



Westcliff

High School for Girls

An Academy Grammar School

Sixth Form

A level Course Outlines

2027-2029



Introduction

We know the choice of school and subjects for Advanced Level is, for many of you, the first time you will have been given a real voice in your own education. Westcliff High School for Girls is an academic Sixth Form that welcomes applications from both boys and girls who are committed to hard-work, self-discipline, achievement, and the development of moral values.

We believe that our Sixth Form offers a centre of academic excellence which will help you to acquire maturity, confidence, skills and good examination results. These will open further doors of opportunity to Higher Education and worthwhile careers.

Our students come from a variety of backgrounds and schools, but they share a desire to learn which makes this Sixth Form a stimulating and friendly place in which to spend your next two years of education.

Admission Number for the Sixth Form

The Admission Number into Year 12 is 200. There are 184 places available for internal students, leaving a minimum of 16 places available for external applicants who meet the entry requirements.

The number of external applicants often exceeds the published admissions number of 16 where there are places available in each of the subjects an applicant wishes to study.

In addition to entry requirements, the upper limit of external applicants will take account of the availability of places in subject courses, the availability of teaching staff, the suitability of group sizes and the pastoral capacity of the school. Applications will be refused where the school considers the size of teaching sets or tutor groups would prejudice the efficient education of the group and where it is not financially or educationally desirable for the Governors to alter the balance of the school's staffing or to appoint additional staff.

Where more external applicants successfully meet the Admissions Criteria than there are places, the oversubscription criteria will apply. The Deadline for applications is the 12th February 2027 .



Admission Criteria for Sixth Form



Entry into the Sixth Form involves meeting general entry requirements and subject specific requirements.

- The minimum entry requirement for the Sixth Form is 52 points (scored in the best 8 subjects)
- A minimum of a GCSE grade 5 in English and Mathematics
- For Science and Mathematics courses students are required to sit AS examinations in Year 12 where a minimum grade will need to be achieved to ensure progression to Year 13.

Points are calculated using a student's eight best results. For GCSE qualifications, the number of points equals the grade, so a Grade 9 is worth 9 points and a Grade 8 is worth 8 points and so on.

For applicants who apply with non-GCSE equivalent qualifications as part of the best eight subject point calculation, then points will be awarded according to the Secondary Accountability Measures Guide for Maintained Secondary Schools, Academies and Free Schools, Annex H Scales for 2022 and future years published by the DfE in October 2022.

Where points are gained from vocational qualifications including OCR Nationals and BTEC Level 2 Qualifications, all multiple award vocational qualifications will count as one of the eight GCSEs when working out the points total. Only one vocational qualification can be used in the best eight score.

In addition to the overall entry requirements for Sixth Form, each A Level subject has minimum GCSE subject requirements. We recommend you read the Course Outlines for each subject before making an application.

Where students applying to the Sixth Form have non-UK qualifications, we will require the UK NARIC (the National Agency responsible for providing information and expert opinion on academic qualifications from overseas) to provide a 'Statement of Comparability'.

The student must be under 17 years of age on 31st August of the calendar year of proposed admission.

The student must be able to provide documentation in support of an application, including documentation to confirm GCSE results. For external candidates, GCSE grades will be confirmed against the DfE portal.

All offer holders must meet our minimum Sixth Form entry requirements as well as the subject specific requirements of their chosen courses to be offered a place. Individual subject requirements can be found on the respective subject page within this outline booklet.

All applicants must be able to study a minimum of three subjects at A Level. Students may choose to study four A Levels if they wish, with or without the Extended Project Qualification. For students that study Further Mathematics, they must take a total of 4 subjects including Maths and Further Mathematics

Where more external applicants successfully meet the Admissions Criteria than there are places, the oversubscription criteria will apply. Preference will be given on the following basis:

- The best eight GCSE examination score achieved by the applicant.
- In the event of oversubscription by external candidates the best eight GCSE score will be raised to ensure the number of applicants matches the availability of places in the Sixth Form.

Education, Health and Care Plans

Any applicant that meets the entry criteria and has an EHCP that names this school will be admitted even if that means going over the PAN for that year group.

Looked after children and previously looked after children

Looked after children and previously looked after children who meet the academic entry criteria have the highest priority in the oversubscription criteria for Sixth Form places.



The Admissions Process

Application to the Sixth Form is made via the online application form on our website, a link can also be found here: whsg.applicaa.com

The closing date for applications is 12th February 2027.

Conditional offers will be made directly to students on Friday 26th February 2027.

Applicants receiving offers will be expected to confirm acceptance by Friday 26th March 2027.

Changes to subject choices may be possible after confirmation only if there are vacancies in subject groups. Students will be invited to an induction event in June 2027.

Guidance on Choice of Subjects

We offer a wide range of A Levels but concentrate particularly on those which are valued by employers and universities. Our modern world needs creative, independent, self-motivated workers whose knowledge, ability, initiative, and confidence will make them flexible enough to succeed in a variety of situations. In the past few years, it has become increasingly common to break the traditional barrier between art and science and to choose a programme of study which spans both areas.

Summary of Application Process

Action	By When
Complete online application form	12 th February 2027
Conditional offers sent out	26 th February 2027
Confirmation of conditional offer	26 th March 2027
Induction event	June 2027
GCSE Results Day and Sixth Form Enrolment	19 th August 2027

Curriculum Pathways

Following the application process, all students will be sent information about the numerous curriculum pathway options available to them as they journey through the Sixth Form. Pathways will support students to their intended destinations via organised extra and super curricular activities, support sessions, advice and guidance on personal statements, a tailored careers programme with suggested work experience and much more. There are 8 different pathways that students can follow:

- Business, Economics and Finance
- Creative
- English and Journalism
- Humanities, Law and Linguistics
- Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science
- Oxbridge
- Social Sciences
- STEM

Alongside their A levels, all students will follow a bespoke programme to ensure they get to their intended destinations and make them stand out from other candidates. Running parallel to each of the pathways students are also encouraged to pursue their ambitions of applying to Oxford or Cambridge through our tailored support programme that runs across the two years of study.



Art

WJEC (EDUQAS) – A1651QS

‘Observe, Understand, Create’

The creative industries represent an increasingly large and influential section of modern life and the UK is a world leader in innovative and inventive design. From the sculptures of Antony Gormley to the high fashion of Stella McCartney, from the controversy of Tracy Emin to the comedy of Nick Park: imagination, individuality, visual awareness and determination are key skills that lead to success in Art and Design.

Course Description:

At Advanced Level students work on projects very similar to GCSE but they research, investigate and analyse their subjects in much greater depth. They are expected to explore their own creativity through the development of ideas and the production of independent artwork that is personal to the student and tackles a range of important issues. If you have a genuine enthusiasm for Art and a commitment to achieving the best you can, we have the ability to support you in your quest for success in this subject.

Key Learning: The specification for Advanced Level Art encourages the use of a wide range of contemporary approaches and our Fine Art students often explore sculpture, printmaking, photography, video, animation and digital media as vehicles for their individual expression.

Additional Learning Opportunities:

We know that the quality of students' work is enhanced by experiencing the work of other artists. All students are required to undertake visits to Art Galleries and installations both locally and in London. The department will organise some visits which must be attended and students are expected to independently make use of additional opportunities.

Course Requirements:

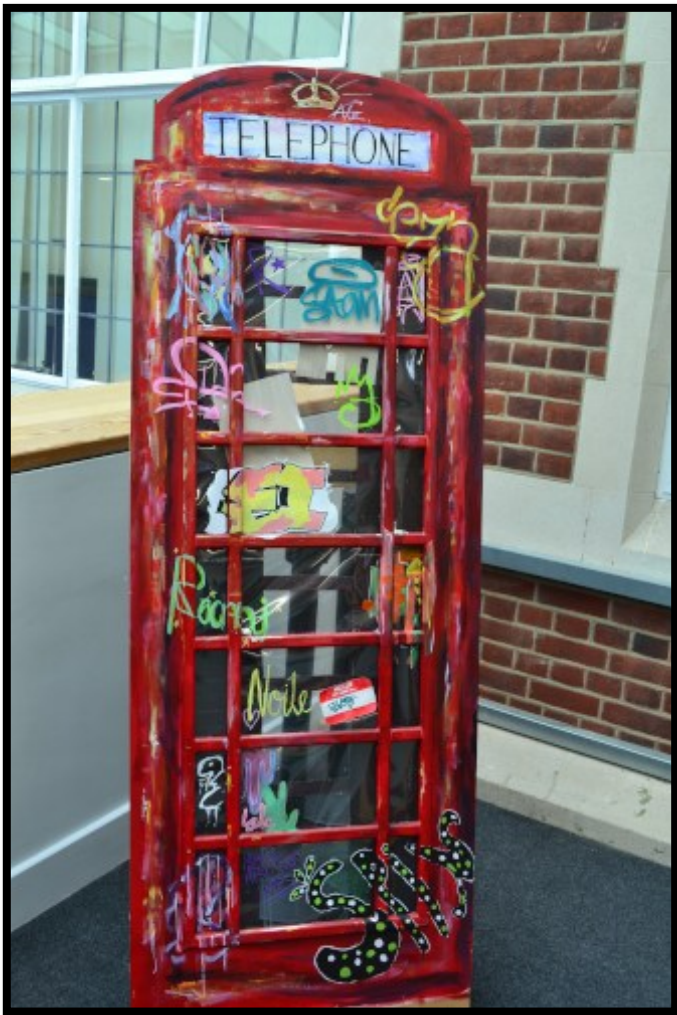
Grade 7 in Art or a portfolio that reflects a similar standard

Assessment:

60% Coursework
40% Examination

Head of Subject:

Mr Vinten



Biology

OCR A – H420

'Idea, Experiment, Discover'

Study A level Biology to unlock the secrets of life; from understanding how the genetic code leads to our characteristics and evolution, to appreciating the complex biochemical processes of respiration and photosynthesis. Use practical work to help visualise cells, tissues and organs, all while developing your analytical and evaluative skills ready for further study or a career in STEM.

Course Requirements:

Grade 7 in Biology OR
77 in Combined Science

Grade 6 in Maths and
English

Assessment:

37% Biological Processes

37% Biological Diversity

26% Unified Biology

AS Examinations

Head of Subject:

Mrs Panter

Course Description:

At OCR A A Level Biology teaches concepts that are common to all living systems, such as homeostasis and evolution. The final examinations require the application of theories learnt and they test ability to think laterally. All recent discoveries are part of the new specification and the content is exciting and challenging. A Level Biology is an excellent facilitating subject which develops a multitude of skills required in the world of work. Our students are inquisitive, mathematical and can communicate effectively. You will however need to be prepared to work hard – there is a huge amount of theory to learn.

Year 1 Key Learning: Exchange and Transport Systems. Cells, Cell Division and Cell Membranes. Biological Molecules, Nucleic Acids and Enzymes. Communicable Diseases. Evolution, Classification and Biodiversity.

Year 2 Key Learning: Photosynthesis. Respiration. Nervous System. Excretion. Manipulating Genomes. Cloning and Biotechnology. Populations and Ecosystems. Animal and Plant Responses. Inheritance.

Into the Future:

Biologists are sought after employees and can find their way into a whole range of industries from pharmaceuticals to conservation. The A Level is also required to access a number of related degree courses including biotechnology, systems biology, synthetic biology, bioinformatics, biomaterial engineering, molecular biology, veterinary science, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, engineering, sport science, biochemistry, marine biology, medicine, dentistry, optometry and neuroscience.

Additional Learning Opportunities:

For Year 12, we run a trip to the Wellcome Genome Campus in Cambridge so students can gain insight from real scientists who work in research. In Year 13 we complete a field trip for all students as an opportunity to put their knowledge of sampling techniques into practice.

Business Studies

AQA — 7138

‘Explore, Distinguish, Succeed’

Business Studies is about learning the different combination of skills required to run a business. It has both an academic and vocational slant to it. It is therefore a popular A level choice which goes well with many other subjects including Psychology, Languages, Science or Art

Course Description:

The difference between Business Studies and Economics is essentially one of outlook. For example, events in the world such as the Ukraine crisis and the consequent increase in global food prices would be looked at in Business Studies in terms of its effects on business' markets and suppliers, i.e. looking at events from the business person's point of view. Business Studies is more interested in how the inputs of business can be organised and managed, in order to empower the business with the flexibility and dynamics needed. In this subject, we study the variables that influence the business internally and externally. Internal factors include personnel management (now called Human Resources), financial management, marketing and operations.

Key Learning: The main requirements for the course are, an interest in business and commerce and a willingness to research using the internet, library and newspaper articles. Modern information and communication technology is an important tool in business. In the course you will learn why and how it is used, as well as developing your own computing skills. The course is of a practical nature and you will also be working with real world case studies involving collecting, calculating and handling data. In Business Studies lessons you will be taking part in discussions and will be expected to undertake presentations. Extensive exam practice is an integral part of student assessments, to enable students to practise key exam skills and techniques and become more effective in their written work. As part of the course, students will study concepts such as globalisation. Students are expected to keep up to date with business events both nationally and internationally.

Into the Future:

The career opportunities are wide and varied from marketing, finance (financial or management), human resources or indeed management science or a combination of one of these with another speciality, (e.g. marketing and design or HR and behavioural psychology). One would expect to join an organisation, having studied this at degree level, at a junior level in management.

Course Requirements:

No experience required of this subject. If GCSE Business or Economics studied, must have obtained Grade 6

Assessment:

3 x two hour examinations

Head of Subject:

Mr MacNamara

Chemistry

AQA — 7405

'Idea, Experiment, Discover'

Chemistry is an exciting and fascinating subject which plays a crucial part in our society's health and prosperity. Chemistry will enable you to develop skills and knowledge and will form a foundation for the study of related subjects or equip you for the world of work.

Course Requirements:

Grade 7 in Chemistry OR
77 in Combined Science

Grade 6 in Maths and
English

Assessment:

A2 Three written exam
papers and the practical
endorsement
AS Two written exam papers

Head of Subject:

Mr Stuart

Course Description:

A Level Chemistry builds on the knowledge and understanding gained at GCSE. Practical work will form an essential element of your course and you will further develop your ability to work safely with chemicals and accurately with equipment. You will study what substances are made of, how substances behave and how substances can be made. Mathematical and problem solving skills will also be important though it is not essential to study A Level Mathematics to be successful in Chemistry at A Level.

Year 1 Key Learning: The consolidation and extension of quantitative chemistry, the use of formulae and equations; understanding of the structure of the atom and chemical bonding and studying the properties of elements across the periodic table and down selected groups. You will explore the diversity of carbon chemistry with an introduction to organic nomenclature and representative reactions of specific groups of organic compounds as well as studying rates of chemical reactions, equilibrium and energy changes in reactions.

Year 2 Key Learning: In addition to the topics studied in Year 12 you will study organic chemistry in more depth, extend your knowledge of functional groups, polymers and spectroscopic methods of structure determination.

Into the Future:

Chemistry, besides being an interesting subject in its own right, opens up the possibility of a wide range of careers, including biochemistry, chemical engineering, forensic science and nursing. For dentistry, medicine and veterinary science, the study of A Level chemistry is an essential requirement at some universities.

Additional Learning Opportunities:

To support classwork and homework, Chemistry workshop, a weekly lunchtime drop-in session is held. To extend learning beyond the specification there are opportunities to take part in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and the RSC Olympiad.

Computer Science

OCR — H446

‘Plan, Code, Debug’

It is an exciting time to be a computer scientist! We are living in the midst of a revolution powered by computers. This revolution has invaded all aspects of society. It is a communication revolution, a transportation revolution, a medical revolution, an entertainment revolution.

Course Description:

Advanced Level Computer Science builds on the knowledge, skills and theory learned in the GCSE. It requires an analytical and creative mind and good programming understanding.

Key Learning:

Students will explore how computers work at a fundamental level, gain a deep understanding of algorithms and programming, and apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios. The course balances theory with practical application, preparing students with the technical and analytical skills that are highly valued in further study and the modern workplace. Course Topics:

- Components of a computer
- Systems software
- Software development
- Exchanging data
- Networks and web development
- Data types
- Data structures
- Boolean algebra
- Legal, moral, ethical and cultural issues
- Computational thinking
- Programming techniques
- Algorithms

Course Requirements:

Grade 7 in Maths
GCSE Computer Science preferred.
Recommend to study A level Maths

Assessment:

80% Written Exam
20% Coursework

Head of Subject:

Mr Booker

DT: Product Design

OCRA – H406

‘Explore, Excite, Excel’

Studying Product Design at this level gives you opportunities to be creative and innovative and offers an excellent progression from GCSE Design and Technology courses. The integration of work related activities and links to the commercial and industrial world are also valuable at this level.

Course Requirements:

Grade 6 in any DT discipline and
Grade 6 in Maths

Assessment:

50% Written Examinations
50% NEA

Head of Subject:

Mr Bortone

Course Description:

You will need to take responsibility for planning and managing your own work as there is a strong coursework component in this subject requiring independent learning and the ability to communicate with others to enhance research techniques. The skills that you will develop in planning and management are essential in Higher Education and are highly valued by employers.

Year 1 Key Learning: Predominantly covering theory content in preparation for the written examination and elements of the non-examined assessment (coursework portfolio). The specification seeks to develop students' knowledge and understanding of, and skills and application in, designing products, identification of and selection of materials and processes. They will also develop their research, analysis skills as well as focussing on wider issues of design and technology, such as social, moral, ethical and environmental impacts.

Year 2 Key Learning: Will mainly consist of completing the NEA (Non-exam assessment) – the portfolio/coursework in which students are required to demonstrate creativity and flair when investigating, designing and making products. At this level students are given the opportunity to apply the skills they have acquired and developed throughout this course of study and are required to produce a substantial design, make and evaluate project which consists of a portfolio and a prototype.

Into the Future:

An A Level in Product Design can lead to many opportunities in Higher Education and careers in industry such as: Graphic Design, Computer Graphics, Art and Design and many other areas requiring creativity, CAD/CAM and communicative skills. Other A Level subjects that will complement this course are Mathematics, the Sciences, Art and Design, or it is a suitable contrast with English, History, Geography and Modern Foreign Languages.

Drama and Theatre Studies

Edexcel — 9DRO

‘Carpe Fabulam, Seize the Play’

The study of Drama and Theatre Arts develops imagination, fosters creativity and promotes personal and social development. It is a challenging and rewarding course.

Course Description:

The A Level Drama and Theatre Studies course offers you the opportunity to extend and develop skills, knowledge and understanding as a performer, designer, director and an informed audience member.

Assessment: The course is divided into three components as follows:

1. Devising, 40% – the students devise a piece and perform it; they record their progress in a portfolio. This is assessed internally with external moderation.
2. Text in Performance, 20% – group performance from a text plus a monologue from another text. This is assessed externally.
3. Theatre Makers in Practice, 40% Exam – The exam will be made up of three sections:

Section A: Students will evaluate a live theatre performance;

Section B: Students will practically explore a set text in order to answer two extended response questions on an extract from it (they will be provided with the extract in the exam);

Section C: Students will interpret a performance text, in light of a practitioner, for a contemporary audience.

Into the Future:

The skills explored throughout the course are valued by both employers and universities. Excellent communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively and creatively with others are central to this course. Past students have gone on to study a range of different courses, including Performing Arts at Mountveiw, Drama and Education at The Central School of Speech and Drama, and humanities degrees at Oxford.

Additional Learning Opportunities:

Throughout the course opportunities are provided to participate in trips both locally and in the West End. Recent performances that candidates have seen include: “The Winter’s Tale” at Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre; “The Tin Drum” by the famous theatre company KneeHigh; “The Unreturning” by Frantic Assembly; “The House of Bernada Alba” at the National Theatre and James Graham’s play “Punch” which won two Oliver Awards.

Course Requirements:

Grade 6 in English
Literature

Assessment:

40% Devising
20% Text in Performance
40% Examination

Head of Subject:

Mrs McDermott

Economics

AQA — 7136

‘Explore, Distinguish, Succeed’

The study of Economics is concerned with the panoramic view – how the different parts of the national and international economy interact and the magnitude and depth of the impact on both the firm and the consumer. It is a subject that will appeal to students who enjoy dynamic thinking, grappling with the conflicts of economic objectives and considering how policies are formulated.

Course Description:

AQA A Level Economics helps you understand how people, businesses and governments decide how to use scarce resources. You will explore real-world issues that affect your everyday life: why prices for trainers or concert tickets rise, how interest rates influence student loans and mortgages, or why some brands dominate the market while others disappear.

The course is split into two main areas:

In Microeconomics, you'll look at how markets work, competition between firms and the reasons for market failure—like the impact of social media companies on privacy.

In Macroeconomics, you'll study the bigger picture: what causes inflation, how government spending affects jobs, or why global events—such as changes in oil prices or new technology—shape the UK economy.

Lessons combine discussion, data analysis and problem-solving, developing your ability to think critically and apply concepts to everyday economic questions.

Into the future

Economics is a highly regarded A level that opens doors to a wide variety of careers. It builds strong analytical and numerical skills valued by employers in finance, banking, accountancy, and business management. The ability to interpret data and evaluate policy decisions is equally valuable in law, politics, journalism and the public sector.

Many students go on to study Economics, Business, or related social sciences at university, while others find it an excellent foundation for degree apprenticeships.

Whatever your chosen path, Economics not only explains the world around you—it equips you to shape it.

Course Requirements:

Grade 7 in English and
Maths

If you have studied Business
or Economics you must have
a Grade 6

Assessment:

Three 2 hour
examinations

Head of Subject:

Mr MacNamara

Engineering

OCR — H404

‘Explore, Create, Evaluate’

Design Engineering focuses on engineered and electronic products/systems with their analysis in respect of: Function, operation, components and materials, with the selection and use of the aforementioned in commercially viable products and systems.

Course Description:

Identifying requirements.
Learning from existing products and practice.
Implications of wider issues.
Design thinking and communication.
Material and component considerations.
Technical understanding.
Manufacturing processes and techniques.
Viability of design solutions.
Health and safety.
Mathematical and scientific knowledge of materials.

Component 01: Principles of Design Engineering

Written examination: 1 hours 30 minutes; 26.7% of the qualification; 80 marks Students will analyse existing products, demonstrate applied mathematical skills and their technical knowledge of materials, product functionality, manufacturing processes and techniques.

Component 02: Problem solving in Design Engineering

Written examination: 1 hours 45 minutes; 23.3% of the qualification; 70 marks Students will apply their knowledge, understanding and skills of designing and manufacturing prototypes and products to given situations and problems.

Component 03/04: Iterative Design Project

Non-examined assessment; 50% of the qualification; 100 marks
Central to this non-examined assessment is the requirement for students to understand and apply processes of iterative designing in their Engineering practice: exploring needs, creating solutions and evaluating how well the needs have been met. Students identify an engaging and challenging context of their own choice that offers design opportunity or problem to respond to in the development of a design solution. They create a chronological portfolio of evidence in real-time as they design, make and evaluate the project according to the iterative processes of explore, create and evaluate.

Course Requirements:

Grade 6 in any DT
discipline or
Grade 6 in Maths or
Physics

Assessment:

50% Examination
50% NEA

Head of Subject:

Mr Bortone

English Language and Literature

AQA — 7707

‘Awaken, Articulate, Analyse’

Learning to integrate literary and linguistic approaches is a skill which is transferable the world over. The ability to recognize correct grammatical nuances and then analyse writers’ techniques are all covered in this course. You will find the study of speech new and refreshing as you consider the language we use in both casual and formal settings, together with the effect of modern life on how we communicate.

Course Description:

You should consider this course if you have enjoyed GCSE English and would like to continue studying a wide range of texts while also developing your own writing. This combined course is based on using stylistic and linguistic methods, as well as literary ideas, as a tool for analysis and for creative writing. The A Level is divided into a range of topics which allow for a detailed study of a range of writing to challenge and inspire students. In preparation for Paper 1 of the A Level examination, ‘Telling Stories’, students are introduced to the concept of why and how stories are told, and why they are valuable within societies. The three units for this three hour examination are: ‘Remembered Places’ – a study of an anthology of non-fiction writing, computer mediated communication and spoken language transcripts about representations of the city of Paris; ‘Imagined Worlds’ – a study of ‘Frankenstein’ by Mary Shelley; ‘Poetic Voices’ – a selection of poetry by Seamus Heaney. This is an open book examination and is worth 40% of the overall grade. In preparation for Paper 2 of the A Level examination, ‘Exploring Conflict’, students will study two texts in readiness for a 2 hour and 30 minute examination. For Section A, students will study ‘The Great Gatsby’ by F. Scott Fitzgerald – and create a piece of personal writing based on an extract from the novel. They will then write a commentary explaining the stylistic choices they have made in their response. For Section B, students will study ‘All My Sons’ by Arthur Miller and will analyse a given extract from the play, exploring how Miller uses language to shape meaning and themes. This is an open book examination and is worth 40% of the overall grade. The final 20% of the overall grade is a personal investigation exploring and comparing specific techniques or themes in a literary and a non-literary discourse. This takes the form of a 2500– 3000 word essay and is internally assessed.

Course Requirements:

A minimum of one Grade 6 and one Grade 7 in English Language and Literature

Assessment:

2 x Examinations
1 x Personal Investigation

Head of Subject:

Mrs Wright

English Literature

Edexcel — 9ETO

‘Awaken, Articulate, Analyse’

If you have a passion for reading, like to examine human nature and love discussing your views, ideas and opinions, this is the course for you. You will be able to broaden your experience of reading, are encouraged to be independent thinkers and develop your skills of analysis and communication.

Course Description:

The A Level course builds on the essay writing and discussion skills acquired at GCSE, leading to building skills in critical debate about literary texts. Texts have been chosen to engage and challenge students, making this an exciting course which will encourage a perceptive approach to the role of literature in society. The A Level is taught in three components, together with a non-examined assessment unit.

For Component 1, Drama and Tragedy, students will study ‘Hamlet’ or ‘Othello’ by William Shakespeare and ‘A Streetcar Named Desire’ by Tennessee Williams. This examination is 2 hours 15 minutes long and candidates will write a response to two essay questions incorporating critical reading and context. For Component 2, Prose and The Supernatural, Oscar Wilde’s novel, ‘A Picture of Dorian Gray’ and Bram Stoker’s ‘Dracula’ will be explored and compared. Candidates will sit a 1 hour 15 minute examination responding to one comparative question. For Component Three, students will study a selection of poems from Philip Larkin’s collection, ‘The Less Deceived,’ and poetry from Edexcel’s, ‘Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry 2002–2011’. They will consider the concerns and choices of modern-day poets in a selection of contemporary poems. The examination is 2 hours 15 minutes and students will have to write a comparative essay.

The Non-Examined assessment will allow students to explore two texts of their choice. The selected texts may be linked by theme, movement, author or period. Literary study of both texts should be enhanced by study of the links and connections between them, different interpretations and the contexts in which they were written and received.

Course Requirements:

A minimum of one Grade 6 and one Grade 7 in English Language and Literature

Assessment:

30% Component One

20% Component Two

30% Component Three

20% NEA

Head of Subject:

Mrs Wright

French

Edexcel – 9FRO

‘Connecting Cultures, Opening Doors, Broadening Horizons’

Studying a Modern Foreign Language will enable you to develop a range of skills which will equip you for both employment and higher education. This is a challenging but stimulating course and the practical and academic skills acquired during the course will serve you well in the future.

Course Requirements:

Grade 7 in French

Assessment:

1 x Oral Exam

2 x Written Papers

Head of Subject:

Mrs Piper

Course Description:

The course content will help you to develop the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening across a broad range of topic areas by studying the contemporary society and history of countries where the target language is spoken. Students will need to be able to develop independence in their language learning and learn to express their own ideas and opinions convincingly in both the written and spoken language. By focusing on authentic texts and materials students will also be able to enhance their comprehension when listening or reading the foreign language in context. Pupils will also learn how to translate into and out of French.

Year 1 Learning: Concentrated on the study of social issues and trends in France, including family, education and working life; and the political and artistic culture in Francophone countries, including music, festivals and customs, and the media. Pupils will build on the grammar of the language in order that they may express themselves accurately in both written and spoken language. We will begin studying a film and a literary text.

Year 2 Learning: Students will study a broader range of social and political issues and a historical study of the Occupation of France. We consolidate their studies of the book and film in preparation for the final examination and pupils also undertake an independent research project in preparation for their oral exam.

Additional Learning Opportunities:

Students can study AS French in addition to another 3 or 4 A levels, sitting their examination at the end of Year 12.

Geography

AQA — 7037

‘Geography is a subject which holds the key to our future’ – Michael Palin

The world is constantly changing; studying Geography will give you the necessary skills to understand these changes. It will also give you the ability to demonstrate a wide range of transferable skills including extended writing, graphical skills, cartographical skills, statistics and research techniques.

Course Description:

Geography is the study of the dynamic physical environment and the ways in which human activity can modify and manage it. Geography allows us to investigate the world as it is today and understand change in the human and physical environment.

Key Learning: The course has an equal balance of physical and a human Geography. Some topics will be quite familiar and expand on GCSE knowledge whilst others will offer new and exciting ways of considering the world we live in. Physical topics include the water and carbon cycles, coasts and tectonic and meteorological hazards. The human Geography course has units on globalisation, changing places and population and the environment. There will also be a compulsory field visit that will culminate in the writing of an individual investigation based on data collected on the trip.

Additional Learning Opportunities:

There will be 4 days compulsory fieldwork for students opting for A level Geography which is currently a residential to Nettlecombe court, Somerset. If you are in receipt of a benefit which exempts you from paying for school trips please contact the trips administrator.

Into the Future:

Geography is accepted as a standard A Level for university entrance in a wide variety of subjects. Taken with Science, Psychology or Mathematics, Geography supports a wide range of university courses such as Environmental Science or Engineering. If taken with History, English or a language you can have access to university courses in Law, or the Media.

Course Requirements:

Grade 6 in Geography

Assessment:

80% Examination

20% NEA

Head of Subject:

Mrs Wiltshire

History

Edexcel – 9HIO

‘Reflect on the past; understand the present’

‘Historians are taught to sift evidence and to judge people. That is not a bad recipe for management generally’ (Daphne Park, former principal of Somerville College, Oxford and member of the Secret Intelligence Services).

Course Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE History

Assessment:

3 x Written Papers

1 x NEA

Head of Subject:

Mrs Brook

Course Description:

Success in A Level History requires enthusiasm, intellectual ability and hard work. You are expected to think for yourself in class discussion as well as on paper. History at A Level is essentially analytical. You will have to write essays which require reading about, making notes on, thinking about and making sense of historical problems. You will also learn how to read historical documents and practise interpreting them. You should emerge from A Level History with a greater understanding of human behaviour and of how our society has been shaped by the past.

Year 1 Key Learning: In Year 12 students cover their “Themes and Interpretations” paper, which deals with a period of Russian history from 1917–1991 (Lenin to Yeltsin) and a “Study in Depth” paper which deals with Mao’s China from 1949 to 1976. Students are then introduced to their coursework unit.

Year 2 Key Learning: Year 13 is made up of one further paper, which returns to British History to study Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399 – 1509. Students will also complete their coursework.

Into the Future:

A Level History is a very good preparation for a wide variety of careers, from business and administration to law, journalism, and teaching. Many Westcliff students have gone on to study History at university, either on its own or in combination with another subject.

Law

AQA — 7162

‘Liberty, Truth, Justice’

Law is a highly respected A level to study at Westcliff High School for Girls. As a subject it can provide a good platform for further legal study at university or give you a stimulating subject to study within the Sixth Form

Course Description:

The course covers an overview of how the English legal system works as well as looking at specific areas of civil, criminal and human rights law.

Paper 1 Key Learning: The nature of law, the English legal system and criminal law. This includes rules and principles concerning general elements of criminal liability and liability for offences against the person, property offences and attempt. We look at key people who work in the court system such as judges, barristers and solicitors; the court system and the type of cases dealt with; how laws are made and why law changes; the criminal law of assault, battery, Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) and Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH). You will study criminal law in depth including topics such as murder and manslaughter. The desire to get involved in debates and mock trials is essential.

Paper 2 Key Learning: The nature of law and the English legal system and tort. This includes rules and principles concerning liability and fault in actions for negligence, occupiers' liability, nuisance and vicarious liability.

Paper 3 Key Learning: The nature of law and the English legal system and Human Rights. This includes rules and principles of law relating to the right to life, to liberty and security of person, to privacy, to freedom of expression, and to freedom of assembly and association, as recognised by the European Convention on Human Rights and in the United Kingdom.

Additional Learning Opportunities:

Students have visited the "The Royal Courts of Justice" and Parliament to enact a historical court case The Brighton Trunk Murder. The school also partakes in the annual Giles Wilson Mooting competition. Guest speakers such as Barristers and Solicitors come in to support our law students with careers advice giving insights in to their role.

Course Requirements:

Grade 6 in English

Assessment:

3 x Two Hour Papers

Head of Subject:

Mrs Gildea

Mathematics

Edexcel – 9MA0

‘Creativity, Reasoning, Perseverance’

Have you wondered how mathematics fits into the context of our daily lives? Studying Mathematics at this level gives you the opportunity to see how. Building on and extending GCSE knowledge you will be introduced to new ideas and methods which will give you the skills and knowledge to solve problems found in daily life.

Course

Requirements:

Grade 7 in Mathematics

Assessment:

3 x Two Hour
Examinations

AS Examinations

Head of Subject:

Mrs Ferguson

&

Mrs Wimsett

Course Description:

The A Level course for Mathematics consists of three elements – Pure Mathematics (compulsory element), Statistics and Mechanics.

Pure Mathematics: This course covers algebra, trigonometry, coordinate geometry and series. You will study the ideas of calculus to a high level, initially looking at gradients of graphs and areas under graphs. Many of the ideas in pure mathematics form an important foundation for the other branches of mathematics.

Statistics: Learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to draw conclusions from it. Many of the ideas you will meet in this part of the course have applications in a wide area of other fields.

Mechanics: How do we describe the motion of objects and their response to forces acting upon them, from cars in the street to satellites revolving around a planet? Based on simple mathematical models, there are two main disciplines: Statics which looks at the mathematics of objects which are stationary and Dynamics which deals with how objects move and why they move in particular ways.

Into the Future:

A Level Mathematics is a much sought after qualification for entry to a wide variety of courses in Higher Education including Engineering, Economics, Medicine, Accountancy, Psychology and Computing. There are also many areas of employment that regard an A Level in Mathematics as an important qualification.

Further Mathematics

Edexcel — 9FMO

‘Creativity, Reasoning, Perseverance’

Do you love solving challenging mathematical problems? Studying Further Mathematics can open your eyes to the elegance and structure of mathematics in the world around you. It complements other STEM subjects and is highly valued by universities and employers. Building on A Level Mathematics, this course introduces new concepts and techniques that will deepen your understanding and broaden your mathematical skillset.

Course Description:

The A Level Further Mathematics course consists of compulsory Core Pure Mathematics modules and two additional units: Further Pure Mathematics and Further Mechanics.

In Core Pure Mathematics, students explore advanced mathematical ideas such as complex numbers, limits, matrices, and alternative coordinate systems beyond Cartesian geometry. The course also delves deeper into series, vectors, proof, and calculus. These topics allow students to model real-world scenarios using algebra, geometry, and calculus. A solid foundation in A Level Mathematics is essential, as this module builds on and extends those techniques.

Further Pure Mathematics deepens theoretical understanding through the study of conic sections, including hyperbolas, parabolas, and ellipses. Students also investigate more advanced calculus, series, vectors, inequalities, and numerical methods. This module equips learners with powerful tools to solve a wider variety of mathematical problems and enhances their analytical thinking.

Further Mechanics focuses on the mathematics of motion and forces. Students examine the effects of forces, momentum, energy, and elasticity, and learn how to model collisions—including oblique impacts—while considering how objects restore their shape and transfer energy. This module helps students apply mathematical models to real-world physics problems and understand the principles behind physical interactions.

Into the Future:

An A Level in Further Mathematics can significantly enhance your university applications, especially for competitive courses such as Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, Computer Science, and Economics. It demonstrates a strong aptitude for abstract thinking, problem-solving, and analytical reasoning. Compared to standard A Level Mathematics, Further Mathematics provides a deeper and broader understanding of mathematical concepts, which can give you a head start in degree-level study and make the transition to university smoother.

Course Requirements:

Grade 8 in Mathematics

Grade A at the end of Year
12 in A level Mathematics

Assessment:

3 x Two Hour Papers

Head of Subject:

Mrs Ferguson

&

Mrs Wimsett

Music

Eduqas (WJEC)

‘If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician’ – Albert Einstein

Studying A Level Music at WHSG will give you the opportunity to join a very busy and vibrant department. It will provide a good platform for developing your leadership and musicianship skills, as well as giving you a stimulating practical, and academic subject to study within the 6th Form.

Course Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE Music, at least Grade 5 standard on one instrument and a good level of understanding of music theory

Assessment:

60% NEA

40% Examination

Head of Subject:

Mr Peugniez

Course Description:

Key Learning:

The AS/A Level Music course will provide you with the opportunity to broaden your musical experiences and interests, develop your imagination, foster creativity and communicate effectively as a musician. The course is divided into three components (majoring in either performance or composition by Year 13):

Component 1 Performance: You will explore musical styles, the musical elements, interpretations and expression. You will perform as a soloist and/or as part of an ensemble on your chosen instrument(s) and/or voice as part of a short recital. You will be further supported by the school with free, individual music tuition for 30 minutes a week.

Component 2 Composition: You will demonstrate the manipulation of musical ideas, and the use of musical devices and conventions, to compose to a brief plus one or two free choice compositions. The Department is very well equipped with music technology software (iMacs | Sibelius | Logic Pro X) to support you in the creation and presentation of music.

Component 3 Listening and Appraising: You will develop your aural awareness, musical vocabulary and academic study of music history, harmony and theory, appraising contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music. This will include the western classical tradition with a focus on the development of the symphony, music at the turn of and into the 20th century, and either the development of rock and pop or musical theatre.

Into the Future:

A Level Music carries an academic status and is an essential prerequisite for most Music related university and higher education courses. The course is also a fantastic opportunity and an entirely suitable choice for those who do not intend to further their studies in Music beyond 6th form level. Past students have gone on to study Music at various conservatoires and universities.

Additional Learning Opportunities:

Students are required to participate in our busy extra-curricular programme by playing in and leading ensembles, performing at concerts, and supporting the department at school events.

Physics

AQA — 7408

‘Idea, Experiment, Discover’

Physics is the most fundamental of the sciences. It is the study of the universe developing mathematical models to explain our observations and predict new phenomena. Increased study time at A level allows students a much deeper understanding of classical Physics and gives a glimpse at the more complex world of modern Physics.

Course Description:

Studying Physics develops your ability to analyse and solve problems theoretically and practically in many situations. It develops your ability to comprehend and communicate ideas orally and in writing and enables you to translate information to and from prose, graphs, numerical data and diagrams. A Level Physics is a good preparation for nearly every career because it teaches you to think clearly and analytically. The new specification is divided into topics covering the key theories of Physics.

Year 1 Key Learning: In Year 1 students will examine physical measurement, classical mechanics, circuits, particle physics, waves, and quantum phenomena.

Year 2 Key Learning: In Year 2 students delve deeper into Physics, examining simple harmonic motion, fields, thermal physics, nuclear processes and astrophysics. Practical work: This is embedded in the teaching approach, generally once per week in Year 12 and Year 13.

Into the Future:

Students have gone on to read Physics, Engineering, Medicine, Computer Science, Business and many other areas. Physics students go on to work in a wide variety of fields, from Engineering to Finance, due to the depth and breadth of skills they develop.

Additional Learning Opportunities :

Students are expected to take advantage of at least one of the following sessions on a regular basis. They are designed to either support their class work or extend their learning beyond the A-level specification; lunchtime Physics Café, Physics mentoring for lower school students and/or the Physics Olympiad. Trips: We aim to run trips to CERN and a variety of other locations throughout the course. Students can also work towards winning an entry to the Senior Physics challenge as a reward for commitment and ability in problem solving on Isaac Physics.

Course Requirements:

Grade 7 in Physics OR
77 in Combined Science

Grade 7 in Maths and
Grade 6 in English

Assessment:

A2 Three written exam
papers and the practical
endorsement

AS Two written exam
papers

Head of Subject:

Mr Bishop

Physical Education

AQA—7582

‘Performance, Physiology, Passion’

Studying A-Level PE is ideal for students passionate about sport, fitness, and human performance. It provides a strong foundation for careers in sports science, physiotherapy, coaching, teaching, and more. The course develops critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills, making it a valuable qualification for higher education and beyond.

Course Description:

Key Learning:

The AQA A-Level PE course provides an in-depth exploration of the scientific, psychological, and socio-cultural factors that influence sports performance. It combines theoretical knowledge with practical application, allowing students to develop a comprehensive understanding of physical education and its impact on individuals and society.

Year 1 Key Learning (Paper 1):

- Applied Anatomy & Physiology – Understanding the body's response to exercise, energy systems, and biomechanics.
- Skill Acquisition – Examining how athletes learn and refine skills for optimal performance.
- Sport & Society – Exploring the historical, social, and ethical influences on sport and participation.

Year 2 Key Learning (Paper 2):

- Exercise Physiology & Biomechanics – Investigating training methods, injury prevention, and the effects of lifestyle choices.
- Sport Psychology – Understanding motivation, confidence, group dynamics, and mental preparation techniques.
- Sport & Society and Technology in Sport – Evaluating the role of data analysis, equipment, and technology in modern sports performance.

Course

Requirements:

Grade 6 in English and Maths
Grade 6 in Biology or 66 in Combined Science
If GCSE PE studied, a Grade 7 is desirable

Assessment:

35% Written Paper 1
35% Written Paper 2
30% Practical Performance in one sport, and a written coursework analysis.

Head of Subject:

Mrs Sadgrove



Into the Future:

A-Level PE opens the door to a diverse range of opportunities in both higher education and careers within the sports, health, and fitness industries. It provides a strong foundation for degrees in sports science, physiotherapy, biomechanics, nutrition, and psychology, leading to careers such as sports coaching, physiotherapy, PE teaching, personal training, and sports management. Beyond traditional sports roles, it also offers pathways into areas like rehabilitation, sports journalism, and data analysis. The skills gained—such as problem-solving, leadership, and communication—are highly transferable, making A-Level PE a valuable qualification for students looking to work in dynamic, people-focused industries where sport, health, and performance intersect.



Politics

Edexcel—9PLO

‘Change The World’

Politics focuses on power and action. Whoever, or whichever, group has power therefore controls society and inevitably us. Consequently we must aim to find out how UK politics and international politics operate. Scrutinizing processes, institutions, parties, prime ministers, nation-states and organizations gains understanding of the world today

Course Requirements:

Grade 6 in History or
Geography or Grade 6 in
English

Assessment:

3 x Written Examinations

Head of Subject:

Mr Cottee

Course Description:

You need to have a keen interest in current affairs, a willingness to defend your view against your fellows and an inquisitive character in order to distinguish between fact and politicians' rhetoric. Good research abilities are essential along with good writing skills. The course will develop your understanding and evaluation of political ideas, influences and processes, and how these are applied to current society. You will also acquire a critical analytical approach to issues and controversies: a skill that will later serve you well at university and in your subsequent career. Furthermore, you will increase your knowledge and understanding of societal structures and institutions along with analysis of international comparisons. Politics will stimulate and challenge your perceptions and evaluation skills.

Component 1 Key Learning: UK Politics - introduces the main concepts of politics - the State, democracy and citizenship, dictatorship, electoral systems, parties, ideologies, and voting behaviour - we ask the question, how democratic is the UK?

Component 2 Key Learning: UK Government - explores governing the UK which examines the effectiveness of government institutions - the role of Parliament, Prime Minister, Cabinet, and the constitution. An optional ideologies unit is studied too. Is Rishi Sunak an elected dictator?

Component 3 Key Learning: Component 3 Key Learning: US Politics - students will study the major roles and functions of the US Constitution and the Federal system, Congress including the Senate and House of Representatives, the responsibilities, powers and personalities of the US Presidency, the role of the Supreme Court including an in-depth study of their impact on US Civil Rights and the history and role of the major political parties; the Republicans and the Democrats. This Unit will also cover comparative questions between UK Politics and US Politics, for example, the ways in which US interest groups and UK pressure groups differ or the different checks and balances performed by Congress vs Parliament.

Psychology

AQA — 7182

‘Observation, Imitation, Reinforcement’

The subject of Psychology holds a natural fascination for many. It helps you to understand the behaviour of others and you may even come to better understand yourself.

Course Description:

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour and is applicable to all areas of life. Psychologists work in education and child development, in clinical work dealing with mental illness, in the courtroom acting as expert witnesses, in industry helping to increase the effectiveness of organisations or improve the job satisfaction of workers and in universities researching into every branch of human behaviour.

Component 1: Within this component you will study Social Influence, looking at conformity and obedience; Memory including eyewitness testimony; Attachment and relevant theories, and Clinical Psychology and Mental Health including phobias, depression and obsessive compulsive disorder.

Component 2: Here you will study psychological theories that underpin explanations of human behaviour; Biopsychology including the functioning of brain and nervous systems. You will also study Research Methods including quantitative and qualitative methods and the use of statistical analysis in Psychology.

Component 3: This consists of Issues and Debates in Psychology; Gender, including the influence of biology, cognition and culture; Schizophrenia and its symptoms, causes and treatments and Addiction; including biological and psychological explanations for the initiation and maintenance of such behaviour and why people relapse after a period of abstinence.

Additional Learning Opportunities :

You will learn about important theories and research in Psychology and how to evaluate these. Group discussion in lesson also forms an important aspect of the subject. The department is also proud of its active Psychology Society where students gain an appreciation of the discipline beyond the specification.

Course Requirements:

Grade 6 in English and Maths.

Grade 6 in Biology or 66 in Combined Science

Assessment:

3 x Examinations

Head of Subject:

Mr Barnes

Religious Studies

AQA —7062

‘Think, Question, Challenge’

If you are someone who likes to explore concepts like ‘right and wrong’ and ‘what is real’, then this course will appeal to you. Equally if you are interested in human beings, what we are, why we are here and ultimate purpose, then you should strongly consider this course.

Course Description:

If you enjoy debate, argument and thinking about the big issues then this is the course for you. This course takes a philosophical approach to Religious Studies, helping you to develop critical and analytical skills. There is no need for you to have a religious belief in order to succeed in this course.

Course Requirements:

Grade 7 in Religious Studies (or similar subject) and Grade 7 in English

Assessment:

2 x Three Hour Examinations

Head of Subject:

Mr Morgan

Ethics and Philosophy: Through Ethics you will study some of the classic approaches to moral decision making and key moral principles. This will include the ethical theories of Utilitarianism, Virtue Ethics and deontological approaches such as those proposed by Kant, in addition to core Christian approaches to ethics. The meaning of conscience is studied, analysed and evaluated as a means of choosing the right thing to do, and the course also looks at free-will, its definitions, and whether it is real or an illusion. Moreover, you will have opportunity to evaluate the importance of responsibility. You will apply learning to issues relating to human and nonhuman life, such as cloning and blood sports. In terms of Philosophy you will explore arguments for the existence of God, the topic of miracles, evil, and the nature of the self, as well as linguistic philosophy and its take on religious language and assertions.

Religion: This element of the course explores key Christian beliefs and practices in detail, and includes the study of areas such as: wisdom and authority, gender, secularisation, and science and religion, amongst others. You will consider the nature of human existence from a Christian perspective and questions relating to life and death. Ultimately, you will be expected to be familiar with the relationship between philosophy, ethics and Christianity and a range of perspectives about these relationships. All of these areas will be considered from personal, religious, secular and philosophical points of view. You will also be expected to make links between different aspects of the A Level. Throughout the course you will use a range of learning styles, and you will learn how to approach writing philosophical responses. You will learn how to construct effective arguments, write coherent essays and make full use of examples.

Sociology

AQA — 7192

‘Culture, Identity, Society’

This fascinating subject covers all aspects of modern life on the planet. The study of society – how it works, why it works and how it can change, is relevant to us all.

Course Description:

Sociology is the systematic study of groups of people in society. This course looks at the various influences on the individual and how socialisation into a culture impacts on their identity. Studying Sociology will enable you to consider the impact that institutions and agencies such as the Government, Media, Education and the Criminal Justice System have on our behaviour. An integral part of your study of each topic area will be an appreciation of sociological theories, perspectives and the methods used by sociologists, as well as their associated strengths and limitations.

Component 1: Within this component you will study ‘Education with Theory and Methods’ where you will learn about sociological research into a variety of social issues within education such as why some children succeed in the education system and some do not. You will also apply sociological research methods to the study of education.

Component 2: Here you will apply your understanding of the core themes to two topic areas in Sociology. ‘Culture and Identity’ and ‘Stratification and Differentiation’. In ‘Culture and Identity’ you will assess how self and identity is constructed. In addition, you will evaluate the concept of culture and the interplay between cultures, such as high and low culture. In ‘Stratification and Differentiation’ you will assess the impact of social class, gender, ability and ethnicity on life chances and the problems with addressing and defining poverty in the UK. This topic is highly contemporary and relevant to current sociological discussion.

Component 3 In this component you will study Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods. Here you will look at explanations for rises in particular crimes over the past 50 years and patterns of offending amongst certain groups differentiated by age, gender, ethnicity or social class. You will also examine core sociological debates, such as action vs structure.

Course

Requirements:

Grade 6 in English and
Grade 6 in a humanities
subject

Assessment:

3 x Two Hour
Examinations

Head of Subject:

Mr Barnes

Spanish

Edexcel –9SPO

‘Connecting Culture, Opening Doors, Broadening Horizons’

Studying a Modern Foreign Language will enable you to develop a range of skills which will equip you for both employment and higher education. This is a challenging but stimulating course and the practical and academic skills acquired during the course will serve you well in the future.

Course Description:

The course content will help you to develop the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening across a broad range of topic areas by studying the contemporary society and history of countries where the target language is spoken. Students will need to be able to develop independence in their language learning and learn to express their own ideas and opinions convincingly in both the written and spoken language. By focusing on authentic texts and materials students will also be able to enhance their comprehension when listening or reading the foreign language in context. Students will also learn how to translate into and out of Spanish.

Year 1 Key Learning: Concentrated on the study of social issues and trends in Spain, including family, tourism and working life; and the political and artistic culture in Hispanic countries, including music, festivals and customs, and the media. Students will build on the grammar of the language in order that they may express themselves accurately in both written and spoken language. We will begin studying a film and a literary text.

Year 2 Key Learning: Students will study a broader range of social and political issues and a historical study of the Franco dictatorship. We consolidate their studies of the book and film in preparation for the final examination and students also undertake an independent research project in preparation for their oral exam.

Additional Learning Opportunities :

Students can study AS Spanish in addition to another 3 or 4 A levels, sitting their examination at the end of Year 12.

Course Requirements:

Grade 7 in Spanish

Assessment:

1 x Oral Exam

2 x Written Examination

Head of Subject:

Mrs Piper

EPQ

AQA – EPQ7993

‘Choose, Research, Realise and Present’

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) has proved to be popular with students and teachers alike. It provides an opportunity for students to extend their abilities beyond the A Level syllabus, stand out and prepare for university or their future career. Students applying for vocational courses in the future, (e.g: veterinary medicine) have found an EPQ related to their course has been particularly useful. Many students also use their EPQ as a way of showing their chosen university that they have a real passion for a subject. It can also be used to earn extra UCAS points.

Course Description:

Students develop an initial idea for a project they may wish to carry out and then discuss their ideas with their supervisor (a teacher at the school). They initially carry out some research to enable them to develop their ideas sufficiently in order to make a formal project proposal that includes their project aims, initial plans and likely format in which to present their project: This is all included in a form called the Production Log. On completion, students are required to give a presentation which should be for a non-specialist audience using media appropriate to the type of project. This could take a number of forms including slides for a large audience, contributing to a poster session or exhibition, or a witnessed one-to-one 'viva' presentation to the supervisor.

The presentation must include a live question and answer session overseen by the supervisor. Students complete the Production Log as they carry out their projects to record the following key information:

- planning review meeting with the supervisor following project approval
- mid-project and end of project review with the supervisor
- summary and evaluation of the project
- a record of the presentation
- reflection on the complete project process

The EPQ will be completed across Year 12.

Into the Future:

The projects should be at A Level standard at the end of the period of study and so an A* grade is available. Some universities will make lower offers to students for a completed EPQ (A grade). It is also an excellent way of showing an interest in a degree course that is either not taught at A Level or a way of showing that students have looked beyond A Level syllabuses.

Course Requirements:

EPQ can be taken by any student alongside either 3 or 4 A levels.

Assessment:

Completed Production Log, Project and Presentation are all assessed by the designated supervisor

Leadership



Enrichment



Scholarship



Kindness

