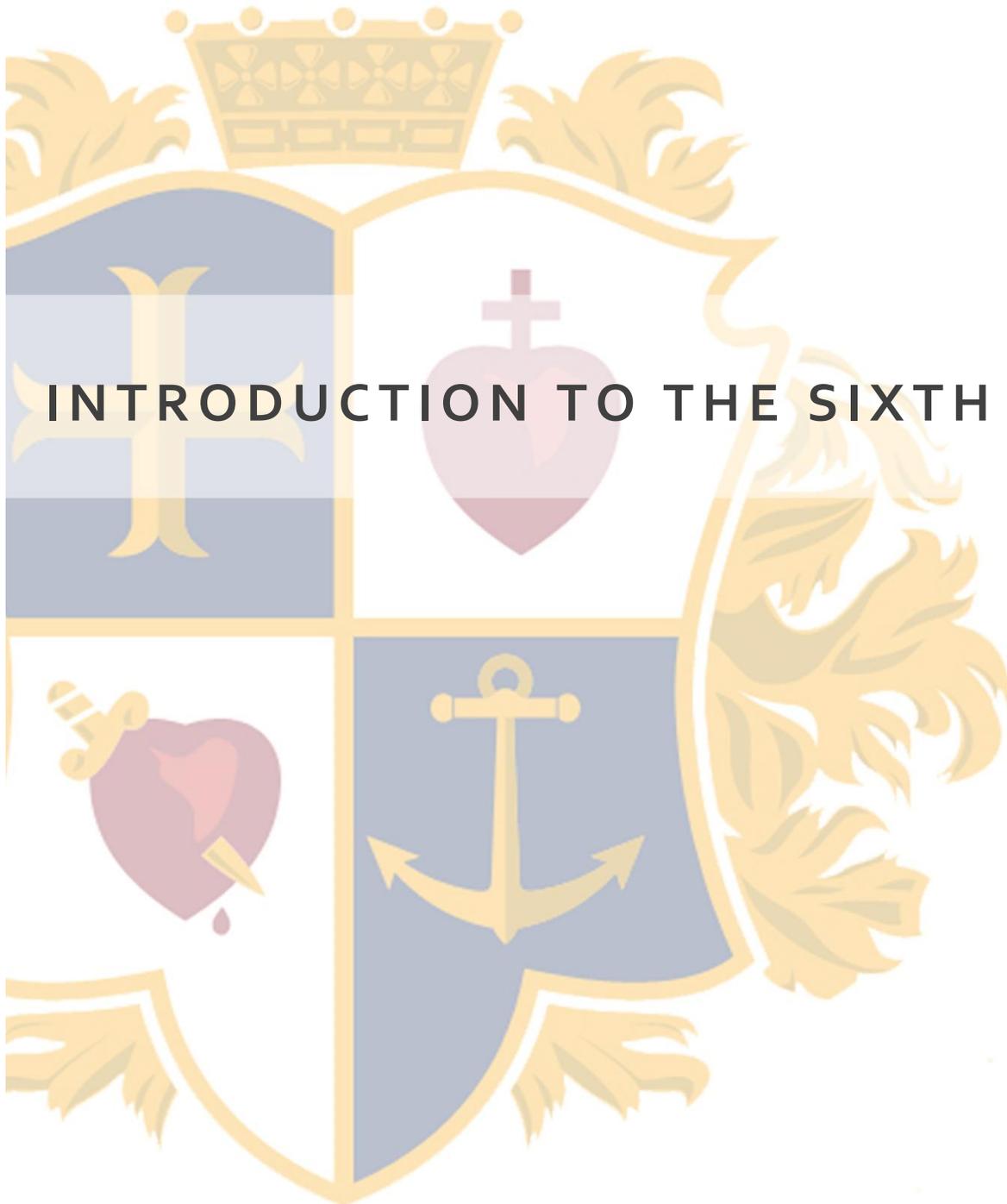


Loreto College

ST ALBANS



INTRODUCTION TO THE SIXTH FORM

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

"Women in time to come will do great things."

- Mary Ward

Student life in the Sixth Form at Loreto College is both challenging and enjoyable. We believe that by choosing to continue Post-16 education here you are giving yourself an excellent opportunity to become an independent, resilient and resourceful young person, ready to succeed in a fast changing 21st Century.

At Loreto, we provide a variety of successful academic programmes and welcome applications from all serious students. High quality pastoral care and support are central to our philosophy. Courtesy of our dedicated and experienced staff, you will be given all the advice you need to make a wise choice for your future, reflecting your own strengths, interests and ambitions.

Our ethos of hard work and striving for excellence is fundamental to our success. We are justifiably proud of our excellent results in Post-16 examinations and of the large number of girls who are accepted into degree courses each year, including some of the most competitive subjects at Oxbridge and Russell Group Universities. In August 2018, 79% of students gained A* - C grades in their A Level examinations. In 2013, Ofsted said, "The Sixth Form is outstanding. Students are being very well prepared for the next stage of their education because they are taught to be independent, achieve very well and make a significant contribution to the community."

In addition to academic studies, we aim to provide a substantial enrichment programme designed to address the personal and spiritual development of each student. We foster in our students both self-confidence and an independence of mind so that they can approach all of their learning with vigour and enthusiasm.

We have always encouraged a commitment to the community and to the service of others and trust that our Sixth Form students will rise to their role in the school as senior pupils taking on new responsibilities as role models and prefects.

We believe that, for the majority of students in Year 11, the best course of action is to continue their education in the Sixth Form at Loreto, where they will benefit from academic excellence and continuity of care.

I hope you will find what follows useful. If there are any questions that you would like to raise, we would only be too pleased to help.

Miss N Ross



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD GIRL

Hello, my name is Rebecca Anderson and as Head Girl, I would like to warmly welcome you to Sixth Form at Loreto College. Having now completed a year of my A Level course, I am confident that choosing to continue my studies at Loreto is one of the best decisions I have made and I have no doubt that joining the Sixth Form community here at Loreto will exceed your expectations.

From the very first day of term, both returning and new students are immersed into a nurturing environment. Pastoral care is second to none and you are welcomed into a close-knit community where we are valued as individuals and supported to reach our full potential. This has proven invaluable and we can face challenges that arise with determination to succeed. Our form tutors, teachers and Sixth Form leadership staff are always accessible and willing to listen to concerns or queries. They are keen to help remedy any situations that may arise and offer useful advice in order that we have the best possible experience and fulfil our goals in our final two years at school.

Not only is pastoral support outstanding, the teaching standards at A Level are exceptionally high. The knowledgeable teachers here at Loreto are ready to foster understanding and stretch you in your chosen subjects, ensuring you can achieve your target grades. Smaller classes where teaching considers the needs of each student and a strong focus on independent learning - although different than our learning experience here in the lower school, is highly rewarding and allows us now to explore our chosen subjects more deeply and build on what we have already covered at GCSE.

Sixth Form life here at Loreto is so much more than attending lessons and completing assignments. Huge consideration is given to personal development and Year 12 offers many new opportunities and the chance to partake in an extensive enrichment programme. We also relish in our ability to contribute to the school community offering help to children in the lower school. Beyond the school, we volunteer with various local groups and establishments in St Albans and the wider area. Not only are we rewarded in the change and enjoyment we see from our efforts, the experience gained is particularly advantageous and is a valuable addition to our personal statements for university and our CVs.

There will be endless opportunities to develop your leadership skills. We assist in running various clubs, be it languages, debating, art, maths, science surgery whereby we help mentor younger students. There are numerous prefect positions available offering the chance to give back to the community and ensuring we keep in touch and get to know the students in the lower school. Sixth Formers take more significant roles at School Council and has given us the opportunity to instigate change around the school. The strong Catholic ethos urges us to really embrace Lenten Fundraising, we organise many activities and raise a substantial sum for charity. Such events unite us all through our efforts and make us proud to be part of this friendly community.

The opportunities afforded to us at Loreto are exceptional and we are very fortunate to have such an incredible learning environment. Personally I can attribute much of my personal development to the guidance, morals and standards which I have become accustomed to during my time here. My only regret will be to leave the security, encouragement and care that has been offered to us in these charming, rustic buildings in due course. I hope I have been able to give you a feel for our truly beautiful school and I have no hesitation in urging you to join Sixth Form at Loreto.

The Senior Prefect team and I look forward to welcoming you to the Sixth Form at Loreto College in September!

Rebecca Andersen Head Girl 2018 - 2019

Sixth Form Leadership Team 2018 – 2019



WHAT KIND OF EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE IN THE SIXTH FORM?

LEADERSHIP

We believe that all students should have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and this is a vital part of the Sixth Form experience. You will be encouraged to take up roles as Year 7 Prefects, Subject Prefects or to become part of the Senior Prefect Team.



Being in the Sixth Form is a completely different experience to being in the rest of the school. You are given greater leadership roles, an opportunity to develop your curriculum interests and the chance to get involved in the local community.

DRAGONS APPRENTICE



This is an opportunity to work together as a team and turn £100 into £1000 for a local charity. You will be given a 'Dragon', who is from a local business who will support you through the process and encourage you to think in a business minded way.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION



We offer the Extended Project Qualification. This is an opportunity to complete a 5000 word essay in a topic area of your choice. It gives you the opportunity to develop your research and presentational skills and is favoured by the top universities. It gives you additional UCAS points.

CATECHETICS

A popular programme in which Year 12 students design and run a series of RE lessons for primary school pupils. This is another opportunity to develop your leadership skills.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE



You are able to work as a team to set up and run your own business. We have had huge success with our Young Enterprise teams over the years at Loreto College, with many of our teams achieving awards and getting through to the County Finals.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME



We run an extensive enrichment programme in which you are encouraged to visit lectures, exhibitions and museums to develop your ability to debate about contentious issues. We also invite speakers in to visit the school and to speak about their varied experiences.

HELPING IN LESSONS / READING IN REGISTRATION

We have a scheme in which you are able to apply to help in lower school lessons. This will be particularly valuable if you wish to apply for teaching or the caring professions. We also have a scheme in which you can read with a Year 7 student during afternoon registration one afternoon a week. This is a great opportunity to get to know lower school students but also to develop the confidence of a more hesitant reader.

WHAT HAVE OUR RECENT STUDENTS GONE ON TO DO AFTER THEY STUDIED AT LORETO COLLEGE?

Following my successful A Level results in History, English Literature and Psychology, I am now attending the University of Exeter studying Archaeology with Forensic Science. My time at Loreto has prepared me well for life at University, allowing me to gain experience in learning independently and managing my time efficiently. My positive experience at Loreto was due to the efforts of the teachers in providing a well-rounded academic experience, supporting our learning both inside and outside of the classroom through additional classes and revision sessions as well as trips to Museums and Exhibitions to ensure we developed our subject knowledge. The field trips were invaluable and during my time in the Sixth Form I was fortunate enough to travel to Wales, Poland and even New York!



Having teachers that have known you since Year Seven is a huge advantage when writing a Personal Statement, and means they are well-suited to helping ensure your Statement is not just focused on academic achievements, but also on your school experience beyond your A Level subjects. There are so many extra-curricular opportunities on offer at Loreto that you are encouraged to participate in such as Young Enterprise, charity fundraising events and of course the Christmas Revue, the highlight of Year 13.

Chloe Phillips



At A level, I studied Chemistry, Biology and Geography and achieved AAA. I am now at Liverpool University studying Dentistry. Getting my grades required a lot of work and dedication and was definitely stressful at times, which is why I am so happy and grateful that I went to Loreto Sixth Form, as each day you are surrounded by teachers and students who are so supportive and understanding.

Any problem you have, whether it is academic or social, is resolved straight away. If you are struggling with work, the teachers will happily provide extra revision classes and exam practice which is so beneficial!

You don't have to worry about settling in and making new friends as at the start of Year 12, there is a big day trip (in my year, it was Brighton) which is a great opportunity to get to know your year and make amazing memories with friends.

Chloe Magyar

During my time in the Sixth form at Loreto I studied Sociology, Geography and Classical Civilisation I am now in my second year studying Sociology at the University of Leicester and thoroughly enjoying it.

Continuing my education at Loreto was one of the best decisions that I have ever made as I don't believe I would be where I am today if I had not come to the Sixth Form. The encouragement and support that I received included feedback about my progress, detailed advice on pieces of work as well as unending help when applying to university. Being comfortable in the school environment where many of the teachers have known you since Year 7 was beneficial to me as they drive you to fulfil your potential they know you can achieve.

Overall, I believe my time in Sixth Form were the best two years of school. I was able to get involved in so many aspects of Sixth Form life taking advantage of the opportunities available such as being part of the Wear It Pink Charity Day and presenting the Christmas Revue. There are so many more opportunities that are available to you which add to the enjoyment of your time here and will shape who you are as well as prepare you for life after Loreto.

Valentina Piccuito



I decided to continue my education here at Loreto Sixth Form due to the excellent teaching, support and the opportunities available. I studied Geography, History and Maths at A Level and achieved BBB. I am now currently in my first year at Newcastle University studying Geography and Planning.

At Loreto College I received continuous support and help throughout my time here, both academically and personally from subject teachers, Miss Ross (Head of Sixth Form) to Senior Management. They go above and beyond to ensure you reach your potential. There are also many opportunities outside your subjects that provide you with transferable skills such as leadership, team work, organisation, time management etc. Being a senior prefect meant I could be involved in the organisation of school events such as the Christmas Revue as well as being involved in decisions regarding the Sixth Form itself. As a team we were involved in the designing of the new Sixth Form Area which we were able to enjoy the following year.

Caitlin Ellis



When I was a student at Loreto I studied History (A), Biology (B), Chemistry (B). I Left Loreto College in 2012 and went on to study Biomedicine at Lancaster University graduating in July this year with a 2:1 BSc (Hons).

I am currently working as a Medicines Counter Assistant for the Manor Pharmacy Group, in addition to being a project assistant for New Direction Consulting.

I am very pleased that I attended Loreto College as it provided me with an excellent education. I found all my teachers to be very supportive and the classes to be the optimum balance between challenging and comfortable, to prevent unnecessary stress. However, what I enjoyed the most about my time at Loreto College was the sense of community and fun mainly between my peers, but also between the faculty and the students, which made studying and learning a non-laborious task and school a place where you actually wanted to be.

Aoife Morris



2018 UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS

- 85% of students went to university in September 2018 to study the courses listed below.
- 10 students are doing apprenticeships, internships or a school leaver programme.
- 5 students are doing an Art Foundation course.

University	Course
Bournemouth University	Marketing
Bournemouth University	Marketing
Canterbury Christ Church University	Business Management
City, University of London	Radiography
Coventry University	Criminology and Law
Durham University	History
Kings College, University of London	Biochemistry
Liverpool John Moores University	English, Media and Cultural Studies
London Metropolitan University	Interior Design
Newcastle University	Biomedical Sciences
Newcastle University	Geography
Newcastle University	Geography
Nottingham Trent University	Real Estate
Nottingham Trent University	Business Law
Nottingham Trent University	Policing
Nottingham Trent University	Psychology and Criminology)
Queen Mary (University of London)	Law
Queen's University Belfast	Philosophy and Politics
Southampton Solent University	Make up and Hair Design with Design Foundation Year
St Mary's University, Twickenham	History
University of Birmingham	History and Political Science
University of Birmingham	Psychology
University of Birmingham	English
University of Bristol	Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science
University of Cardiff	Mathematics / Music
University of Cumbria	Zoology
University of East Anglia	Geology with Geography with a Year Abroad
University of Essex	International Relations

University	Course
University of Essex	Mathematics with Computing
University of Essex	Communications and Digital Culture
University of Exeter	History
University of Exeter	Mathematics
University of Hertfordshire	Pharmacology
University of Hertfordshire	Sport and Exercise Science
University of Kent	Law
University of Kent	History
University of Leeds	Chinese and Philosophy
University of Leeds	Classical Civilisation
University of Liverpool	Medicine
University of Liverpool	Physiotherapy
University of Manchester	Film Studies and English Literature
University of East Carolina	Sports Physiology
University of Nottingham	American Studies and English
University of Nottingham	Biochemistry and Biological Chemistry
University of Nottingham	Classics and English
University of Nottingham	Psychology
University of Nottingham	Veterinary Medicine
University of Nottingham	Animal Science
University of Nottingham	Biochemistry and Genetics
University of Nottingham	Environmental Biology
University of Portsmouth	Architecture
University of Portsmouth	Criminology and Forensic Science
University of Portsmouth	Sociology
University of Portsmouth	Sports and Exercise Science
University of Reading	Philosophy
University of Southampton	Population and Geography
University of Surrey	Law with Criminology
University of Sussex	Psychology
University of Sussex	Social Sciences
University of Warwick	History

A-LEVEL RESULTS 2018

Overall pass rates

A*-C : 79%

Individual subject results

Loreto College A Level results 2018

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art & Design	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Art and Design Photography	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Biology	21	1	0	7	8	3	2	0
Business Studies	8	0	1	0	4	2	1	0
Chemistry	16	1	1	5	6	3	0	0
Classical Civilisation	15	0	1	4	6	4	0	0
English Literature	19	3	2	6	7	1	0	0
Film Studies	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fine Art	9	0	0	4	4	1	0	0
Geography	15	1	5	6	2	1	0	0
History	19	2	13	3	0	1	0	0
Latin	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mathematics	15	1	2	5	2	5	0	0
Media Film and TV Studies	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Music	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Physics	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Politics	5	0	2	2	1	0	0	0
Psychology	22	0	3	4	6	5	3	1
Religious Studies	14	0	2	6	5	1	0	0
Sociology	15	0	0	4	4	5	2	0

BTEC 2018	
D*D* - PP	100%

MONITORING STUDENT PROGRESS

At Loreto College our ethos of hard work and striving for excellence is fundamental to our success. It is the expectation that Sixth Form students will honour all their commitments and aim to achieve 100% punctuality and attendance.

TARGETS

Students are set ALPS (Advanced Level Performance Systems) targets at the start of Year 12. These targets are set by an external agency using national data and a student's GCSE average point score as a minimum target. Subject teachers will discuss targets with students.

PROGRESS REVIEW

We constantly monitor pupils to assess their progress. Students meet their subject teachers individually towards the end of each term to review their progress. There are also interviews with Form Tutors to discuss their progress or any concerns they may have.

PARENT CONSULTATION EVENINGS

Reports are sent home to parents twice a year, as well as a Parent Consultation Evening, when parents can meet subject teachers with their sons/daughters to have detailed feedback about progress and areas for improvement. Parents may also contact the school at any time to discuss concerns with Miss Ross.

SUPPORTED STUDY AND INDEPENDENT LEARNING

All students are encouraged to become independent learners. They spend approximately 5 hours per subject per week during Year 12 working independently on teacher directed and self-directed tasks.

A-LEVELS

Reformed A levels have been taught in schools in England from September 2015. The main features of the qualifications are:

- Assessment will be mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
- All students will sit Advanced Level examinations in June 2021.

FINE ART

AQA FINE ART 1202 / 2202

I decided to study Fine Art at A-level due to experiencing the subject at GCSE and thoroughly enjoying it. Over the last two years, I have been able to develop my skills while having the freedom to experiment with more advanced mediums with guided help from the teachers. Being able to choose the course that my art projects take allows me to express my creativity and hone in on ideas that are interesting and personal to me.

A-level Art has provided me with the foundation of skills that will benefit me as I further my educational success in studying this subject at a higher level. I have particularly enjoyed the useful art trips that our class go on, for example, the Frieze Art Fair, where we were able to explore different artist's work and look for inspiration for our own project.



DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Do you show enthusiasm for subject by visiting exhibitions in your own time?
- Do you attend short courses outside of school to further your skills in a specific area, for example life drawing classes?
- Are you willing to share and discuss both your own work and that of others, endeavouring to use subject specialist vocabulary where possible?

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

At the start of the course, you are given clear information about each course component including weighting of marks. Early lessons are structured and clear deadlines are set but as the course progresses, you are expected to work increasingly independently, following your own lines of enquiry. You are monitored throughout and given personalised guidance and support. Assessment is on-going, and a formal sketchbook review will take place at least once a month, generating feedback and individualised targets to ensure that you are on track and working towards your predicted grade.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

This course will prepare you for a variety of career options. Many of our students go on to study Art Foundation courses and later continue to do an Art degree. It also demonstrates your creativity and practical skills for a variety of other careers.

COURSE CONTENT

Component 1:

You will produce a Coursework Portfolio that concentrates on techniques, processes and skills as well as research, planning and experimentation. There is more emphasis on a refined practical outcome at this level. Within the practical work, you will study the work of other artists and make connections to your own lines of enquiry, both within the written analysis in your sketchbooks and in your extended written response of between 1000 and 3000 words.

Component 2:

The Externally Set Assignment is given on or just after the 1st February in Year 13, so that you can prepare and plan for your practical exam in May. Eight starting points are given and you will choose the one you feel best suits your attributes. The exam is 15 hours long and the outcome should be a finished piece of work that is supported by a body of research and planning.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Art grade 6. If you do not have this, you may still be allowed to join the course, subject to the provision of a portfolio of recent practical work and at the Head of Department's discretion.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Miss Cooke (Head of Art)

BIOLOGY

AQA Biology

I chose to take Biology A-Level as the depth it offered into a range of topics, including those covered at GCSE, appealed to me. It is a challenging but fascinating subject, and has a strong practical component which reinforces our learnings.

Biology is a valuable subject for many different career paths, and the A Level itself allows you to develop skills that are useful for a variety of other subjects. I am now applying to study Medicine at University due to my interest in human anatomy and physiology.



DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Keen to learn about up-to-date biological and medical advancements throughout the world.
- Keen to develop a fuller understanding of the world around you.
- Keen to develop your understanding of the human body and how it works.
- Able to calculate percentage increase/decreases and means, deal with simple statistics, draw graphs and form conclusions from them, think logically and explain your thinking clearly.

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

A variety of teaching methods are used to cover the various aspects of the curriculum. These will include research work, group/individual presentations, class discussion and practical work as well as more formal class teaching. The textbook allows access to a variety of resources via the student's own PC at home, or the School Intranet, and animations, tutorials and Power Points help to make the subject come alive.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

A-level Biology is advantageous for demanding courses like Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry. It is also essential for Physiotherapy and valuable for Nursing, Marine Biology, Neuroscience, Biochemistry etc. It is also useful to demonstrate scientific skills or analytical ability for other courses such as Law and Journalism. It is an evidence-based subject with many transferable skills for the world of work and Further Education.

COURSE CONTENT

Students will sit three exams. They will study the following topics:

Biological molecules

Cells

Organisms exchange substances with their environment

Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Energy transfers in and between organisms

Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments

Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems

The control of gene expression

Coursework

Students will be awarded a separate endorsement for practical skills, which will be assessed by teachers. This will not be graded.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Single Science three grade 6's, Combined Science two grade 7's
and a minimum of grade 6 in Maths.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr Stapleton (Head of Biology)

BTEC in Business

BTEC National Diploma in Business

Business skills are widely used so I felt this would be a very beneficial subject to take. I have enjoyed learning about how businesses are run, and learning new skills.

This course has helped me to develop my team-work and leadership skills whilst running my own business in school. This course has given me the confidence to apply for Criminology at university.



DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Have a general interest in the business world.
- Enjoy keeping up to date with current business affairs and be well motivated.
- Enjoy carrying out in depth research into the different aspects of business relating this to real business organisations.

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

The BTEC National Diploma in Business uses a combination of assessment styles to give you confidence that you can apply your knowledge to succeed in the workplace – and have the study skills to continue learning on higher education courses and throughout your career. You will apply learning through a range of practical assessments – 5 internally assessed assignments (course work) two controlled assessment (externally marked) and one written examination.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

After this qualification, learners can progress directly to employment; however it is likely that many will do so via higher study. Areas of employment include junior business roles in marketing, administration, finance, events management, HR, marketing and other related areas in the business sector, including higher apprenticeships.

COURSE CONTENT

Unit 1 - Exploring Business

You will study the purpose of different businesses, their structure, the effect of the external environment, and how they need to be dynamic and innovative to survive.

Unit 2 - Developing a Marketing Campaign

(Controlled assessment set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions). You will gain skills relating to and an understanding of how a marketing campaign is developed. For the controlled assessment you will explore and develop your own campaign for a given product/service.

Unit 3 - Personal and Business Finance

(Written examination set by Pearson)

You will study the purpose and importance of personal and business finance. You will develop the skills and knowledge needed to understand, analyse and prepare financial information.

Unit 4 - Managing an Event

You will work as part of a small group to plan, co-ordinate and manage a business or social enterprise event and evaluate the skills gained. Events Management is one of the most exciting and dynamic sectors of business. This unit combines your creativity and organisation skills in order to produce successful, memorable events, whether for profit or social enterprise.

Unit 5 – International Business

You will study how UK businesses develop strategies to trade globally and consider the factors that may influence the implementation of these strategies. You will explore the international economic environment, external and cultural factors as well as strategic and operational approaches to developing international trade.

Unit 6

(Controlled assessment set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions). You will study how business adapt their approaches to management in response to challenges in their environment. You will investigate some of the issues that managers and leaders have to deal with in the workplace in making businesses more efficient and ensuring their survival and growth.

Unit 8

You will study how the recruitment process is carried out in a business and learn that successful recruitment is key to maintaining the success of a business, as people are often considered to be the most valued resource. You will undertake recruitment activities, the unit will help you to develop the skills needed in an interview situation and have an opportunity to review your individual performance as well as analyse your skills for development.

Unit 22

You will study the purpose and type of market research undertaken in a business, consider the objectives of the research and the processes followed. You will plan and undertake a research activity using the most appropriate design and sampling method. After collecting market research data, you will analyse and interpret that data to present your findings.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

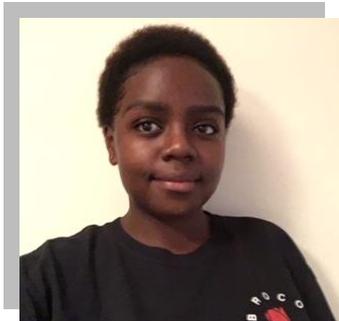
Five 9 -4 grades, including Maths and English grade 5. Exceptions can be made for students who have grade 4 in Maths and English if they are prepared to retake these exams in order to improve their grades.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mrs Tambe (Head of Business and Computing)

BUSINESS STUDIES

AQA Business Studies 7131



Studying Business at Advanced Level has been a great learning curve. I have gained detailed knowledge about how businesses operate as well as an understanding of the working world, which was only touched upon at GCSE.

Smaller class sizes have allowed everyone to strengthen their individual weaker areas due to an increased level of teacher attention for each pupil. The teachers at Advanced Level are extremely motivating and genuinely care about you and your grades.

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Do you have an interest in business issues and the world around you?
- Do you enjoy watching the news or reading news articles about international business?
- Are you interested in how big businesses became successful?

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

This subject will be assessed by three written exams at A Level. The style of question will include multiple choice questions, short questions, essays and case studies. You will explore theories and models of management and leadership. You are encouraged to consider the advantages and disadvantages of business concepts. You will be expected to do wider reading and to keep up to date with the business world. You will develop your skills of application, analysis and evaluation.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

This subject is ideal preparation for a career in business, marketing, sales, retail and law. Students will develop the knowledge and skills needed to analyse data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions – all skills that are needed for further study and employment.

COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1 consists of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and essay titles.

Paper 2 consists of a number of data response questions.

Paper 3 consists of questions based on a (previously unseen) case study.

You will study the following topics:

- What is business?
- Managers, leadership and decision making
- Decision making to improve marketing performance
- Decision making to improve operational performance
- Decision making to improve financial performance
- Decision making to improve human resource performance
- Analysing the strategic position of a business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- Managing strategic change

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Mathematics grade 5 and GCSE English grade 5.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr McCarthy (A-level Business Studies teacher)

CHEMISTRY

OCR (A) Chemistry H432



Chemistry helps us understand the world in which we live in by explaining the mechanism for countless reactions. At A-level you are able to delve deeper into the chemical ideas introduced to you at GCSE. The abundant laboratory practical work that is done within this A-level aids in putting these theories into practice, which not only enables you to picture these scientific principles with ease but also develops problem solving, research and analytical skills that are all favourable in higher education. This subject has supplemented my other subjects, Biology and Mathematics, and is allowing me to pursue Dentistry at university.

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Do you have an interest in science but do not necessarily want to become a career Chemist?
- Are you keen to pursue an exciting and stimulating pathway?
- Are excited about using sophisticated equipment such as infra-red Spectroscopy and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance?

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

Chemistry A Level is a content-led approach. The specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of chemistry. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they're assessed both through written papers and the Practical Endorsement.

About 15% of total marks in AS and A- level exams will be based on practical questions. Knowledge and understanding of practical work will be assessed in the written exams.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

If you study Chemistry you can pursue a range of careers:

- Health and clinical professions including dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, nursing and forensic science
- Chemical engineers
- Metallurgy
- Pharmacy
- Accountancy and Finance

COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1

- Development of practical skills in Chemistry
- Foundations in Chemistry
- Periodic table and energy
- Physical Chemistry and transition metals.

Paper 2

- Development of practical skills in Chemistry.
- Foundations in Chemistry.
- Core organise Chemistry.
- Organic chemistry and analysis

Paper 3

- All modules are tested.

Coursework

Students will be awarded a separate endorsement of practical skills which will be assessed by teachers. This will not be graded.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Single Science three grade 6's, Combined Science two grade 7's
and a minimum of grade 6 in Maths.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr Downes (Head of Science)

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

OCR H408



Although I didn't do Classical Civilisation at GCSE, I was intrigued by the course as it combines literature with history and enables you to study interesting texts that open up different aspects of ancient civilisations. We cover a wide range of topics, including Greek theatre, Greek religion and texts such as *The Odyssey* by Homer and *The Aeneid* by Virgil. Studying Classical Civilisation allows you to learn more about these unique and different civilisations, which help to convey how modern society has been influenced by them.

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Do you like the sound of a subject which features a blend of history and literature?
- Would you enjoy discussing issues such as gender equality, family values and the importance of loyalty?
- Would you be good at carrying out your own research in order to deepen your understanding?
- Do you enjoy exploring stories, discussing their characters, and developing your own opinions about them?
- Do you like presenting arguments, and do you want to get even better at doing so?

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

Class discussions and group reading will play a large part in your studies of this subject, but they will be supported by a range of other activities too. You will regularly answer questions (including essay titles) in order to help you develop your knowledge of the subject content, inform you about your progress, and prepare you for the examinations in Y12 and 13. You will have opportunities to extend your learning outside the classroom with visits to lectures, theatre performances and museum exhibitions at least once during each year.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

The course itself is an ideal preparation for some form of Classical Studies at degree level, but it does not restrict you to that. A qualification in this subject at A-level is regarded as an asset by many professions as it 'trains' you to think analytically and to develop confidence in presenting your case - ideal preparation for a career in management, politics, journalism, the civil service and many more besides.

COURSE CONTENT

Unit 1: The World of the Hero

This will involve the study of two epic poems (in translation) that have had major impact on modern literature:

Homer's *Odyssey* and Vergil's *Aeneid*.

In addition to studying the texts themselves you will investigate the key concept of what makes a 'Hero' in the ancient world and whether these ideals can be seen in modern day heroes.

Unit 2: Culture and the Arts

This will involve the study of the **Greek Theatre**.

You will not only look at the theatre buildings themselves, the structure of the plays and the use of costumes and masks but also have the opportunity to study three Greek plays – two tragedies and one comedy – from some of the most influential playwrights.

The plays are Sophocles' *Oedipus Tyrannos*, Euripides' *Bacchae* and Aristophanes' *Frogs*.

Unit 3: Beliefs and Ideas

This will involve the study of **Greek Religion**.

You will study the Olympian Gods and the mystery cults that were prevalent in Athenian society. You will also focus on religious centres of worship and will study the sculpture and architecture linked to displays of public worship – such as the buildings on the Acropolis in Athens and the oracle at Delphi in honour of Apollo. In addition you will have the opportunity to study the work of some ancient writers who challenged religious belief.

There will be a trip to Greece in order to enhance and support your learning of these last two units in particular.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE English Language and Literature grade 5.
A GCSE in Classical Civilisation is not needed,
but if you have studied it, a grade 5 would be expected.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Miss Vamplew (Head of Classics)

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

AQA Drama and Theatre Studies 7262

I chose this subject because students are able to obtain a wide variety of communication and practical skills while discovering the secrets behind fantastic plays, films and television shows.

I absolutely adore everything to do with drama and the industry, and have therefore thoroughly enjoyed this course. It has increased my confidence and enthusiasm for the art form, opening my eyes to emotions and scenarios that are not part of my daily life. It is truly incredible to be able to empathise with the character you play or have the privilege to watch. The teacher support within Loreto is brilliant, and the teachers are always willing to help out if you find anything difficult.



DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Are you keen to engage with others in a collaborative learning environment?
- Are you able to show independent thinking and problem solving skills?
- Are you excited about the idea of improving your performance with every rehearsal?
- Do you want a greater understanding of how theatre works?
- Do you enjoy going on theatre trips and have an interest in how theatre influences the world we live in?

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

The course is balanced with exam and controlled assessment, allowing you to show your critical analysing skills, as well as your growing subject knowledge of practitioners and evolving theatrical styles. Constant reflection, written and oral, individual and within the group, is essential to your development as a performer. You will be expected to do wider research and develop critical opinions on the plays, practitioners, and movements we study, and will be able to then apply those stylistic choices you enjoy to your practical assessments. The class has a nice balance of opportunity to showcase opinion both in written and performed formats.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

Drama and Theatre Studies is a well-rounded subject, making use of both performance and written skills. You may use your A-Level to go on to higher learning in Drama, Theatre or the Arts. The skills from this course can also be applied in any field involving presentation, confidence, team work, and problem solving.

COURSE CONTENT

Component 1 - Drama and Theatre

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of two set plays

Component 2 - Creating original drama (practical)

- Process of creating devised drama
- Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner

Component 3 - Making theatre (practical)

- Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts each taken from a different play
- Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE English grade 5

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mrs Bamford (Head of Drama)

ENGLISH LITERATURE

AQA English Literature 7717 (English Literature B)

Having always enjoyed reading and analysis, English Literature was the perfect A Level subject choice for me. The opportunity to further develop my own arguments in essays alongside class discussions makes A Level English even better than at GCSE, and has made me more confident in expressing myself. The skills that are developed through English are helpful in my other subjects as well as for my future studies at university. Alongside the varied and interesting course, the opportunities to learn more about the world around us, both past and present, and find connections between different styles of writing from different cultures is undoubtedly interesting. I would recommend English Literature to anyone with an analytical mind, who enjoys reading and forming arguments (and essay writing!)



DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- I have a love of reading and a willingness to explore texts which may be more challenging.
- I am willing to share ideas and contribute to class discussion.
- I have a keen interest in the subject which will lead to wider reading as well as watching films, plays and relevant television programmes.

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

In English Literature, we value the contributions of our students. In order to succeed in our subject, it will be vital for you to be able to formulate your own views and interpretations in response to texts. You will be assessed regularly through essay practice. Lessons will include discussions, presentations, research, annotation and exploration of texts. We will use the library to explore critical interpretations of texts. We arrange trips to the theatre and to lectures to enhance your learning further.

CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES

A Level English Literature is highly regarded by Russell Group universities and is one of six subjects recommended by Oxford and Cambridge for students that are undecided about their future careers. An A Level in English Literature supports applications to study the law, journalism, marketing and communications, public relations, business, teaching and lecturing, theatre and film, social services and the civil service. Furthermore, communication skills developed on the English Literature course are essential in fields as varied as engineering, anthropology and medicine.

COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1: Aspects of Tragedy

You will study a range of texts that are a part of the tragic genre:

- *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller
- *King Lear* by William Shakespeare
- A selection of Keats' poetry.

Paper 2: Elements of Crime Fiction

You will study a range of texts that explore the nature and implications of crime:

- *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens
- *Atonement* by Ian McEwan
- Analysis of an 'unseen' extract from a piece of crime writing.

Coursework – Theory and Independence

You will learn about a range of different critical approaches to literature from feminism to post-colonialism. You will then write two essays applying two different critical approaches you have studied. One essay will focus on poetry and the other will focus on prose. You will also need to consider how time has affected the way the texts have been received and interpreted.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE English Language grade 6 and
GCSE English Literature grade 6.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr Damian Fahy (Head of English)

FRENCH

Edexcel French 7FRo

French A Level was a clear choice for me to take as I was adamant to pursue my passion in foreign languages by taking it a step further on from GCSE. It is an extremely diverse and interesting subject as we discuss a variety of important topics which have enabled me to have a deeper insight into French society and culture. I have thoroughly enjoyed French A Level as it has allowed me to become a confident communicator in the French language and it has motivated me to get more involved in the current affairs in France. This A Level subject also comes with numerous opportunities such as getting involved in MFL Day and helping younger students with their French, making it a very rewarding subject. We have also been on a theatre trip in London to watch “L'étranger” which is a play we will be studying later in the course therefore this has been very beneficial for us. This subject will prove to be incredibly useful in the future since languages are becoming more important than ever and are an extremely desired skill for employers.



DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Are you excited about visiting France and speaking French?
- Do you enjoy reading and listening to news about France and the cultural life of France?
- Are you excited about the opportunity to develop your communication, research and analytical skills?

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

The course involves a variety of teaching and learning strategies. If you wish to study this subject we would encourage you to watch French films, be familiar with the programme from the Institut Français (London), attend French plays and keep up-to-date with what is happening in the French speaking world. You are encouraged to spend some time in France, doing work experience, for example. You will be expected to do wider reading and listening online in order to master the language. You are expected to work independently, to develop research and dictionary skills. Lessons are conducted predominantly in the target language. The oral is a significant component of the exam. There is regular formal assessment via homework and practice examination papers.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

Languages are a useful asset to almost any career, whether in business, science and technology or the arts. Globalisation, and the need for people who can communicate well and adapt readily to other cultures, means that languages graduates or those that have studied languages beyond GCSE are very much in demand.

COURSE CONTENT

Theme 1: Changes in French society:-

- family life ;
- education;
- world of work.

Theme 2: Political and artistic culture:-

- music;
- media;
- festivals and traditions.

Theme 3 : Immigration and multicultural French Society

Theme 4: Political culture in France.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE French grade 6.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mrs Fitzsimons (Head of French)

GEOGRAPHY

AQA Geography 7037

Geography A Level is a diverse subject and hugely relevant to society today, containing both human and physical components. The variety of Geography means that there is something for everyone, from sand dunes to suburbanisation. I have really enjoyed Geography A-Level so far, particularly the trip to Iceland. The field studies opportunities are a great way to develop geographical skills as well as team work, and allow us to use theoretical knowledge in a practical, real-world context. I now hope to go on to study Geography at university, where I know the teaching at Loreto will have prepared me to develop an even greater depth of knowledge within the subject. Ultimately, this is a subject without boundaries.



DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Do you have a general interest in the world around you?
- Do you enjoy keeping up to date with current geographical issues?
- Do you enjoy going out on visits to different areas in order to undertake fieldwork investigations?

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

The course involves a variety of approaches to learning. You are encouraged to discuss your ideas and those of others and to think critically about their views. You will be expected to do wider reading in order to research topics to develop their comprehension and knowledge of material discussed in class. You will be given the opportunity to develop key skills such as statistical analysis and ICT. There are fieldwork opportunities available to you throughout the course.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

Modern Geography is a very broad subject and it combines well with subjects from both the arts and sciences. The skills, knowledge and attitudes developed in Geography are highly regarded by employers and universities.

COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1 – Physical Geography

You will study core Physical Geography themes which will include:

- Water and Carbon Cycles.
- Coastal Systems.
- Hazards.

Paper 2 – Human Geography

You will study core Human Geography themes which will include:

- Global Systems and Global Governance.
- Changing Places.
- Urban Environments.

Coursework - Independent Investigation

You will select a question or issue for investigation relating to any aspect of geography contained within the specification. Your investigation will incorporate fieldwork and independent research. Your report will include independent analysis and evaluation of data, presentation of data findings and extended writing.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Geography grade 6.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mrs Mason-Clark (Head of Geography)

HISTORY

AQA, History 7042

I decided to take History at A-level because I really enjoyed it at GCSE and have always liked learning about the past. The study of British and European History has helped me understand reasons why change and conflict occur, and how historical progress can be interpreted differently. The course has ensured that I am able to devise a substantiated judgement by having to support my thoughts with clear evidence, which is an important life skill. Smaller class sizes have ensured that I am able to share my views more easily and engage in discussion regarding certain actions or events, helping to create a sound argument in written work. I have found the A-level course very interesting so far and am applying to study History at university knowing that this course has given me the skills I need to succeed in this subject.



DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Do you enjoy history and like thinking about how and why societies changed in the past?
- Do you like the idea of making your own judgements about some of the most controversial aspects of British and European history?

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

You will learn to develop and extend the skills covered at GCSE, especially in source analysis and presenting a coherent argument. You will be strongly encouraged to read as widely as possible on topics covered. Learning methods you will use will include mini-presentations, teacher exposition, IT-based study using the school network resources and individual study seminars.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

A-level History has always been regarded by both universities and employers as a rigorous, “academic” subject. It is particularly useful in Law and the business world, where the ability to present an argument and make balanced judgements is vital.

COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1 - Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603-1702

You will study the main themes and development in this period. This will include:

- Conflicts between Crown and Parliament, 1603-1629
- Revolution, 1629-1649
- From Republic to Restored and Limited Monarchy, 1649-1678
- The Establishment of Constitutional Monarchy, 1678-1702

Paper 2 - The Reformation in Europe, 1500-1564

You will study the main developments in this period. These will include:

- The condition of the Church, c1500-1517
- The Challenge of Luther, 1517-1521
- The Protestant Challenge, 1521-1531
- The expansion of the Reformation, 1531-1541
- The second wave of Protestant reform, 1541-1564
- The Catholic Reformation, 1531-1564

Coursework – Non-Exam Assessment (3,000-3,500 words)

You will select a controversial theme or development related to the Golden Age of Spain, 1474-1598, and carry out an independent investigation. Your answer must analyse and compare the views of at least two academic historians and include a range of primary and secondary sources.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE History grade 6.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr Hough (Head of History)

LATIN

OCR Latin A-Level H443



After enjoying the Latin GCSE, it was a clear choice for me at A level. You get to study a wider range of texts and their history such as law cases and history books at a much greater depth. This study of literature compliments English well, but the formulaic nature of the language means that it can also be partnered with Maths. Latin is studied by a minority of students at this level, so will be sure to make your university application stand out!

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Do you have an enthusiasm for literature?
- Are you keen to broaden your knowledge of the Roman world?
- Do you have an eye for detail, especially with regards to how languages work?
- Do you like improving your knowledge of the English language, especially its vocabulary?

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

The course involves a variety of learning methods including both independent study and group work. You will complete a number of language manipulation exercises and have regular vocabulary tests. You will carry out research into the historical setting of the literature you are studying, produce an accurate translation of the Latin text, and develop an appreciation of the author's purpose.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

This course will be an ideal preparation for Latin and/or Classics at degree level, and it will also prove helpful to the study of modern foreign languages. It is a great benefit to students who are interested in careers where linguistic ability is highly valued such as politics, journalism, and public relations, as well as those where Latin terminology is a notable feature – namely law, medicine, botany etc. There are no limits to what you can do with a qualification in Latin.

COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1 – Language – Unseen translation

You will translate a passage of unseen Latin prose into natural sounding English. During the course, you will have revised and increased your knowledge of the Latin language and built up your vocabulary knowledge using the Defined Vocabulary List set by the examination board.

Paper 2 – Language – Prose Composition or Comprehension

You will either translate English sentences into Latin or answer questions on a set passage of Latin. The skills and knowledge built up for Paper 1 will help with this preparation.

Paper 3 – Prose Literature

You will study two prose set texts over the course of the two years. In Year 12 the verse set text will be Cicero: Philipic II; and in Year 13 it will be Tacitus: Histories I.

Paper 4 – Verse Literature

You will study two verse set texts over the course of the two years. In Year 12 the verse set text will be Vergil Aeneid XI; and in Y13 it will be the poems of Horace Odes III.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Latin grade 6.

GCSE English Language and Literature grade 5.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Miss Vamplew (Head of Classics)

MATHEMATICS

Edexcel Mathematics gMAo



I enjoyed Maths at GCSE and wanted to continue it at A-Level. The work was more challenging but the transition wasn't noticeable because the teachers eased us into the course. I found going to taster Maths lectures at different universities really useful and the teachers keep you informed on different opportunities available outside of school. Maths A-Level also gives you the chance to help out in Maths Clinic or tutor one of the GCSE students who want extra help as their exams approach - these look really good on your UCAS application and help you to stand out from the crowd. It's also a good experience if you are considering a career in education.

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Are you a committed self-starter?
- Do you have an enquiring mind and enjoy problem-solving, both with others and independently?
- Does your curiosity inspire you to take your learning beyond the classroom?

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

As you will have two teachers each teaching one of the components of the course you will experience a variety of teaching methods. A typical lesson might take the form of some class discussion and investigation of mathematical concepts, followed by some collaborative work on relevant examples. In addition to the textbooks supplied, you will be provided with a variety of worked examples and practice exercises, as well as guidance regarding further reading materials. ICT is used where appropriate, and the use of relevant websites is encouraged. Each year students are invited to attend the Maths lectures held at the University of London.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

A-level Mathematics is a highly sought-after qualification for many degree courses and amongst employers. The Mathematics course develops skills such as logical thinking, problem-solving and statistical analysis that are used in almost all areas of science, industry and commerce. Even in occupations that require little mathematical knowledge, many managers will favour a good Mathematics qualification simply because of the skills of logical processing that have been established through study of the subject.

COURSE CONTENT

Pure Maths

You will study Pure Maths topics which include:-

Proof, Algebra and Functions, Co-ordinate Geometry in the (x,y) plane, Sequences and Series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and Logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Vectors, Numerical Methods.

Applied Mathematics

You will study the Applied Maths topics which include:-

Statistics Section:

Statistical Sampling, Data Presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical Distributions, Statistical Hypothesis Testing.

Mechanics Section:

Quantities and Units in Mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's Laws.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

We would expect candidates to have achieved GCSE Mathematics grade 6 or above. Please note that your algebraic skills need to be strong.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr Burani (Head of Mathematics)

MUSIC

Edexcel Music gMUo

I chose Music for A-level as it gave me more creative freedom compared to my other subjects. In the course, I can look at a wider variety of music works compared to GCSE. I enjoy listening and understanding the different styles of music within the course and how music has changed with different trends over time. The course involves composition, performance as well as musical theory. The smaller classes in A-level really helps you with understanding difficult topics and has more opportunities for you to go over them with the teacher one-on-one.



DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Do you love to listen to all types of music and practise your instrument regularly?
- Do you have a genuine interest in finding out how music works?
- Are you keen to create your own pieces using different musical styles?

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

This course requires many different learning approaches. You will be expected to research and listen to a variety of musical genres, developing your critical thinking skills; approach composition from a practical standpoint, experimenting with ideas both using ICT and your own instrument or voice; develop performances skills through observation of others, regular independent practise and involvement in practical music making.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

As well as being vital for anyone wishing to study the subject at degree level, Music is recognised by universities as an academic A level and provides a good step towards degrees in a wide range of subject areas including Sciences, Mathematics, Languages, Humanities and Arts. It is also a vital A level for anyone wishing to work in the music industry in any form, including music journalism, music/sound engineering, arts management and business.

COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1 - Performing (externally assessed coursework)

Over the course you will study:

- Performance practice on your chosen instrument or voice
- Interpretations of different pieces from different times
- How to develop your technical skill on your chosen instrument or voice
- How to perform expressively

This will culminate in a 10 minute recital on your chosen instrument.

Paper 2 - Composing (externally assessed coursework)

Over the course you will study:

- How to manipulate the musical elements to create different musical effects
- How to develop musical ideas
- How to compose music that reflects and adapts different genres and styles
- How to apply specialist musical vocabulary and notation

This will culminate in you creating two compositions, one of your own design and one to a set brief.

Paper 3 - Appraising (written exam)

Over the course you will study music from different times and in different genres. This will be in the form of set works and in general listening and analysis. The music will come from the following topics:

- Vocal music
- Instrumental music
- Music for film
- Popular music and jazz
- Fusions
- New directions

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Music grade 6 or grade 5 Theory. You should also be at least grade 4 standard on your chosen instrument or voice

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mrs Brown (Head of Music)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

OCR PHYSICAL EDUCATION H555

I chose to study PE at A Level, as I enjoyed the subject at GCSE and I was keen to learn more. I love the variety within the subject; from studying the history behind the origins of sport to more recent developments in sport technology in the biomechanics section. Throughout the course I have learnt in depth about the theories behind sport performance which I have found really interesting especially when applying this to my own practical performance. I am applying to study Prosthetics and Orthotics at university, and my extended knowledge of anatomy and physiology will help me in my studies.



DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Do you have an interest in all areas of sport including practical performance, scientific/biological elements and societal factors?
- Do you enjoy watching sporting events and are you keen to attend events and matches?
- Do you possess plenty of skill in your chosen activity areas?

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

The course is split into both practical and theory elements, with a heavier weighting towards the theoretical aspect. In theory lessons, you will mostly have teacher led and classroom based activities but there will be opportunities for discussions, research and critical reflections. You will be expected to do wider reading and develop your essay writing skills during independent studies and unit tests. Your practical assessment will be done internally and then finalised with an external moderation performance. You will have opportunities to improve your performance skills and presentation skills.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

This course will provide an excellent grounding for anyone wishing to pursue a career or studies in Physical Education, Physiotherapy, Sports Ergonomics, Coaching, Sports Journalism, Sports Science, Personal training, Sport or Leisure based areas. This course would also supplement a course in Psychology, Human Biology and dance elements of any Performing Arts course.

COURSE CONTENT

The A-Level course is split into 4 sections – 1 practical and 3 theory and you must answer questions on all three areas. These are:

Physiological factors affecting performance: the science behind physical activity. It is worth 30% of the total GCE and covers joints, muscles, analysis of movement, cardiovascular and respiratory systems, energy, diet, ergogenic acid, components of fitness, injury and biomechanics. You will complete a 2 hour written paper worth 90 marks.

Psychological factors affecting performance: the psychology behind performing and learning skills. It is worth 20% of the total GCE and includes skill classifications, practice methods, transference of skills, stages of learning, guidance, memory, personality, motivation, anxiety, leadership, sports confidence and stress management. You will complete a one hour written paper worth 60 marks.

Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport: the sociological and contemporary issues that influence and affect sport and physical activity. It is worth 20% of the total GCE and includes the emergence and evolution of modern sport, global sporting events, ethics and deviance in sport, commercialisation and media, routes to sporting excellence and modern technology. You will complete a one hour written paper worth 60 marks.

Performance: Performance in one sporting activity on the specification and an oral presentation on the evaluation and analysis of performance for improvement in that sport. This is internally moderated and externally assessed. It is worth 60 marks and is 30% of the total GCE.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Physical Education grade 6 **and** either Single Science or Combined Science grade 6 or above. It is desirable but not essential that you have to have studied GCSE PE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Miss Baxter (Head of PE)

PHYSICS

AQA Physics - 7409

Physics is an extremely versatile subject, as it allows you to explore all aspects of the universe. The topics range from nuclear physics to astrophysics and looking at the forces between them. Physics also develops your analytical, problem solving and research abilities which is why it is considered a facilitating subject. These are essential, transferable skills which are valuable in careers such as engineering and finance.



DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Do you enjoy the challenge of problem solving and logic puzzles?
- Do you love to understand the world around you?
- Have you got good communication and research skills?
- Are you a confident mathematician?

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

In A-Level Physics there are opportunities for students to develop practical skills (for example, in choosing and using materials and equipment), practice data-handling skills (for example, estimating, presenting and analysing data) and to use their imagination (for example, suggesting an explanation). They also learn to place Physics in a social or historical context and argue about the issues that arise. Students also use ICT as an integral part of learning Physics.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

You will find that any course related to Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths may involve Physical concepts at some point. Modern finance and economics use models created by physicists to predict market trends. Medicine makes use of advances in quantum and particle physics to produce imaging techniques and innovative treatments against some of the most deadly illnesses and conditions. New communication technology and advances in renewable energies are made possible by the valuable research conducted by physicists on new materials. The skills, knowledge and attitudes developed in Physics are highly regarded by employers and universities.

COURSE CONTENT

Measurements and their errors

This topic will provide you with the skills needed to plan, carry out, analyse and evaluate a scientific investigation.

Particles and radiation

You will learn about the strange world of quantum Physics, including the Standard model of Particles, photoelectric effect and radioactive decay.

Waves

You will engage with practical work that will help you explaining how musical instruments produce sounds, as well as other applications of wave behaviour such as optical fibres.

Mechanics and materials

Discover about the different kinds of materials, their properties, and how engineers make use of this knowledge to create structures. The mechanics section of this topic guides you through the work of Galileo and Newton, explaining how motion is related to forces and energy.

Electricity

You will build an in-depth understanding of how electrical circuits work, and how they can be used to control our home and industrial environments.

Further mechanics and thermal physics

In further mechanics, you will learn about Simple Harmonic Motion, the Physics of Fairground rides, as well as aspects of thermodynamics related to the behaviour of gases and internal energy.

Fields and their consequences

You will learn about gravitational, electrical and magnetic fields. The understanding of field theory forms the basis of most of modern technology from space exploration to electronics and energy production.

Nuclear physics

In this topic you will deepen your knowledge of radioactivity and its uses, including radioactive decay and nuclear energy.

Optional section

Choose one from the following topics: Astrophysics, Medical Physics, Engineering Physics, and Turning points in Physics.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Single Science three grade 6's, Combined Science two grade 7's,
and a minimum of grade 6 in Maths.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr Pimentao
(A-level Physics teacher)

PSYCHOLOGY

OCR Psychology A-Level H567

I decided to take Psychology at A Level as it applies to everyday life. I particularly enjoy studying the biological area of Psychology as I can really examine the science behind it and it gives me the opportunity to combine my passion for science with another subject. I am looking forward to studying criminal psychology because it could have a positive impact upon reducing crime levels in the future. Overall, I find the subject enthralling and would highly recommend it to anyone who is enthused about the idea of analysing the concept of thinking.



DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Are you interested in people's behaviour, and enjoy watching documentaries or reading about psychological themes such as child development, mental disorders, group behaviour, and criminality?
- Do you have good reasoning, communication and numeracy skills?
- Are you keen to carry out a significant amount of independent reading and internet research?

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

A variety of learning and teaching methods are used. These include teacher presentations, discussion, debates, videos, paired and group presentations and other class activities. Group and paired practical investigations are integral to learning. You are expected to participate actively in all areas. There is considerable course content and you are required to read widely and research topics thoroughly, and complete regular written summaries and evaluations. Essay writing and report writing are important skills and will need regular practice, especially at advanced level. You will be encouraged to attend conferences and appropriate museum exhibitions.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

Psychology is useful for any job that requires lots of interaction or an understanding of human behaviour and development. People with skills in psychology are sought after in business, policing, management, teaching and childcare, research, social work and careers in medicine and healthcare.

COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1 - Research Methods

You will develop knowledge and understanding of research methodology:

- Experimental & non-experimental techniques
- Planning & conducting research
- Data Recording and presentation
- Report writing

Paper 2 - Psychological Themes through Core Studies

You will study some central areas of psychology organised in key themes & approaches:

- Social: Responses to people in authority
- Cognitive: Memory
- Developmental: Influences on children's behaviour
- Biological: Regions of the brain
- Individual Differences: Understanding Disorders

Paper 3 – Applied Psychology

You will learn about how Psychology can be applied to real-life fields in:

- Mental health
- Child development
- Criminal behaviour

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE grade 5 in Maths.
GCSE grade 5 in English Language is also desirable.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr S Ransom (Head of Psychology)

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

(Religious Studies)

EDEXCEL 9RSO

I chose to study Philosophy & Ethics A-Level as I thoroughly enjoyed the ethical topics in GCSE RS. They sparked many class debates and allowed me to understand other opinions as well as developing my own; therefore I thought it would be extremely interesting to learn more about it at a higher level. In the course you analyse different ethical debates and theories and philosophical arguments as well as the New Testament.

I have really enjoyed studying Philosophy & Ethics because the topics are relatable and intriguing, such as utilitarianism and medical ethics. It is interesting to learn about different views and beliefs in God, religion and the universe. This has enhanced my essay writing ability and has supported me with my other subjects, I highly recommend it.



DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Excited to learn about the theory of religion
- Enjoy participating in debates about ethical questions
- Interested to know what impact religion has on society

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

Learning methods include investigative research work, audio-visual and computer based work, paired and group work, discussion sessions and also teacher-led lessons. Students receive regular set essays throughout the course. Some of these are set as homework; others are timed essays in the lessons and end of module tests. This develops student's skills in reading examination questions and assessing what the questions require of them, and teaches them to complete the task in the set time. Feedback is given to students to help improve their skills. Students are expected to read extensively – this will enable them to develop their arguments and to participate in oral work during lessons. All modules are externally examined.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

The study of religion at this level links up very well with other A Level options such as Psychology, Sociology, English Literature, History and Biology. It is also of value to those considering a career in medicine. The skills developed will be of use in many academic and vocational degrees such as media studies, journalism, social work, counselling, nursing, teaching, etc.

COURSE CONTENT

Philosophical Issues:

- Nature and influence of religious experience.
- Problem of evil and suffering.
- Language.
- Philosophers.
- Influences and developments.
- Significant concepts in issues and debates.

Religion and ethics:

- Utilitarianism, situation ethics and natural moral law.
- War & Peace and Sexual Ethics.
- Ethical Language.
- Medical ethics.

Contexts of the New Testament:

- Texts and Interpretation of the Person of Jesus.
- Interpreting the text and the purpose and authorship of the 4th Gospel.
- Ways of interpreting scripture.
- Texts and interpretation.
- Scientific and historical challenges in faith and history.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Religious Studies grade 6.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Mrs C Ransom (Head of Religious Education)

SOCIOLOGY

AQA Sociology 7192

Sociology is a subject I am grateful to have studied. It has opened my eyes to different theories, but also looks into reasons for various patterns and trends within society. Sociology has never failed to entertain me and the Sociology Department has extremely helpful and supportive teachers. Modules such as Education and Crime are extremely interesting as they show a different perspective of what's going on around us. Sociology is not only interesting but also very useful at providing transferrable skills such as deductive reasoning, critical analysis and research methods. I am delighted at the thought of continuing to study Sociology at university.



DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

- Do you enjoy watching the news and learning about current affairs?
- Do you have good reasoning skills and a willingness to consider a wide range of views objectively?
- Are you willing to think clearly about different kinds of information and how to interpret it?

LEARNING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

An awareness of current social issues and independent research and reading skills are necessary for optimum learning. Lessons include formal teaching and note-taking as well as group work. Students work on assignments as well as essay questions and structured questions.

CAREERS IMPLICATIONS

Sociology develops social awareness and critical thinking; it will combine well with most A Level courses. A-level Sociology is universally accepted as an entry qualification for higher education courses and is an asset in a large number of employment areas where social understanding is important. Sociology is a popular subject at degree level.

COURSE CONTENT

Families and households

This module introduces students to the variety of ways in which people organise themselves into family groups. This includes: how families have changed over time, gender roles, divorce rates, family problems and how the state intervenes in family life. We also look at how the family socialises new members of society.

Education with Sociological Research Methods

The study of Education covers the social construction of intelligence and sociological views of education and looks at how provision varies between social, racial and gender groups and the role of the state. Throughout this unit, candidates should be encouraged to use examples drawn from their own experience of small-scale social research.

Crime and Deviance with Theory and Method

In this module we look at what it means to be deviant and how society treats its deviant or criminal members. We examine possible causes of crime, crime prevention and how crime affects victims. The module looks at how crime and deviance can be studied using sociological methods and theories used to explain crime.

Beliefs in Society

This module studies the theories of ideology, science and religion, social change, religious organisations, and the significance of religion in the contemporary world.

Mass Media

This module looks at the influence of mass media on how we behave and how our opinions are affected. We look at how some actions can become criminal and how this affects the laws of the country, using past and current examples.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE English Language grade 5.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr S Ransom (Head of Sociology)

THE A-LEVEL PROGRAMME AT LORETO COLLEGE

To study A-Levels at Loreto College, you need to gain five 9- 5 grades at GCSE, including English and Maths Grade 5. You must also meet the course requirements listed here:

Course Title	Minimum Entry Requirements
Fine Art	GCSE Art grade 6. If you do not have this, you may still be allowed to join the course, subject to the provision of a portfolio of recent practical work and at the Head of Department's discretion.
Biology	Single Science three 6 grades, Combined Science two grade 7's and a minimum of grade 6 in Maths.
Business Studies	GCSE Mathematics grade 5 and GCSE English grade 5.
BTEC National Diploma in Business	Five 9 - 4 grades or above, including Maths and English grade 5. Exceptions can be made for students who have grade 4 in Maths and English if they are prepared to retake these exams in order to improve their grades.
Chemistry	Single Science three 6 grades, Combined Science two grade 7's and a minimum of grade 6 in Maths.
Classical Civilisation	GCSE English Language and Literature grade 5. A GCSE in Classical Civilisation is not needed, but if you have studied it, a grade 5 would be expected.
Drama & Theatre Studies	GCSE English Language grade 5.
English Literature	GCSE English Language grade 6 and GCSE English Literature grade 6.
French	GCSE French grade 6.
Geography	GCSE Geography grade 6.
History	GCSE History grade 6.
Latin	GCSE Latin grade 6 and GCSE English Language and Literature grade 5.
Mathematics	GCSE Mathematics grade 6 or above. Please note that your algebraic skills need to be strong.
Further Mathematics AS or A-Level	GCSE Mathematics grade 7. Please note that this course can only be offered alongside A-Level in Mathematics, and can be studied in either Year 12 or Year 13.
Music	GCSE Music grade 6 or grade 5 Theory. You should also be at least grade 4 standard on your chosen instrument or voice.
PE	GCSE Physical Education grade 6. Either Single Science or Combined Science grade 6 or above. It is desirable but not essential that pupils have studied GCSE PE.
Philosophy & Ethics (<i>Religious Studies</i>)	GCSE Religious Studies grade 6.
Physics	Single Science three 6 grades, Combined Science two grade 7's and a minimum of grade 6 in Maths.
Psychology	GCSE grade 5 in Maths. GCSE English Language grade 5 is also desirable.
Sociology	GCSE English Language grade 5.

Alban Learning Partners

Where it is not possible to offer the combination of subjects requested, we work in partnership with four other consortium schools in the St Albans area to offer a broader choice.

Additional A-level provision is available with the Alban Learning Partners Consortium.