Level
Paper 3: Speaking Discussion of one of the prescribed themes followed by presentation and discussion of student's independent research project	Examination 21-23 minutes	30% of A-Level

Costs

The Hodder Education Edexcel A Level textbook (about £35) is purchased on behalf of students and re-charged, as is the literature text (normally about £5-10 each).

Entry Requirements

Ideally a GCSE in French with a grade of 7 or above.

Additional Information

For more information on the course:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/modern-languages-2016.html>

The Sixth Form language courses build on knowledge acquired at GCSE or equivalent, and will be taught over the two Sixth Form years with the A Level exam taken in May / June of Upper VI (year 13).

In the Sixth Form, students are expected to acquire more independent study skills and supplement class work with individual study such as listening work, vocabulary learning, research for the speaking topic and wider reading. They should be prepared for a more grammatical approach to language learning and should ideally have grade 7, 8 or 9 at GCSE. Although not essential, they will benefit enormously from any visits, exchanges or courses in countries where the target language is spoken so as to build up their spoken fluency.

The courses aim to develop linguistic competence in speaking, listening, reading and writing while also fostering an appreciation of the culture, society, literature and film of the target language countries. Students will develop an understanding of various styles of written and spoken language and strengthen their ability to talk and write fluently and accurately about a range of topics. In addition, they will develop useful transferable study skills such as independent research, critical thinking and analysis, thus equipping them for Higher Education and enhancing their employability profile. Clearly, an A level in a language is hugely beneficial for any musician considering performing or studying abroad, although please note that the A level is much broader in scope than the purely language-focused tests often required for entry to conservatoires abroad, so the two should not be confused.

The specifications prescribe four themes (typically *Social Issues and Trends* and *Political and Artistic Culture*, plus two language-specific cultural/historical themes) for Papers 1 and 3, and set literature / film works for Paper 2.

Assessments

A-Level

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation Various comprehension tasks (and translation)	Examination 2.5 hours	40% of A-Level
Paper 2: Written Response Two essays in the target language (on 1 set literary text and 1 set film)	Examination 2 hours	30% of A-Level
Paper 3: Speaking Discussion of one of the prescribed themes followed by presentation and discussion of student's independent research project	Examination 21-23 minutes	30% of A-Level

Costs

The Hodder Education A Level textbook (about £35) is purchased on behalf of students and re-charged, as is the literature text (normally about £5-10 each).

Entry Requirements

Ideally a GCSE in German with a grade of 7 or above.

Additional Information

For more information on the course:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/german-7662/specification-at-a-glance>

We study the AQA 7042 History syllabus, which contains three components: one British component, one non-British component and a Historical Investigation / personal study.

Assessments

A-Level

<p>Component 1: Breadth Study: The British Empire c 1857 - 1967 The study of significant historical developments over a period of around 100 years and associated interpretations.</p> <p>This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did the British Empire grow and contract? • What influenced imperial policy? • What part did economic factors play in the development of the British Empire? • How did the Empire influence British attitudes and culture? • How did the indigenous peoples respond to British rule? • How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments? <p>Examination Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A – One compulsory question linked to historical interpretations • Section B – Choice of two from three essays 	<p>Examination 2 hours 30 minutes</p>	<p>40% of A-Level</p>
<p>Component 2: Depth Study: The Birth of the USA This option provides for the study in depth of the years in which thirteen American colonies chose to sever their links with Great Britain and thus found the USA. This study explores the concepts of imperialism, mercantilism and legitimate government and encourages students to reflect upon the interplay of forces from below and above, the importance of ideology and the economy in political development and the issues facing those who attempt to challenge an established authority.</p> <p>Examination Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A – One compulsory question linked to primary sources or sources contemporary to the period • Section B – Choice of two from three essays 	<p>Examination 2 hour 30 minutes</p>	<p>40% of A-Level</p>
<p>Component 3: Historical Investigation A study based on the Changing Nature of Warfare 1791-1891. This should take the form of a question in the context of approximately 100 years. It must not duplicate the content of options chosen for Components 1 or 2.</p>	<p>Coursework 4000-4500 words</p>	<p>20% of A-Level</p>

Costs

Copies of any required textbooks will be bought as required and re-charged on the school bill at the retail price.

Entry Requirements

Ideally a GCSE in History or English at grade 6 or above.

Additional Information

For more information on the course: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042>

Mathematics A-Level is for those with real ability in the subject. It helps make sense of the real world by using numerical skills, proof and reasoning and mathematical modelling. It will give you outstanding analytical skills and develop your powers of intellectual enquiry and rational thinking.

It is important that you are keen on the subject and enjoy working out mathematical problems as well as being organised and methodical in your revision and homework assignments. You must be prepared to take responsibility for your learning, for example, by going through the notes after each lesson and catching up promptly with work missed because of instrumental activities. This is particularly important in a subject like A-Level Mathematics which is hierarchical in its progression - new learning builds on previous topics and skills so regular practice each week is vital.

The current A-level syllabus was introduced in Mathematics for students in September 2017. This was designed to follow on from the new mathematics GCSE which was first examined in June 2017. All students will be assessed on their knowledge of Pure Mathematics alongside new topics in Mechanics and Statistics. The assessment objectives include a greater emphasis on modelling, problem-solving and reasoning, so some questions are likely to be longer with less scaffolding. This builds on the increase in problem-solving seen in GCSE. Students achieving the top grade 9 at GCSE will be better prepared for this but the course is still extremely challenging.

The features of the course include:

Linear structure: All assessment will take place at the end of the course. Exam questions may draw on the content of the whole A-level and will link different aspects of the course.

Emphasis: There is an emphasis on problem solving, reasoning and modelling, and a requirement for the use of technology to permeate teaching and learning.

Content: The content of A level Mathematics is fixed. It includes pure mathematics, mechanics and statistics (including analysis and knowledge of the Edexcel large data set).

Assessment Structure and Topics

<p>Paper 1 and Paper 2: Pure Mathematics Paper 1 and Paper 2 can contain questions on any of the topics below.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Topic 1 Proof</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Topic 6 Exponentials %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Topic 2 Algebra & Functions</td> <td>Logarithms</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Topic 3 Coordinate Geometry</td> <td>Topic 7 Differentiation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Topic 4 Sequences & Series</td> <td>Topic 8 Integration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Topic 5 Trigonometry</td> <td>Topic 9 Numerical methods</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Topic 10 Vectors</td> </tr> </table>	Topic 1 Proof	Topic 6 Exponentials %	Topic 2 Algebra & Functions	Logarithms	Topic 3 Coordinate Geometry	Topic 7 Differentiation	Topic 4 Sequences & Series	Topic 8 Integration	Topic 5 Trigonometry	Topic 9 Numerical methods		Topic 10 Vectors	<p>Examination 2 hours for each paper</p> <p>Students must answer all questions</p> <p>Calculators may be used</p>	<p>66.66% of A-Level (33.33% for each paper)</p>
Topic 1 Proof	Topic 6 Exponentials %													
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<p>Paper 2: Statistics and Mechanics</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Section A: Statistics</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Section B: Mechanics</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Topic 1 Statistical sampling</td> <td>Topic 6 Quantities and Units</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Topic 2 Data Presentation & Interpretation</td> <td>Topic 7 Kinematics</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Topic 3 Probability</td> <td>Topic 8 Forces & Newton's Laws</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Topic 4 Statistical Distributions</td> <td>Topic 9 Moments</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Topic 5 Statistical Hypothesis Testing</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Section A: Statistics	Section B: Mechanics	Topic 1 Statistical sampling	Topic 6 Quantities and Units	Topic 2 Data Presentation & Interpretation	Topic 7 Kinematics	Topic 3 Probability	Topic 8 Forces & Newton's Laws	Topic 4 Statistical Distributions	Topic 9 Moments	Topic 5 Statistical Hypothesis Testing		<p>Examination 2 hours</p> <p>Students must answer all questions</p> <p>Calculators may be used</p>	<p>33.33% of AS Level</p>
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Costs

The full set of A-Level text books currently cost £60. The specific Casio Classwiz FX-991EX calculator is required for additional Statistics content and costs £25. All are available from the Maths Department.

Entry Requirements

You will need to achieve a Grade 8 or 9 in GCSE Mathematics at the Higher Tier. In exceptional circumstances a student with a strong grade 7, with particular strengths in algebra and graphs, may be allowed onto the course following agreement from the

Head of Mathematics. Students without a UK GCSE qualification will be required to undertake a formal three week assessment period in Mathematics in order to continue with the course. Further details on suitability of individual students can be discussed with the Head of Mathematics.

Additional Information

For more information on the course:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics-2017.html>



Music Technology is the ideal subject for those interested in the wide variety of musical styles connected to studio music: arranging, composing, producing, sound creation and sound engineering. You will learn how to record, mix, sample and sequence through the creation of projects in a range of styles. You will learn how to use the school's professional recording studio, computer software and all the related recording and production.

The course has a strong practical bias with students developing their work into professionally made recordings, arrangements and compositions. During the course you will expand your knowledge and experience through creative coursework projects. The options for these include composition for film, song writing, electro-acoustic composition, advanced multi-track recording, synthesis and sampling and mixing. For the written paper, further study of the practical application of technology.

Music Technology is not a technology course; it is a music course which uses technology for creative musical projects. Knowledge and use of computers before the course is not a requirement. Candidates with little previous experience of technology have achieved good A grades. With Music Technology as one of their A-levels, past students have been offered places at Cambridge, King's College London and the Tonmeister course at Surrey University. Several now have careers as film and media composers, producers and sound engineers.

Music Technology is practical, creative, demanding and immensely rewarding. The skills and creative work developed on the course are presented annually in the two popular Sound Image Movement concerts held in the Spring and Summer terms.

Assessments

- Candidates follow the A-Level Music Technology course set by Edexcel
- Multi-track recording coursework receives 20% of the marks
- Technology based Compositions project coursework receives 20% of the marks
- A practical examination receives 30% of the marks
- Written examination receives 30% of the marks

Costs

Copies of the course textbooks will be bought as required and charged on the school bill at the retail price. CDs for coursework submission and revision are supplied and charged on the school bill. Three additional booklets and manuals covering activities specific to our studios and the course are produced by the department and charged on the school bill at a minimal price.

Entry Requirements

An enthusiasm for the subject and an open mind.

Additional Information

To support pupils throughout the course the department operates an open studio and computer room policy. Students who have passed the studio proficiency test in the third week of term are allowed to use the recording studios at any time through the department booking system. The computer rooms are available throughout the day. Students have access to additional technical help provided by a member of the teaching staff and our technical manager.

Examples of student work are available from the Music Technology Department.

For more information on the course:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/music-technology-2017.html#tab-1>

Please note that we are currently reviewing our offering for A-Level Physics and a decision is yet to be made on which exam board provides the most appropriate learning opportunities for our students. What follows is the current CIE A-Level in Physics which is being studied by our current cohort.

The A-Level Physics course builds on the knowledge, understanding and process skills that were developed in GCSE Science or GCSE Physics.

The aims of the course are to:

- sustain and develop the student's enjoyment of, and interest in, physics
- develop essential knowledge and understanding in physics

A-Level Physics is suitable for a student who:

- has an interest in, and enjoy physics;
- wants to find out about how things in the physical world work;
- enjoys applying their mind to solving problems;
- enjoys carrying out investigations by the application of imaginative, logical thinking;
- wants to use physics to support other qualifications or progress onto further studies or employment.

Topics covered in the first year: *kinematics, accelerated motion, dynamics, forces, work, energy and power, momentum, matter and materials, electric current, Kirchhoff's laws, resistance and resistivity, practical circuits, waves, superposition of waves, stationary waves, atomic structure and practical skills.*

Topics covered in the second year: *circular motion, gravitational fields, oscillations, thermal physics, ideal gases, uniform electric fields, Coulomb's law, capacitance, magnetic fields and electromagnetism, motion of charged particles, electromagnetic induction, alternating currents, quantum physics, nuclear physics, medical imaging, astronomy, cosmology and practical skills.*

Assessments

Year One

Paper 1: Multiple Choice 40 multiple choice questions, based on AS syllabus content	Examination 1 hour 15 minutes	31% of AS Level 15.5% of A-Level
Paper 2: AS Level Structured Questions Varied questions that are based on the AS syllabus content	Examination 1 hour 15 minutes	46% of AS Level 23% of A-Level
Paper 3: Advanced Practical Skills The paper requires you to carry out practical work in timed conditions and then answer questions on the question paper	Practical and Examination 2 hours	23% of AS Level 11.5% of A-Level

Year Two

Paper 4: A-Level Structured Questions Varied questions that are based AS and A-Level syllabus content	Examination 2 hours	38.5% of A-Level
Paper 5: Planning, Analysis and Evaluation Varied questions that are based on practical skills	Examination 1 hour 15 minutes	11.5% of A-Level

Costs

A single textbook covering the whole of the A-Level course (AS and A2) costs around £55.

Entry Requirements

Minimum 6 6 at GCSE (Double Award) or 6 or grade B in GCSE Physics. Good maths skills are essential, as the mathematical requirements are significantly above GCSE.

Additional Information For more information on the course:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-international-as-and-a-level-physics-9702/>