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INTRODUCTION TO THE SIXTH FORM

We hope that the two years you will spend in the sixth form will be stimulating, challenging and rewarding. Much greater independence is offered to, and expected from you, both in terms of academic study and within daily life at school. Also there are many opportunities for you to assume positions of responsibility either within your year group, house or extra-curricular activities, many of which at this stage are organised jointly with the sixth form of the grammar school. Whether it is organising the balls, helping with year 7 induction days, co-ordinating Amnesty International or the Voluntary Service Unit (VSU), directing house events or simply devising and delivering new initiatives we expect that you will all be busy, stretched and fulfilled. It is a continuation of school life but not at all the same, the changes you will experience in the style of teaching and learning and the tutorial system and collaborating with Loughborough Grammar School will prepare you for the challenges of moving to university life.

All sixth form students follow a curriculum which is made up of a combination of AS and A2 examinations. Most Advanced Subsidiary subjects (AS) comprise two units, which are taken mostly at the end of year 12, although a few subjects take their first unit in the January of year 12. We expect the vast majority of our students to opt to study four subjects at AS with critical thinking or enrichment lessons in subjects which augment your AS subjects in preparation for university study. The AS units are taught with an allocation of nine periods per subject. We recommend that these subjects should complement each other and should not be too narrowly focused. AS General Studies is taken by all students in the January of their year 13 studies with the option of taking the A2 in June with other A2s.

In year 13 most students opt to take three A2 subjects. Most subjects comprise a further two units and these A2 units will be taught with an allocation of ten periods per subject. All subjects currently offered at GCSE are available at AS and A2. Additionally, business studies, classical civilisation, computing, PE, politics, psychology, sociology, theatre studies, are offered at both AS and A2 providing there is sufficient demand (that is at least five girls or five girls and boys jointly and it can be accommodated into the timetable of the two schools - a group of fewer than five students wishing to take a subject would not be deemed economically viable). All science subjects are available to all girls whether they have taken science and additional science or biology, chemistry and physics at GCSE.

Discussion with relevant staff may make it be possible for certain humanities subjects **not** taken at GCSE to be studied at AS and then A2 such as history and religious studies. This depends on individual circumstances. The school directs whether exams and retakes should be taken at the session in January or June; the cost of the entry fee for each subject taken will be added to the relevant term's fee bill.

We encourage students to consult with the careers department during year 12 about A2 subject choices and ultimately higher education courses. We recommend that subject choices should be made in the light of discussions with the careers teachers, and that choices which are made play to genuine strengths and interests. It is never possible for students to request to be taught by specific subject staff as the demands of the timetable do not allow for this.

Admission to the sixth form depends on a sound performance in GCSE; we expect our students to gain at least 5 grade Bs or higher at GCSE in order to be admitted to the sixth form, achieving good grades (i.e. an A/A*) in the subjects chosen for AS/A2 where applicable. Students wishing to study biology, chemistry, economics, psychology or physics must have at least a B grade in GCSE maths and have studied the higher tier content. To study a modern language at AS you need to have achieved at least an A at GCSE.

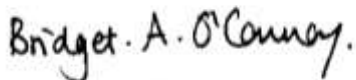
Life in the sixth form demands a commitment to work, self discipline, good time management, energy and a sincere interest in the subjects you have decided to study. There will be time every week when you are expected to use the library and resources room to work independently, to

research topics outside the taught specification. This more independent style of study is a preparation for life at university. Those who study modern languages will be expected to take time to listen to tapes in the language listening area (Rokeby) and watch videos and satellite TV in the target languages as well as attending an oral lesson with the language assistant. All sixth formers taking French/German/Spanish have the opportunity to take part in a homestay visit which is very valuable if you intend to study modern languages at university.

The sixth form is a fantastic time for the development of self and intellectual curiosity. At this school the staff is always pleased to engage in debate, offer help, suggest reading and support initiatives - the advice offered by one of the recent group of year 13 leavers rings very true "Keep on top of the work, make the most of all the opportunities and enjoy all of it, because it goes quickly!".

This booklet contains information on all the courses currently on offer in the sixth form. We try to timetable students' choices as far as possible but occasionally the options do not fit and we will ask you to select an alternative subject. To enable the option lines to be created and the staffing to be assessed, we would like the options form completed and returned by the date indicated (or in the case of external candidates, with your acceptance of the provisional place offered). Please use the advice available from the careers department, heads of department, subject teachers and form staff when making your decisions.

We are looking forward to you entering the sixth form here and truly "enjoying it and making the most of it". We know that you are going to thrive in the sixth form at Loughborough High School and will be prepared for university life and beyond.



Bridget A O'Connor
Headmistress

INTRODUCTION TO THE SIXTH FORM

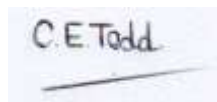
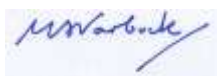
Joining the sixth form at Loughborough High School marks the start of the next stage in your education. It is an exciting time, full of new challenges and opportunities, during which you make the transition from school pupil to independent learner. The subjects that you choose should be ones that you really enjoy, as it is a time of intensive study. You will have the opportunity to explore ideas in greater depth than ever before, using the many resources available to you. You will develop a new relationship with your teachers, who are there to direct you in your studies and to help you to achieve your full potential.

More than this, the sixth form will give you the opportunity to develop new interests and engage in a variety of extra-curricular activities. There are many clubs and societies for sixth form students, some of which run jointly with Loughborough Grammar School. If you enjoy music, you may like to join the senior choir, or one of the many instrumental groups offered by the music school. You may wish to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, play in a sports team, write articles for the magazine, or express your views in the debating society. Whatever your interests, there is something for everyone.

You will also be given the opportunity to organise clubs and societies for younger pupils, which will help to develop leadership and communication skills. In the sixth form, you are expected to set a good example to younger members of the school. You will have more freedom and certain privileges, but these demand from you more responsibility, greater self-discipline and personal integrity. It is these qualities we look for in our prefects.

During the two years you spend here, you will be thinking about your plans for higher education and future employment. It is essential that you take advantage of all the information and advice offered by the careers department. You will be encouraged to attend university open days, taster courses and careers talks, and to undertake relevant work experience where appropriate. Most of you will apply for admission to university in year 13 and you will be guided through the UCAS application procedure.

Your time in the sixth form should enable you to develop both intellectually and socially. We hope that you will achieve considerable academic success, and acquire the confidence to enter the adult world as a responsible citizen. The sixth form will enable you to practise the skills that you will need when you leave school, whilst still having the support of your teachers and friends. We look forward to overseeing your development, sharing in your progress and celebrating your achievements.



Mr M Starbuck Miss C E Todd
Co-Heads of sixth form

ART

Two courses are available – fine art or textiles

To study art you should be:

- A highly self-motivated and creative individual
- A talented artist with a good eye for detail
- Prepared for a challenge and committed to the cause of art
- Literate and able to express yourself in both visual and written forms

Skills required:

- Drawing and good hand-eye co-ordination for fine art
- Hand/machine sewing and a good sense of colour for textiles
- Critical analysis
- Independent, intelligent and creative thinking
- Time management!

What is expected?

You will be required to undertake self-directed and tutor led practical and theoretical work, connecting your ideas with the work of artists and designers past and present. You will be expected to manage your own time and work independently through the guidance of individual tutorials and workshops. You will be required to source some of your own materials and to regularly visit exhibitions in your own time. It is essential to put in extra studio time, beyond timetabled lessons.

AS focuses on diversity and experimentation. You need to leave your personal agenda at the door and be willing to challenge yourself.

A2 is where you develop a sense of individual style and specialise in your areas of strength to produce high quality work that shows a depth of knowledge. You will take an independent pathway.

Why study art?

Study of art at Advanced GCE is excellent preparation for the independent reading of a higher education degree. It can be a complementary addition to other subjects and may ensure you stand out from the crowd.

The creative industries are some of the largest growth areas of the economy. There are a broad range of career prospects for someone with a creative background. Design careers span graphic, interior, product, 3D/furniture, jewellery, glass, textiles and fashion. Other careers could be: architect, curator, artist, teacher, auctioneer, photographer, ceramicist and many more. Art foundation courses can provide a stepping stone to a wide range of other courses.

- For architecture, consider maths and physics.
- For the history of art and fine art courses, consider classical studies and history.
- To study as a designer you may consider languages, economics, psychology or geography.

The art teachers are always on hand to help or advise.

BIOLOGY

The AS and A2 biology courses involve the study of the structure of living organisms and their fundamental processes. The topics are varied and extend on those studied at GCSE as well as introducing new areas such as behaviour, cell organisation and biotechnology. If you enjoyed biology at GCSE, this could be the subject for you.

Skills needed

- Enthusiasm and commitment
- An enquiring mind – you always want to know why!
- An interest in living things and the environment
- A willingness to learn detailed information
- An aptitude for practical work

Type of work

Each group is taught by two teachers. The lessons involve both theory and practical work and you will use different study skills including: making notes, preparing information for presentations, planning, executing and writing up experiments. You will be expected to revise for tests at the end of each topic and be able to apply your knowledge in short structured questions as well as longer essay-type questions. You will develop your microscope skills by observing specimens and drawing diagrams. There is also an opportunity to attend a residential field course so that ecological studies can be carried out in a variety of habitats.

The Course

The course we follow is the AQA GCE specification which builds on the biology covered in GCSE science. The AS and A2 courses each comprise of 3 units; the first two are examined by written paper and the third assesses practical and investigative skills and is similar to the Investigative Skills Assessment (ISA) at GCSE.

Complementary subjects

If you wish to pursue a biological subject at university, chemistry is usually a requirement. Geography is useful for environmental and ecology-related courses. Physics, maths, ICT/computing, psychology and food are also complementary. None of these subjects is essential however and some students choose biology as their only science subject.

University courses and careers

In addition to general degree courses in the biological sciences you could apply for more specific subjects such as biochemistry, microbiology, genetics or physiology. Biology is desirable for medicine and veterinary science. It can also be combined with other disciplines such as a language or business studies.

An interest in biology can lead to an extensive range of different careers. These include careers in medicine and healthcare, education, the environment, food and drink, biotechnology and agriculture.

For further details, visit the Institute of Biology website www.iob.org

BUSINESS STUDIES

What is Business Studies about?

The course provides an opportunity to study in depth how businesses operate in the modern world on a local, national and global basis. All aspects of business behaviour and the relationships between businesses and consumers are covered. These include how businesses are managed, their strategies for success and how they deal with the ever-changing business environment.

The main emphasis is on the application of knowledge to practical business situations and the course covers a wide range of issues including business start ups and growth, marketing, managing people and the impact of international trade. The teaching is based on current events placing a premium on up-to-date issues, which are accessible to students.

Key skills required

Students should be comfortable with expressing themselves in short essay form; they should also be comfortable with some financial analysis. There are no specific subject strengths required as the course content is very broad. It is, however, important that students have an interest in current affairs.

There is a strong emphasis on personal research and the ability to undertake independent investigations using periodicals, the internet and books is essential. The research is used in set assignments and classroom discussions. Assessment is through two exams each year which require candidates to interpret and evaluate selected current news items using their knowledge of how businesses work.

Using Advanced GCE business beyond school

Direct applications of the GCE are in degrees offered by university business schools, through management-related courses in specialist areas such as marketing, finance or retailing. The discipline also fits well with social sciences and politics. It is an ideal basis for a career in business as an entrepreneur or in a senior corporate role. It is also an excellent means of gaining a better understanding of current affairs.

CHEMISTRY

Is Chemistry for me?

- Do you enjoy chemistry at GCSE?
- Do you want to know more?
- Do you enjoy practical work?
- Do you (and your teacher) feel you have an aptitude for chemistry?
- Are you confident about using your maths?

If your answers to many of these questions are “yes”, you might like to consider AS or A2 chemistry in the sixth form.

What does it go with?

The simple answer is anything you like!

- Those hoping to read chemistry at university should consider maths and/or physics
- Those aiming for other scientific degree courses need to be aware that some require more than one science/maths subject
- Those whose main interests are in languages or arts may consider chemistry to provide breadth to their programmes

What will the work involve?

The teaching at AS and A2 is very similar to GCSE, except that each set is taught by two teachers and the pace of lessons is faster. The lessons involve both theory and practical work and you will use different study skills including: making notes, preparing information for presentations, revising for tests at the end of each topic, executing and writing up experiments. You will be expected to spend more time outside lessons consolidating the ideas and reading around them. Once we have taught you the basic theory it is necessary to practise applying it in many different situations. Most of the questions require short answers but some more extended writing is required in parts of the examinations. The use of ICT is encouraged and some specialised software introduced. You will extend your practical skills, again building on your experience at GCSE, with practical work being an integral part of the course.

Where will it take me?

The Royal Society of Chemistry's posters say “Not all chemists wear white coats”. Sixth form chemistry can lead to a degree in chemistry which opens up an enormous range of career possibilities, both in and out of science. For details and ideas go to <http://www.chemsoc.org/careers>. An exciting career in chemical research is available to those who really excel at the subject. Some sixth formers find chemistry an asset in applying for courses in another scientific field, e.g. materials science, biochemistry, medicine, physiotherapy. Degree courses combining chemistry with languages, management, law and countless other disciplines are also available.

Course Information

We will follow the OCR Chemistry A specification which will include familiar topics such as: atomic structure, bonding, the periodic table and organic chemistry, as well introducing new ideas. The AS and A2 courses each involve taking two theory papers, one in January and one in June, and the practical assessment will take place in lessons throughout the course.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Classical civilisation is the study of the Greek and Roman worlds. Students find this subject immensely enjoyable. The course is diverse in its content, including literature, drama, history, art, philosophical and religious beliefs and offering a breadth of experience by the study of two civilisations at the height of their achievements. The origins of modern democracy are to be found in ancient Athens and its culture has had a profound influence. Many students start the subject as a fourth AS and then go on to study it at university, such is the enthusiasm they develop for the ancient world.

The skills needed for this course are an enjoyment of Greek mythology and a willingness to read and discuss literature (all texts are in English); to examine sources, both literary and artistic and be critical about them. During the course your ability to analyse and evaluate evidence will be developed, as will your aesthetic appreciation. You will need to do additional reading about Greek and Roman society. Your written work will include answering source-based questions, (short and structured) and essays.

Students studying classical civilisation will be expected to enhance their understanding by participating in study days, museum trips and theatre trips. These are planned jointly with Loughborough Grammar School. There are also regular trips abroad for those interested.

Classical civilisation goes particularly well with English, history, religious studies, a modern or ancient language. Those interested in drama or art will derive great pleasure from the content of the course. It will also be of interest to students who wish to broaden their studies by including something completely different. Classical civilisation is accepted by all universities and serves as a good base for any literary or historical degree course. Students studying the subject have gone on to archaeology, drama, law, psychology, philosophy, politics, art (to name just a few) — in fact you will find the knowledge you gain on the course beneficial for the rest of your life! The majority of jobs do not require degrees in specific subjects. An Advanced GCE in classical civilisation would provide you with a respected qualification for a wide range of careers.

Essential information — OCR Classical Civilisation

At AS the topics studied are Homer's *Odyssey* and women in Athens and Rome. At A2 you will continue the epic topic by study of Roman epic (Virgil's *Aeneid*) in the context of the political and social events of its day; you will also study the Athenian theatre and plays of the great tragedians, including Sophocles' *Oedipus Tyrannus*, which the philosopher Aristotle rated as the perfect tragedy.

AS units are taken in May/June of year 12 and A2 units in June of year 13. There is no coursework for this qualification at either AS or A2.

No knowledge of Latin or Greek is necessary, but grade B or above in English literature is advisable.

CLASSICAL GREEK

The ancient Greeks continue to fascinate us. Their achievements in so many areas were remarkable and learning the language enables you to access their mindset. You will gain insight into the Greeks' moral values and religious beliefs and have the opportunity to read some of the greatest literature of all time, offering a profound insight into the morality of human behaviour.

During year 12 we will help you consolidate your knowledge of Greek grammar and its linguistic structures, and develop an awareness of the influence of Greek on the English language. At AS there is one language unit, translation from Greek to English, and one literature unit, which will help you develop skills of literary analysis and appreciation of both prose and verse literature. You will be expected to read, understand and make an informed personal response to the literature. During the full Advanced GCE course you will experience a range of genres, including epic (Homer), tragedy, history, philosophy (Plato), comedy and rhetoric.

At A2 the units examined are classical Greek prose, including study of a prescribed prose text and either an unseen translation with comprehension questions or a prose composition from English into classical Greek, and classical Greek verse, which incorporates a prescribed verse text for comment and criticism and response to an unseen passage of verse literature via comprehension questions and translation.

Ancient Greek is obviously an advantage for anyone wishing to read classics at university but is also a subject valued in its own right by admissions tutors and employers. It is well respected for its intellectual integrity and goes well with both arts and science subjects.

Essential Information

OCR Classical Greek

AS

Two units, taken in June

Classical Greek language: translation from classical Greek into English; **optional** translation from English into classical Greek.

Classical Greek Verse and Prose Literature: questions on one verse set text and one prose set text.

A2

Two units, taken in June

Classical Greek prose: questions on one prose set text; unseen translation with comprehension questions; **optional** translation from English into classical Greek.

Classical Greek verse: questions on one verse set text; response to unseen verse passage through comprehension questions and translation.

No coursework is undertaken. Greek AS and A2 are usually taught jointly with LGS.

Students who wish to take Greek AS should either have taken Greek at GCSE or have attended the JACT summer school at Bryanston and have A grades in any modern foreign languages taken at GCSE.

There are regular theatre visits and classical trips and these are shared activities with the grammar school classics department.

COMPUTING

Advanced GCE computing follows the AQA specification and covers many aspects of the use of and the workings of computers from both a theoretical and practical point of view. Computing provides a good background for further study whether that is in computing itself, ICT, mathematics, sciences or even some arts based courses.

It is not necessary to have formal qualifications at GCSE in ICT to study computing at AS and A2 but students should be comfortable with using computers and have the willingness to learn new skills and techniques. A capacity for logical thinking would be useful as well as the ability to work with numbers but more important than anything is an interest in computers and the desire to find out how things work. The course includes the following areas of study:

Programming

Students will learn to program using Visual Basic, creating their own working programs.

How computers operate

Students will learn about Binary number systems and how computers represent, sound, pictures and text.

Communication and networks

Students will learn how computers communicate with other computers throughout the world including internet working.

Human computer interaction

How computers interface with humans and how we use technology in our everyday lives.

Software design

Students will consider the design of software and design their own programs at both AS and A2.

Hardware

Students will look at types of computers and their use plus peripheral devices, how they work and connect to one another.

Databases and files

Including how data is stored and retrieved, keeping data and information safe and secure, plus the 24/7 demand for information.

The course in computing is newly updated for 2008 and comprises written examination papers, an online examination and a practical project. The course encourages computational thinking rather than just learning facts.

Computer science involves questions that have the potential to change how we view the world. For example, we may be computing with DNA at some stage in the future with computer circuits made of genes. This leads to the question: does the natural world “compute”?

Computing/computer science is about designing new algorithms to solve new problems. In this sense Computer Science is no more about computers than astronomy is about telescopes. Many great challenges lie in the future for computer scientists to solve. This course, with its emphasis on abstract thinking, general problem solving, algorithmic and mathematical reasoning, scientific and engineering-based thinking, is a good foundation for understanding these future challenges.

As in all Advanced GCE subjects a desire to find out more and the ability to read around the subject are essential but your efforts will be rewarded as you find out more about the cutting edge technologies that make our modern information-led world work.

Offered at Loughborough Grammar School.

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

The Advanced GCE in Theatre Studies offers you a balance of learning experiences associated with drama and the theatre. It is important that you are interested in gaining a greater understanding of how theatre and plays work and that you are keen to be involved with performances. You need to be curious about issues and ideas and have a creative instinct for communicating your views through drama. You may be keen on acting, writing or on the visual and technical side of theatre and wish to develop your skills in some or all of these areas. The qualification is designed to enable you to acquire a knowledge and understanding of the language of drama and theatre as well as to develop your performing and analytical skills.

During the course you will be exposed to the following aspects of theatre:

- the exploration of play texts
- the creation of theatre
- the performing of plays
- the analysis of theatre
- the critical evaluation of all of these elements.

AS

Unit 1 (Course work)

You will study two play texts from the viewpoint of director, designer, performer and critic developing a knowledge and understanding of the language of drama and theatre. You will explore the social, cultural and historical significance of each play. This unit is assessed both practically and via a written portfolio called "Exploration notes"

Unit 2 (Performance work)

The course in general is specifically designed to guide you towards gaining an insight into the necessary skills required of a theatre director. By undertaking a role within the production of a play text and therefore being directed by the tutor, you will begin this process. This unit also allows you the opportunity to acquire the techniques required of an actor when preparing for a production: for example, interpreting the text, building the character(s) and developing the performance skills, ensuring you give a fully rounded and sustained performance (externally assessed by a visiting examiner who will assess your performance skills only).

A2 Units at a glance

Unit 3

This unit requires you to work with your fellow students to create a unique and original piece of theatre.

Unit 4

This unit is a written examination which requires you to study in detail one set play text and one prescribed historical period of theatrical development.

Drama and theatre studies Advanced GCE complements a range of subjects and is useful in building confidence, improving presentation skills in a range of careers and, most importantly, helps to develop a balanced intellect. You have to be prepared to talk and write articulately about historical and political ideas. You then have to go on to test your own ideas in a practical, physical setting, often involving some difficult decisions, made in a group and under an immense amount of pressure. Drama and theatre studies complements all other AS choices especially art, English literature and psychology

ECONOMICS

What is Economics?

Economics is a social science concerned with how the resources of the world (natural, manufactured and human) are allocated. This can determine who are rich and poor, how standards of living change and the relationship between businesses and consumers. The range of study includes local activities, the national perspective and international relationships. The subject is based on theories, which are then applied to situations ranging from how prices in a UK industry are determined to how international trade works. As a subject concerned with seeking to explain events in the real world, it is constantly evolving and so case studies used vary from year to year.

Key skills required

Students should be comfortable expressing themselves both in short essay form and in diagrams using mathematical analysis. Students need to enjoy mathematics and following current affairs to consider the course. There is a strong emphasis on personal research and the ability to undertake independent investigations using periodicals, the internet and books is essential. The research is used in set assignments and classroom discussions. Assessment is by two exams each year which require candidates to interpret data and evaluate case studies using their knowledge of economic concepts.

Using Advanced GCE Economics beyond school

Direct applications of the GCE are in degrees covering economics, finance, accounts and management sciences. The discipline also fits well with law, philosophy and politics. It is an ideal basis for a career in senior corporate management, the city or in government. It is also an excellent means of better understanding human activities.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

English at AS and A2 has always been a dynamic and forward looking subject. It is a literature-based course which includes the study of an exciting range of poetry, prose and drama and covers a period of time ranging from the 14th century to the present day. Expect to read texts from the usual suspects such as Shakespeare, Chaucer and Austen and the bang up-to-date such as Mark Haddon, Angela Carter and Khaled Hosseini!

All tasks undertaken during the course relate to close literary analysis: understanding the relationship between the writer's purpose and methods of achieving that purpose; this means building on the skills gained at GCSE. You will develop a broad understanding of some of the ways in which literature is written and read and will be prepared for written exam and coursework – much as you are already used to. The exam will account for 60% of your final mark at both AS and A2; the other 40% in both years will come from coursework – 2 pieces a year. In terms of workload, expect an exam-style essay about once a week, independent notetaking and wider reading, especially in relation to coursework. Thorough preparation for lessons will be vital, as will be the enthusiasm to communicate your ideas in discussion and debate which is the basis of all lessons.

English is a subject which will complement other arts subjects such as history, RS and classics, but it is extremely popular with linguists and scientists who enjoy a different method of study. With respect to further education, the subject is highly popular in its own right and well respected for its academic rigour, but is also useful for any arts-related courses such as journalism, law, philosophy and PPE. In career terms, "the world is your oyster".

So why choose to study English?

- Choose this subject if you have a passion for reading and discovery and a genuine interest in the way writers express their ideas.
- Choose it if you are confident about your ability to write – and enjoy expressing your ideas both on paper and orally.
- Choose it because you like to think independently and know you are well-motivated.
- Choose it because you enjoyed GCSE and want to explore literature more deeply.

FOOD, NUTRITION AND HEALTH

It is good food and not fine words that keep me alive (Molière)

If you choose to study Food, Nutrition and Health

- You will have the opportunity to develop an understanding of a variety of issues including nutrition, food production, food hygiene and social and environmental issues which affect the individual, the family and society
- You will have the opportunity to be creative with food through practical activities

Because the AS/A2 course is so varied in content, it will be an asset to all types of students. It complements and contrasts with many subjects and leads to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. It supports applications for a wide range of university courses which include nutrition and dietetics, sports science, medicine, food science, food marketing, product development and business

Type of work undertaken

Reading, discussion, data analysis, research, both quantitative and qualitative, sensory analysis and comparative work, nutritional analysis, short answer questions and essays, practical work.

AS

Unit 1: Society and Health

Society and Health is an externally assessed unit and includes health, social and environmental issues, family and society and demography

AS

Unit 2: Resource Management

Resource Management is an externally assessed unit and includes food safety and hygiene, food provision and preparation, financial awareness and retailing

A2

Unit 3: Investigative Study

The study is an internally assessed coursework unit and is of an investigative nature. Candidates select their own content and develop their own research to include some practical work

A2

Unit 4: Nutrition and Food Production

Nutrition and Food Production is an externally assessed unit and includes nutrients and energy, properties of food, dietary needs and development and production of food products.

You do not have to have studied food and nutrition at GCSE to take this course.

GEOGRAPHY

Geography at both AS and A2 comprises both human and physical units in which you will learn about a wide range of topics such as:

- The issues that affect people and the places they live in
- How people affect the environment we all live in
- What decisions are being made about the management of resources
- An appreciation of current events and world problems such as natural hazards and the plight of refugees
- How to plan a fieldwork investigation — the collection of primary and secondary data and how to analyse it

The skills you will learn are wide and varied. If you study geography you will have the following advantages:

- You will know about local, national and global issues and be able to talk about them
- You will have developed skills such as using maps, photographs, diagrams and statistics, explaining your ideas clearly to others
- You will be aware of events around you and appreciate that people have different views and there are different solutions to issues

You can combine geography with a range of other subjects. The following show some complementary subjects and the possible careers, but they are merely illustrations to stimulate your imagination and there are many, many more.

Maths, physics, chemistry + **geography** = medicine, surveying, meteorology
Economics, ICT, languages, maths + **geography** = banking, planning, tourism, accountancy
Art, design, ICT, maths + **geography** = architecture, cartography, graphic design
English, languages, history, ICT, RS + **geography** = publishing, law, journalism
Biology, chemistry, food + **geography** = management, environmental sciences

Essential Information

AS

Unit 1

Two topics from each of the human and physical sections have been chosen.

- Physical Topics: rivers, floods and management; coastal environments.
- Human Topics: global population change; health issues.

Unit 2

- Basic, investigative, ICT, graphical, cartographical and statistical skills.
- Research skills and the assessment of AS fieldwork.

A2

Unit 3

Overall three topics need to be taught, one from each of the human and physical sections and then one other topic from either section.

- Physical topics: plate tectonics and associated hazards, weather and climate and associated hazards, challenges facing ecosystems.
- Human topics: world cities; globalisation and contemporary conflicts and challenges.

Unit 4

- Investigation of a geographical argument, assertion, hypothesis, issue or problem.
- The process of issue evaluation.

There is a four day residential field course at the Cranedale Centre, North Yorkshire which takes place in October of year 12.

HISTORY

To study history you should be:

- Well motivated and capable of working independently
- Articulate with sound literacy skills
- Interested in and willing to debate ideas and interpretations

Above all, you should be genuinely interested in the past.

As well as document work, where you will be analysing historical sources, you will be expected to write essays – but that isn't actually as bad as it sounds. You will be expected to read around the subject and use a wide range of materials – articles, books, films and internet sites. Willingness to chip into any discussion will also be helpful.

History complements most other subjects:

- The literary and communication skills developed fit in well with subjects like English, classics and religious studies
- The analytical skills complement maths and sciences very well
- Linguists and geographers are also very welcome – an international outlook is always useful

History is a highly regarded subject and admissions tutors will see a good grade as proof of intelligence, regardless of what you go on to do next. The skills of assimilating and analysing information and formulating and communicating arguments are ones which employers in business, law, journalism and the civil service are always keen on. Your particular expertise might also take you into areas like research, museums, the arts and teaching.

At AS we will be studying sixteenth century English and European history. There will be two units.

Unit 1 will focus on European history, particularly the ideological upheavals of the 1500s. We will look at both the European reformation and the witchcraft craze which arose at roughly the same time. This unit is designed to test your ability to deal with aspects of the past in breadth; assessment will be by essay.

Unit 2 will concentrate on the reign of Henry VIII in England, his foreign policy, as well as his marital career and its attendant controversies. Here, you will be expected to work with sources and develop a detailed understanding of the topic. This exam will include some document questions.

At A2 we will focus on historical controversies, studying not just a topic but how that topic has been interpreted by historians.

There will also be a taught coursework unit.

LATIN

Latin offers the opportunity to acquire an understanding of the culture, politics and social life of Rome at a significant period of its history. During the course you will study different authors, both prose and poetry, building on the knowledge and skills gained at GCSE. In language work the emphasis is on increasing competence in translation and comprehension.

The Latin language and the Roman empire have had a profound influence on modern societies. The aim of the course is to deepen and develop experience by considering a wide range of issues. The problems faced by the Roman empire have direct relevance today and study of the Roman world enhances understanding of the problems facing us now. Moreover, the study of Latin will develop your analytical skills in both language and literature. A good understanding of Latin is required and if your knowledge of grammar is weak, we shall endeavour to remedy this! Latin is a subject requiring a logical approach, and by study of it, you will find your precision and appreciation of language is improved.

Latin AS and A2 require you to prepare texts for lessons, and to discuss in class the author's intention, analyzing content and language. Literature is examined by questions on extracts from the set texts and extended written analysis. You will need to extend your vocabulary and understanding of grammar and idiom. Translation and comprehension from Latin to English constitute half of the AS and 40% of the total A2 marks.

Latin goes well with all arts subjects and, in particular, history, English, RS, modern languages and, of course, classical civilisation. Scientists also derive much benefit from the precision of Latin and our students successfully combine it with science and mathematical subjects. The subject obviously leads to further study in classics or archaeology at university, but it is also a discipline much respected for its logic and for the knowledge that students can bring to their study of later civilizations and societies. Law departments and employers appreciate its rigour.

Essential information — OCR Latin

Two AS units are taken in the summer — Latin language, which includes the option of translation from English into Latin, and Latin verse and prose literature. At A2 there is a Latin verse paper, comprising questions on a verse set text, such as the works of Catullus or Virgil, and response to an unseen verse passage via comprehension questions and translation, as well as a Latin prose paper, which includes questions on a prose set text and response to an unseen prose passage via comprehension questions and translation. This paper also offers the option of translating a passage of English into Latin.

There is no coursework for this specification. The classics department works closely with the grammar school classics department and some lessons are taught jointly. You will have the opportunity to join the regular trips abroad and are expected to participate in study days, and museum and theatre trips.

MATHEMATICS AND FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Mathematics

The AS course consists of three units: two core units of pure mathematics and one application unit of statistics. The core units deal with algebraic techniques, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, series and elementary calculus. One of the core units is examined with a non-calculator paper. Statistics is essentially about probability techniques and correlation/regression. The A2 course extends the pure mathematics with two further units and introduces a mechanics unit. Mechanics covers forces in equilibrium and motion, kinematics and momentum.

Further mathematics

Further mathematics is also available, requiring another three units for AS or six for A2. These will include further compulsory pure mathematics units and some choice of additional application units in statistics, mechanics or discrete mathematics. Discrete mathematics covers algorithms, graph theory, networks and linear programming. Further mathematics cannot be taken alone.

The future with mathematics

Mathematics at Advanced GCE is essential for many university degrees, but is also a good background for degrees in geography, psychology, sports science, economics and many others. Careers which need mathematics include scientific research, actuarial work, economics and statistical services and teaching. Other avenues include investment banking and financial modelling, accountancy, information technology systems, operational research and producing coding systems for banks and government. Companies often look for people who have been trained in mathematical thinking.

General information

Your algebraic skills need to be basically sound to attempt AS/A2 mathematics as the course relies heavily upon algebra. It is vital that you supplement any homework given by trying extra examples, especially from the end of chapter exercises.

Mathematics, apart from its own inherent value, supports a wide range of subjects and has applications to many fields - mathematics can be studied with anything at AS and A2! Further mathematics is advisable for those going on to a maths, physics or engineering degree.

Lessons will be mainly through class teaching on electronic interactive or ordinary whiteboards with discussion, but use of appropriate software, spreadsheets, revision dvds/materials and web sites will support your studies.

OCR specifications are used with all units examined by written papers. One paper is taken in January in each year for mathematics and two for further mathematics.

Entry to mathematics AS/A2 requires **at least** a grade A at GCSE.

**MODERN LANGUAGES
(FRENCH, GERMAN, SPANISH)**

Advanced qualifications in modern languages are a huge plus in our increasingly international world. They are an enormously useful tool in themselves, or as add-ons to a very wide range of other subjects, and open many doors to you.

Advanced GCE languages are basically more of what you are used to from GCSE. Languages do not get more difficult the further you take them; you just learn more of them, spread your wings, and enjoy being able to cope in a bigger and bigger range of situations. You will be using the latest textbooks, and the extensive new sixth form modern languages facilities at the top of Rokeby, will be open to you. Plus a whole period every week with the language assistant.

The home-stays are very popular, especially as you get so much more out of them at this level, and we have lots of information about work experience in the various countries.

Languages go with any other subjects, at least up to AS, and we have had people use an A2 language as part of their package for medicine at university too, though it is more usual to combine a language at that level with at least one other non-science subject - or another language!

Doing a language at Advanced GCE does not for a minute mean you have to carry it on at university. Some do, but many use it as part of their bundle for a huge range of courses. It is difficult to think of any course for which a modern language, at least at AS, is not seen as a plus. As with university courses, so with careers. The possible range is huge, and only a minority make their languages their career, though very many use their languages as a tool in their working life. A good A grade or better at GCSE shows you could make a real success of that language at Advanced GCE.

MUSIC

The value of a music qualification at the end of a sixth-form course of study is recognised by universities and employers as evidence of training that encourages individual students to communicate effectively, to express themselves accurately and individually in a variety of ways, and to develop the degree of self-discipline necessary to achieve a high standard of instrumental performing ability. Employers in today's world need people who can transfer these creative skills to the complex and inventive world of work. As with any sixth form course, study of music will sharpen intellect, deepen knowledge and practical skills, and encourage a serious and independent approach to study.

SPECIFICATION STRUCTURE

AS units

1. Performing Music
2. Composing 1
3. Introduction to Historical Study in Music

A2 units

4. Performing: Interpretation
5. Composing 2
6. Historical and Analytical Studies in Music

Pupils who already take part in school music groups and have reached approximately grade 5 standard by the end of GCSE course will be able to gain good marks in the AS and A2 performing units. The AS unit involves a solo recital (12 minutes maximum length), while at A2 the recital is 12-15 minutes long and pupils are required to cover some aspects of interpretation in relation to the pieces performed as part of a supplementary extended discussion with the visiting examiner immediately after the recital.

Composing allows pupils to submit individual original compositions at the end of the course, together with exercises worked over the course to set time limits (e.g. tasks such as adding a bass part to a given melody at AS, or adding a piano accompaniment to a song melody at A2). Composing is assessed internally by Advanced GCE tutors and moderated by the examining board.

The units relating to historical study are based on prepared listening papers and examined by means of a listening paper at the end of each course. Prescribed orchestral and jazz repertoire (three short works from each) is studied at AS, and two broader historical music topics at A2. Both papers are marked externally and candidates have control of individual CD recordings, allowing them to replay music as many times as they wish during the examination session.

The Advanced GCE music specification aims to build upon the work of GCSE courses while maintaining an appropriately high standard of achievement. The qualification (validated by OCR) is accepted by all universities and the courses are intended to appeal to all pupils who wish to pursue musical studies in the sixth form. They are equally suitable for pupils who intend to continue music studies at university or college, and for those who wish to extend their understanding and appreciation of music for its intrinsic value and interest or for the pleasure they derive from it.

Taught at the music school, jointly with grammar school pupils.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Do you...

- want to follow a course that develops theoretical aspects through practical involvement?
- want to know more about how the body functions and the effects of exercise?
- want to learn about how your mind works and how athletes behave?
- want to appreciate how present day sports have developed over time?
- enjoy discovering more about yourself in practical situations?
- want to evaluate and improve your own sporting performance?

...if so, then the AS/A2 physical education course is for you!

Teaching and learning methods

The course is taught by three teachers and lessons involve both theoretical and practical work. You will be expected to develop a variety of skills throughout the course, including collating, analysing and interpreting data, researching and presenting information to your peers, and identifying and developing links between different parts of the subject. Topic tests are used at the end of each section and you are continuously assessed in your practical activities. Terminal examination involves both written and oral testing.

The course

AS

- Application of physiological and psychological knowledge to improve performance
- Contemporary studies
- Critical analysis
- Performance of two practical activities

A2

- History of physical education
- Sports psychology
- Exercise and sports physiology
- Critical evaluation
- Practical performance

The opportunities

Many students find that this course is an asset to them; it complements and contrasts with many subjects and leads to many possible career and higher education opportunities. The new skills you will acquire are in great demand by employers, university and colleges. Physical education supports applications for a wide range of university courses such as sports sciences, physiotherapy, recreation and leisure studies and there are many new and exciting courses related to sport throughout higher education, for example, the engineering of new technology for elite athletes.

What are we looking for?

- Enthusiasm and commitment
- A genuine interest in developing theoretical understanding in physiological, psychological and sociological areas
- A student who can perform two different physical activities, not necessarily to a very high level

For more details on the practical activities which can be offered please refer to <http://www.ocr.org.uk/> and look for the AS PE coursework guidance booklet.

PHYSICS

Physics helps us to understand how our world works, from the smallest particles through to the huge galaxies that make up the universe. It is the basis of modern technology from mobile phones to space travel. If you have enjoyed physics so far and want to know more, then consider joining us in the sixth form. We promise that the course will be varied and challenging. Each group will be taught by two teachers to give you the benefit of their particular expertise and interest and to add variety.

Profile of a physicist

- has an enquiring mind and asks how things work, enjoys a challenge and likes problem solving
- has mathematical skills (at least AS maths is helpful, especially for A2 physics)
- has practical skills, can relate theory to real experiments
- can write logically, expressing complex ideas clearly and concisely

The AS course will build directly on the topics covered in GCSE as well as introducing new ideas. We will follow the OCR Physics A specification which will include topics such as forces and motion, quantum physics, and wave properties. The AS and A2 courses comprise 3 units; the first two are examined by written paper and the third assesses practical and investigative skills and will be similar to the ISA at GCSE. All the exams will be taken in June to allow sufficient time for the new mathematical and practical skills you will develop to be refined before examination. Those not taking maths will be offered an extra lesson to support the mathematical part of the course.

The A2 course is slightly more mathematical (so again maths lessons are provided for non-mathematicians) and will include topics such as electric and magnetic fields, nuclear and particle physics and modelling the universe.

The nature of the courses

AS is very similar to GCSE, but it moves much faster and you will be expected to spend more time outside lessons consolidating the ideas and reading around them. Once we have taught you the basic theory and standard methods, and discussed their implications, then it is necessary to practise applying them in many different situations. Most of the questions require short answers, calculations or diagrams but some more extended writing is required in parts of the examinations. You will extend your practical skills, again building on your experience at GCSE, with practical work being an integral part of the course.

Complementary subjects - Maths is essential for anyone thinking of taking physics or engineering past A2 and chemistry helps to develop similar skills. Biology, geography, economics or languages often feature in the package but then so do most other subjects from art for architects to English for science journalists.

Careers - Apart from the obvious degrees in physics/engineering/maths, physics is relevant to courses such as dentistry, medicine, meteorology, physiotherapy, sports science and architecture to name but a few. Many physicists turn to accountancy and business since they have the necessary analytical and numerical skills.

See the Institute of Physics website <http://careers.iop.org> for more ideas.

GCSE requirements: good grades in science and additional science or physics and higher tier maths

POLITICS

Politics students range in ability from those who have gone on to read related subjects at top universities to those who began their studies after obtaining the minimum grades at GCSE. We recommend that students should be intellectually curious, committed to rigorous work, interested in current affairs and have a good grounding in humanities subjects at GCSE as a prelude to taking on this complex but enthralling Advanced GCE.

Politics is an exciting subject. It is a subject that has significance for all our lives. Each morning its complex canvas unfolds with daily papers and broadcast news; by evening new details have been painted in and the scene is subtly, sometimes dramatically changed. Politics is unpredictable, dynamic, it affects us, it is about us. In one sense the canvas **is** us; a projection of ourselves and our aspirations, a measure of our ability to live together. Politics is arguably the most important focus of study on the human condition. It is from this context that the subject is taught at Advanced GCE here at Loughborough; providing its students with a stimulating and academically challenging course of study that will equip them for both their examinations, and a deeper insight into how, why, where and when we are governed the way we are in this country and how these processes are carried out in the USA.

Politics students also have a programme of enrichment activities to support their learning, in addition to the popular politics society, which meets at a lunchtime fortnightly at the grammar school.

So what will you study when you opt for politics?

As stipulated by the Edexcel examinations board you will study two units at AS and two units at A2, comprising:

Unit 1 People and Politics	Examines the key channels of communication between government and the people
Unit 2 Governing the UK	Analyses the workings and structure of our Government
Unit 3 Representation in the USA	Explores the depth and range of American democracy
Unit 4 Governing the USA	Examines the role and relationship between the President, Congress and Judiciary

Each unit has one examination. Unit 1 is taught ready for a January sitting of the exam. The unit 2 exam is held at the end of the year. Exams for units 3 and 4 are held in the summer of year 13.

Offered at Loughborough Grammar School

PRODUCT DESIGN

Are you thinking of a career in engineering?

The product design course at AS and A2 is an ideal introduction to the practical processes, as well as the theoretical knowledge, that will be required if you intend to study engineering in higher education. It will give a head start at the application process for university, as many are now looking for practical experience. You will acquire the basic understanding of the terminology, techniques and experiences of the discipline and show that you are committed to engineering as a career. There is a possibility that AS can be taken in year 13 as well as year 12. We follow the AQA product design specification so for details of the specifications please look on their website. www.aqa.org.uk

Though previous experience in the subject is helpful, it is not necessary if you are willing to spend the time learning the necessary processes; these will be taught as your design folder progresses. An ability to draw and get your ideas down on paper is essential, as is the use of Computer Aided Design (CAD) packages. Ideally, you can be taught these skills in the last weeks of the summer term of year 11.

Because the subject is primarily coursework based it demands a lot of time and commitment, but no more than would be expected of you in any Advanced GCE subject. This is one of those subjects where the more you put in, the more you get out. If you want to discuss the demands and requirements of the subject please feel free to come down to the design and technology department at the grammar school where the friendly and approachable staff will be more than willing to discuss the subject and show you the facilities available.

The Course

AS outline

Unit 1 Written exam. Based primarily on materials and components
Taken in June

Unit 2 Coursework. Consisting of written design portfolio and a practical realisation.
Assessed in May

A2 outline

Unit 3 Written exam. Based primarily on design and manufacture. A synoptic paper which will test the candidates understanding of the connections between the different elements of the subject and their holistic understanding of the subject.
Examined in June.

Unit 4 Coursework. Consisting of written design portfolio and practical realisation
Assessed in May

Offered at Loughborough Grammar School

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is the scientific study of people, the mind, and behaviour. It is both a thriving academic discipline and a vital professional practice. Psychologists and psychological research have a big impact on all aspects of public life, particularly in areas such as education, health, the economy, industry, and the criminal justice system. Advanced GCE psychology gives you an understanding of important aspects of human behaviour. The course covers a range of fascinating topics such as child development, stress, aggression, eating disorders, social relationships, media influences on behaviour, schizophrenia, ethics, and memory; and will give you a critical understanding of a range of theories such as psychoanalysis and behaviourism.

Skills required

- A genuine interest in human behaviour
- An ability to learn and critically evaluate theories and studies
- A reasonable understanding of statistics (a grade B or above in GCSE maths)

Teaching and learning methods

Psychology is taught using a variety of enjoyable active learning techniques (for example, mind mapping, quizzes, card matching and poster presentations). You will make revision notes, draw diagrams, answer short questions, write 12-mark mini essays, make presentations, discuss theories, and conduct mini experiments and observations.

Complementary subjects

To be honest, psychology goes well with any subject. It complements both science and arts subjects, particularly biology, chemistry, physics, geography, sociology, and economics.

Careers

Possible careers include medicine, health psychology, psychiatry, forensic psychology, occupational therapy, nursing and midwifery, engineering, physiotherapy, design, human resource management, marketing, occupational psychology, banking, accountancy, management consultancy, law, teaching, social work, criminology, educational psychology, journalism, publishing and public relations. For more information, visit the British Psychological Society website at www.bps.org.uk.

Essential information

Specification: AQA Psychology (specification A)

AS

Paper 1: Cognitive psychology (memory), developmental psychology (attachment) and research methods (for example, experiments, observation). Taken in June of year 12.

Paper 2: Biological psychology (stress), social psychology (conformity, obedience) and individual differences (mental illness, abnormality). Taken in June of year 12.

A2

Paper 3: Aggression, relationships and eating disorders. Taken in January of year 13.

Paper 4: Psychopathology (schizophrenia, depression, or phobias), psychology in action (the psychology of addictive behaviour) and research methods (the nature of science, basic statistics). Taken in June of year 13.

There is **no** coursework in this subject.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Do you enjoy:

- Thinking about important issues and “big questions”, supporting your views and arguing your case with others?
- Considering how decisions are made and trying to find solutions to the ethical problems of the 21st century?
- Evaluating the reliability of certain texts and documents?
- Understanding the opinions of well known scholars?

If the answer to some of these questions is “yes”, then you will enjoy religious studies.

Through religious studies you will be able to develop your skills in reading and assimilating new material from books, articles, the media and the internet. You will become more confident in expressing your views within a discussion group and you will learn to write clear, logical and well supported answers to questions, either in paragraph or essay form.

You can combine religious studies with almost any subject; popular ones are history, English, classics or geography which require similar skills. However, many students choose to combine it with science subjects where it provides a balance of approach and style often throwing light on the ethical issues raised by science today.

You could go on to read any arts subject at university or, of course, you could read theology either on its own or combined with other subjects. The ethics content of the course makes it particularly useful in complementing science subjects and it is possible to take the subject to AS if you then wish to concentrate on other areas.

Religious studies is extremely useful for a career in law, journalism, medicine, teaching, social services and any career which involves working with people, being able to make decisions and express views about significant issues.

Essential information

- The subject is religious studies and we follow the AQA course.
- Two units are taken at AS. These are:
 - Introduction to ethics
 - Philosophy of Religion
- Two exams are taken in the summer, each paper is 75 minutes long. There is no coursework content.
- Two units are taken at A2. These are:
 - New Testament focusing on John’s Gospel
 - Ways of moral decision making
- Two exams are taken in the summer, each paper is 90 minutes long. There is no coursework content.
- GCSE religious studies is preferred but those without it may be able to take the course; they should discuss the possibility with Mrs Lewis before making a decision.

SOCIOLOGY

Sociology is the systematic study of people, social life, and society. It is a highly regarded academic subject that is taught at all the top universities including Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard. Sociologists are interested in a wide variety of fascinating topics such as health and illness (sociology of medicine), feminism (social theory), religious cults (sociology of religion), suicide (criminology), divorce, the cult of celebrity (media), human rights (law), voting behaviour (politics), poverty, and unemployment (socio-economics). AS/A2 sociology gives you an understanding of fundamental aspects of society, and of how sociologists study and explain people's behaviour.

Skills required

- A genuine interest in human relationships – from individual behaviour to societies
- An ability to learn and critically evaluate complex theories and studies
- An aptitude for writing short answer questions and mini-essays

Teaching and learning methods

Sociology is taught using a variety of enjoyable active learning techniques (e.g., mind mapping, quizzes, card matching, tabular work). You will make revision notes, answer short questions, write essays, make PowerPoint presentations and evaluate studies and theories.

Complementary subjects

Sociology goes particularly well with geography, psychology, English, religious studies and economics. If you are going to study science and want a career in medicine, then sociology is a very useful fourth subject, as it shows that you can think deeply about health issues (e.g., the unequal social distribution of health and illness in the United Kingdom by social class, age, gender, ethnicity and region, and internationally; the sociological study of the nature and social distribution of mental illness).

Careers

Sociology is an absolutely ideal Advanced GCE for degrees like PPE (Oxford), law, international relations, criminology, and SPS (Cambridge); as well as for careers such as human resource management, marketing, banking, management consultancy, civil service, local and national government, journalism, teaching, social work, educational psychology, publishing, public relations, probation service, occupational therapy, nursing and midwifery. For further details, see the British Sociological Association website at www.britisoc.co.uk.

Essential information

Exam Board: AQA

AS Sociology of families and households or wealth, poverty and welfare. Taken in January of year 12
Sociology of education or sociology of health; sociological methods. Taken in June of year 12

A2 Beliefs in society or power and politics. Taken in January of year 13.
Crime and deviance. Taken in June of year 13

To give a flavour, the power and politics unit includes: the nature of, and changes in, different forms of political participation, including voting behaviour, political action and protest, and membership of political organisations and movements; the role of political parties, pressure/interest groups, new social movements and the mass media in the political process. The crime and deviance module includes: different theories of crime, deviance, social order and social control; the social distribution of crime and deviance by age, ethnicity, gender, locality and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime; globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the mass media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes; and the sociological study of suicide and its theoretical and methodological implications.

For more information, see the full specification at <http://www.aqa.org.uk>.

GENERAL STUDIES

Year 13 students sit the AS units in January and A2 units in June. There is no coursework.

The weekly general studies lesson broadens the sixth form curriculum and ensures all students have a balance of arts, science and social science subjects. Students follow a rotation of courses to prepare them for the AS and A2 papers. Lessons are organized to maximize student participation and to develop discussion and presentation skills. The rotation of courses is punctuated at intervals by lectures from guest speakers, discussion panels and drama presentations.

Some university offers include general studies and the Advanced GCE result may well be taken into account by others if students do not achieve the grades or points required in their higher education offer. Attendance on the course provides evidence that a broader education programme is being followed and maintains literacy and numeracy skills for all students, irrespective of their chosen subjects.

Course details

The AQA specification A is used. The content is grouped into two areas:

- Culture and Society – units 1 and 3
- Science and Society – units 2 and 4

At AS the examinations contain a combination of an objective test and a written section containing structured questions. The written papers at A2 involve responding to a choice of essay titles and answering shorter questions on a case study and an unseen passage.

Further information is available on the AQA website www.aqa.org.uk.

Attendance at General Studies lessons is compulsory for all pupils in year 13.

IN YEAR 12 GIRLS HAVE A CHOICE BETWEEN CRITICAL THINKING AND THE ENRICHMENT COURSE.

CRITICAL THINKING

The OCR critical thinking specification provides opportunities for candidates to demonstrate and apply a wide range of thinking skills (especially reasoning skills) in a range of contexts, develop an ability to transfer these skills and make connections, integrate ideas and develop concepts, use arguments, make judgements and evaluate evidence and examine questions from a broad standpoint.

This course in critical thinking is different from all other subjects at AS. It does not involve learning any facts, but as the title suggests, it is about learning how to think and reason, as well as how to write in a coherent and logical way. It gives candidates opportunities to understand the importance of examining knowledge and beliefs critically to recognise, analyse and evaluate their own and others' beliefs and knowledge claims in a variety of contexts to recognise and evaluate assumptions; evaluate reasoning of different kinds, including common and important species of reasoning; make connections and synthesise information and arguments; generate their own arguments and express them clearly.

Although these skills are particularly applicable to subjects such as English, history and law, taking critical thinking will be beneficial to any candidate. It will show that such candidates have attained a national standard in skills which will be prized by university and employers alike. The reasons for offering the course are threefold. It is valuable in itself, it may well help the students to perform better in their other A level subjects and it should enable them to achieve higher scores in the additional tests which are increasingly being set by those courses at university where there is much competition for places. .

Unit 1

Introduction to Critical Thinking - the language of reasoning, credibility

Unit 2

Assessing and Developing Argument - analysis of argument, evaluating arguments, developing one's own reasoned arguments

Both units are assessed by written examination

ENRICHMENT

The aim of our enrichment programme is to extend students' education and personal growth beyond their academic courses.

The year 12 enrichment programme comprises a wide range of non-examined taster courses designed to give students the opportunity to develop new interests, learn new skills, gain new experiences and broaden their knowledge. Hugely varied and demanding, the programme calls on students to develop self-reliance, promotes citizenship and prepares them to meet the world of work or further study with confidence and commitment.

The programme supplements the extensive extra-curricular enrichment opportunities available to sixth form students at Loughborough High School and, together with their examination subjects, recreational activities and PSE, plays a valuable part in their development as confident, well rounded adults.

CAREERS

As soon as students join the sixth form they need to begin thinking about what they are going to do next. The careers department can offer them a huge amount of up-to-date, reliable information about the vast range of higher education courses and occupations available to them. We work closely with form tutors and subject teachers to arrive at the best outcome for students. Our well stocked careers library is always open and personal guidance available at morning and lunch breaks, or by arrangement with careers staff.

The school is a member of the Independent Schools' Careers Organisation (ISCO), and all students are enrolled through ISCO with Futurewise, a comprehensive careers service designed to assist young people in recognising their talents and developing them into valuable, marketable skills. Membership guarantees access to high-quality online and personal support from enrolment right up to the age of twenty three. Our ISCO adviser visits regularly to provide support and advice to individuals and the organisation keeps us informed of new developments in higher education and the world of work.

All students are entitled to use the national network of Connexions services via our link adviser and the centre in their local town.

Guest speakers provide lunchtime careers talks and useful contacts for students wishing to arrange work experience or other support.

The careers department works with form tutors and other staff to give support for UCAS applications. Practice interviews, often with outside partners and contacts, are available on request. Information about higher education open days and the enormous range of gap year opportunities at home and overseas is also provided.

Major events organised by the careers department:

- Visit to the UCAS East Midlands Higher Education Fair for year 12 students
- Higher Education Evening for year 12 students and their parents in the summer term
- Biennial Careers Convention

PSE

In the sixth form PSE aims to address the challenges ahead both academically and socially. The weekly sessions embrace an ever changing society by exploring issues relevant to the age group, for example stress management, university and careers choices in year 12, personal safety, finance and health awareness in year 13. The programme draws upon outside agencies when required, giving girls the opportunity to hear a variety of speakers throughout the year.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

All sixth form students take part in the recreational activities programme. There is a choice of sporting and fitness activities both in school and in outside facilities, which provide the opportunity to enjoy traditional games or develop new interests. Current courses include aerobics, athletics, badminton, dance, golf, rounders, squash, tennis and visits to LA Fitness. There is also a course available for those who wish to take the Community Sports' Leader Award (CSLA).