

"Welcome to CCHS"

It is my great privilege as the Headteacher of Colchester County High School for Girls to welcome you to our unique and amazing community. I hope that you find the Sixth Form Prospectus useful in helping you decide if this is the right Sixth Form for you and also which AS and A Levels you wish to study.

The Sixth Form has an excellent academic reputation and in 2013, the percentages of A Level at grade A/A* was 63% and A*- B was 89%. We are exceeding ambitions for our girls. The standards of teaching and learning are exceptional and we expect Sixth Formers to work hard and take increasing responsibility for their learning.

This is a vibrant, happy school providing an exceptional opportunity for girls to develop their talents, enjoy themselves and flourish as individuals. The learning and well being of our students is at the centre of all that we do. We are proud of our pastoral system, our supportive, caring tutors will listen to any concerns.

The school was founded in 1909 to provide an excellent education for girls and continues to provide tradition and innovation to fulfil that aim in the 21st Century. The safe and secure environment fosters self belief and raises expectation.

Our enthusiastic teachers work incredibly hard to support our Sixth Form students and are always willing to give up a great deal of their time outside the classroom to help you.

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities from Dance to Fencing and enrich the curriculum with numerous visits throughout the year to places of interest in Britain and abroad.

Thank you for your interest in Colchester County High School for Girls. We hope that if you decide to continue your studies here, you will be happy and successful in every possible way.



Mrs Gillian Marshall
Headteacher



Contents

| | Page No | Page No | |
|--------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----|
| Welcome to CCHS | 1 | Further Mathematics | 21 |
| Head Girls | 2 | General Studies | 22 |
| Young Enterprise | 3 & 4 | Geography | 23 |
| Life in the Sixth Form | 5, 6 & 7 | German | 24 |
| Sixth Form Activities | 8 | History | 25 |
| iLab | 9 | Latin | 26 |
| Art | 11 | Mathematics | 27 |
| Biology | 12 | Music | 28 |
| Chemistry | 13 | Physics | 29 |
| Classical Civilisation | 14 | Psychology | 30 |
| Critical Thinking | 15 | RS: Philosophy and Ethics | 31 |
| Economics | 16 | Spanish | 32 |
| English Language | 17 | Examination Results | 33 |
| English Literature | 18 | Applying to University | 34 |
| Extended Project Qualification | 19 | Oxbridge at CCHS | 35 |
| French | 20 | Careers | 36 |

A message from the Head Girls

Sixth form is an exciting chance to develop as an individual, in both your studies and your extracurricular activities. While it may seem a little daunting, CCHS sixth form is a strong community where everyone is welcome – no matter whether you are joining the school, or have been here for five years already. Our subject departments offer brilliant teaching and support, and are passionate about pushing us to perform at our very best. There is also plenty of time for play, with lunchtime and evening activities ranging from Lacrosse and Chamber Choir to Feminist Society and European Youth Parliament Debating. Life in the Sixth Form is fast paced, dynamic and vibrant – we hope you enjoy it as much as we have.

Darcy Levison, Kathryn Peacock and Ellie Simmons



UK Young Enterprise Finalists

Young Enterprise is a national education charity that encourages young people to get involved in business from an early age. The programme that allows 15-19 year olds to set up and run their own company for a year, create and market their product, and gain invaluable experience of the business world, while competing in the Young Enterprise competition. Students at Colchester County High School for Girls have had a great deal of success in the Young Enterprise competition.

In 2010 **Thirteen** created a company that would make them national champions and runners up in Europe against 34 other companies. **Thirteen's** product was the Vegimat which is a "Healthy Eating Mat" that could either be used as a placemat or alternatively as a wall chart. The idea was that a sticker is placed onto the mat every time a piece of fruit or vegetable is eaten and therefore to encourage children to have their "5 a day".

In 2011 **AGAIN** seemed an apt name for the following year's team who were eager to follow in their footsteps. **AGAIN** enjoyed similar success, winning the North-East Essex Area Finals, the Essex County Finals and also the East of England Regional Finals which meant they were off to the National Finals at the Savoy Hotel in London. Unfortunately this time the girls didn't win, but they were still in the top twelve companies from 2200 in the UK!

AGAIN's product was the Treasure Chest, a portable safety pocket for women that ties discreetly to the inside of a their clothing, allowing essential items such as a door key, money, credit cards and taxi numbers to be stored safely on nights out and when exercising or travelling. The Treasure Chest was hugely popular, winning the Most Innovative Product Award twice from Young Enterprise and selling hundreds at various different venues.

The Young Enterprise team in 2011-2012 were Nebula. They won 'Best Company' at the Basildon Trade Fair and got through to the county finals.

Their product was a booklet called The Drivers Manual which retailed at £2.50. The manual supplemented the students' learning in their driving lessons and was accredited by Essex Police. It included sections on maintenance and driving in different weather conditions along with advice on what to do in the event of a breakdown or accident.

Young Enterprise offers a wealth of opportunities for all who take part, both during and after the year of competition





Young Enterprise 2012-2013

Formed in September 2012 by a group of Year 12 Students, Team Resolute have had an extremely successful year with their product 'Clock-It'.

Essex is one of the driest counties in the UK, with an average of only around 10mm of precipitation per month last year. Cutting back on water usage can not only save money, but the environment around us too. The team's research showed that cutting down average shower time by only one minute can save over 2300 litres of water in a year, and cut costs by approximately £50 per person. Given these statistics, this year's team decided to focus on a product relating to water conservation.

Their product 'Clock it' was a simple timer yet a very useful device. With a case of stainless steel and digital display, it retailed for £6, and was sold for use in the shower: allowing users to cut water wastage and save money on their water bills. The team had considerable success in Young Enterprise competitions winning four awards in total; the 'Best Customer Service Award', 'Best Company Report', the 'Environmental Awareness Award' and the 'Judges Choice Award'. The learning curve they have embarked on since beginning this endeavour has been incredible, and really proves just how valuable the Young Enterprise initiative is. In the 9 months since beginning this endeavour they have bonded and developed as a team, and have gained indispensable knowledge about the successful running of a business.

Endorsements

Having contacted Sir Bob Russell with the purpose of informing him of their product, the local Colchester Liberal Democrat MP took time from his busy schedule to meet the team and listen to ideas on this product and water conservation in general. Deeply impressed by what Sir Bob classed as the 'astonishing' level of water saving that could be achieved with the use of this product, he decided to purchase 10 of our timers to distribute to the leaders of the main political parties and widen awareness of this issue further. Amazingly, individual letters of endorsement from the Liberal Democrat leader Mr Nick Clegg, the Labour leader Mr David Miliband, the Secretary for Education Sir Michael Gove and the Prime Minister himself, Mr David Cameron were all sent to the team thus completing a brilliant 2013 for Young Enterprise within the school.



Life in the Sixth Form

Our excellent examination results

The A Level results are constantly well above national averages and the school is consistently placed in the top 1% of the National League Tables.

In 2013

- 48% students achieved at least 3 grade "A"s
- 36% students gained at least 1 A*
- All students passed every examination taken

"The standards reached by the students during their time at the Sixth Form are exceptionally high".
OFSTED - Outstanding

Each year over 95% of students apply to university. Many submit successful applications to Oxbridge and others are offered places at prestigious universities on highly competitive courses. A large number of students apply for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science as well as a range of other courses depending on their interest and academic ability.

Personalised learning programme

When students leave our Sixth Form they will leave with not only an excellent set of A Level results, but with a broad range of experiences. We achieve this by offering an extensive range of activities in addition to the A Level courses, which aim to develop a highly personalised learning programme tailored to the needs of each student based on their strengths and areas of interest.

We also offer the Extended Project Qualification which demonstrates the students' capabilities of studying beyond the confines of the A Level specifications and the ability to study independently.

Learning outside of the curriculum

We broaden students' experiences by fostering an active attitude of caring for the community we live and work in. This can be through our school prefect systems, through charitable fundraising and other outreach schemes with our partner schools (primary, secondary and special needs).

"The development of students' leadership and team working skills is excellent.

Involvement in extra-curricular activities is high with many run by the sixth form students themselves, including clubs for younger students.

The school rightly regards Sixth Form students as excellent ambassadors and role models".
OFSTED - Outstanding



There is also an extensive range of extra-curricular clubs and societies which aim to broaden an awareness of local, national and international issues. Many of these clubs are organised by the students themselves including, Young Enterprise, Interact, Drama Club which contributes to an annual Sixth Form Production, MedSoc, VetSoc and Amnesty International. These and many others are complemented by a variety of musical clubs and sports teams.

Numerous students attend conferences and events in the UK and abroad, covering a range of activities.

Our small and friendly Sixth Form

There are 120 students per year group. Each year between 40% of our total intake consists of external students from other local schools. Students comment on the intimate nature of the environment where they feel welcome, are known personally and are treated as adults. They also like the relatively informal atmosphere, positive relationships with staff and the college-type environment within a school setting.

Dr Parrott, Assistant Headteacher (Upper School) meets weekly with all students and is available daily to discuss issues of concern, as well as offer advice and support for academic and pastoral matters.

Every student is guided through her two years of study by her Personal Tutor who has daily contact via registrations, tutorials, one-to-one interviews and other formal meetings.

They monitor her progress, offering support and guidance as required. The Personal Tutor also assists with the complex process of university, gap year or employment applications and is an integral part of the PSHCE, careers counselling and mock interview programmes.

Students will be generally taught by one or two members of staff for each subject area. As students progress from their AS to A2 studies we ensure that there is continuity of teaching staff as far as possible. All our staff have degrees or higher degrees in their academic disciplines. Many have supplemented their teaching skills through external marking experience with the major examination boards. Staff seek to engage and stretch the students, often enhancing the learning experience through trips and visits both within Britain and abroad.



*MedSoc
Royal College of Surgeons Surgical Career
Workshop held at CCHS*

***“The levels of care, guidance
and support are outstanding”
OFSTED - Outstanding***



Year 13 Leavers' Day



Sixth Form Students as Leaders

The Sixth Form offers a range of opportunities for students to enjoy their time in post-16 education as well as to develop skills that will help equip them for life at university and the world of work.

Sixth Form students as Form Prefects

The primary aim of the Form Prefect is to promote the ethos of the School & the Sixth Form whilst supporting and assisting the Form Tutor of a Year 7-10 form group on a weekly basis.

Form Prefects work with the Form Tutor to coordinate an appropriate range of relevant activities such as:

- assisting with the organisation of form and school charity events
- planning and coordination of assemblies
- leading topical discussions, possibly linked to current PSHCE programme
- arranging quizzes and other similar events
- offering peer support and advice on academic and social issues

Sixth Form students as Subject Prefects

Sixth Form Subject Prefects work with the departments to coordinate an appropriate range of relevant activities such as:

- assisting with the support of students in the specific subject area
- offering advice on learning strategies and revision methods
- supporting the teacher by working with lower school students in subject lessons

Sixth Form students can stand for election for the positions of Head Girl or Deputy Head Girl.

The two Head Girls and four Deputy Head Girls are ambassadors for the school. They represent the school in the local community and the Sixth Form within the school community. The Head Girls and Deputy Head Girls work closely with members of the Senior Leadership Team.



Sixth Form Activities

Listed below are some of the activities available in the Sixth Form, but many students form their own club depending on their interests:

Boxing
Amnesty International
MED SOC
Debating Society/Juniors
Psychology Society
Self Defence
Chess Club
Law Society
Drama Club/Sixth Form Production

Interact
English Oxbridge Club
VET SOC
Christian Union
Islamic Society
Young Enterprise
English Club/Literature Girls
History Club

Music

Senior Choir and Auditioned Chamber Choir
Chamber Music Groups
Guitar Ensemble,
Junior Orchestra (below grade 5)

Rock and Pop Choir
Wind Band,
Flute Choir
Senior Orchestra (Grade 5 and above)



Sports

Football
Dance
Tennis
Swimming
Trampolining

Netball
Fitness classes including yoga, zumba and aerobics
Lacrosse
Running club

Many students also organise clubs/activities for younger students e.g. Art Club, Debating Society, Maths π club, Music clubs and activities.

The Student Voice

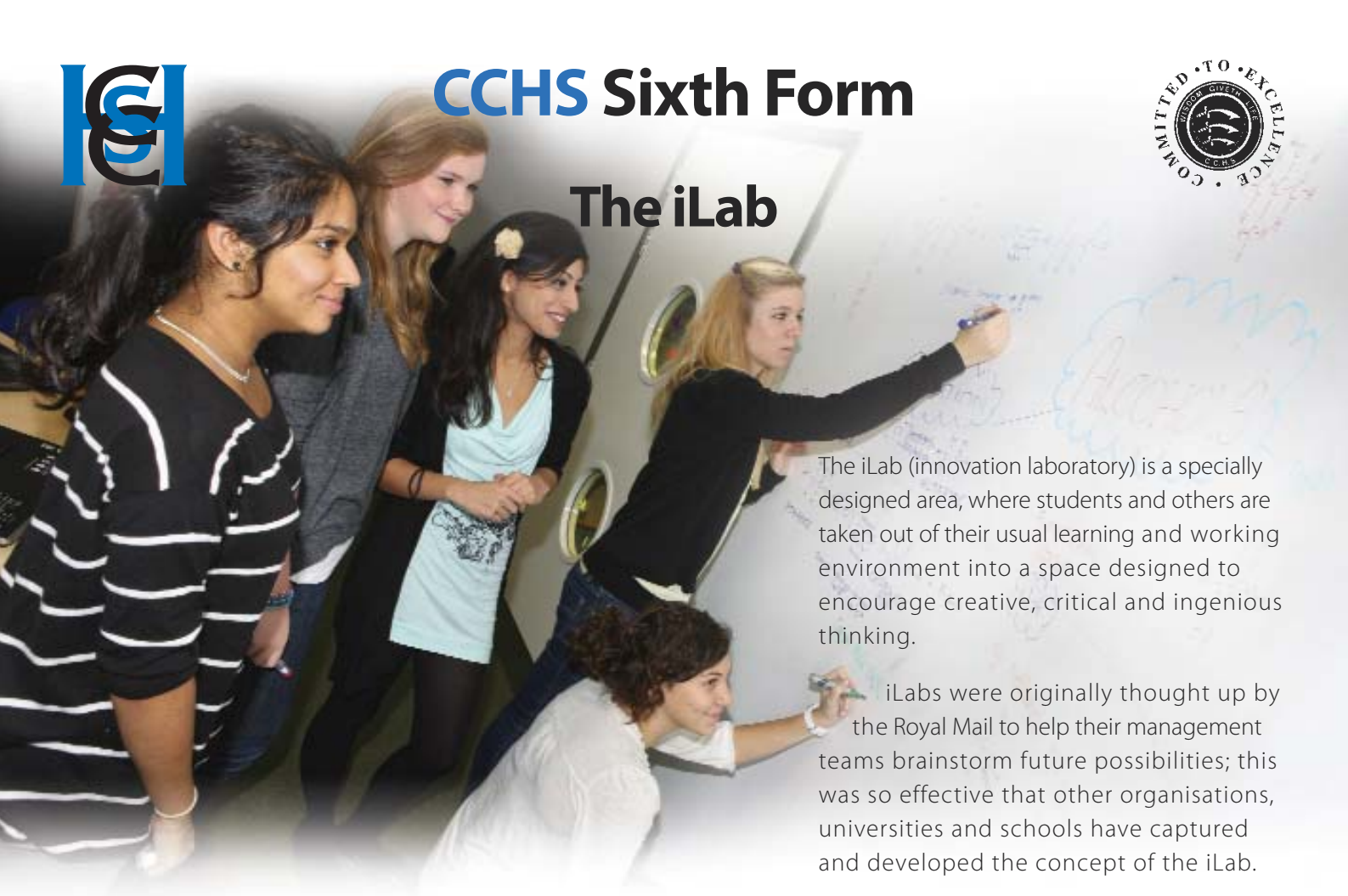
The Student Voice is elected by the students to work for the good of all students at Colchester County High School for Girls. It consists of student officers who have a range of roles, responsibilities and skills and who represent students' views in many areas of school life.

Representatives work alongside staff and provide the student voice in discussions on all aspects of school policy.

The Student Voice also fulfils a vital role in the community and social life of the school by, for example formulating and promoting the school's anti-bullying policy and the introduction of new healthy eating foods in the canteen.



The iLab



The iLab (innovation laboratory) is a specially designed area, where students and others are taken out of their usual learning and working environment into a space designed to encourage creative, critical and ingenious thinking.

iLabs were originally thought up by the Royal Mail to help their management teams brainstorm future possibilities; this was so effective that other organisations, universities and schools have captured and developed the concept of the iLab.

Within CCHS, the iLab consists of two rooms, one a break out area with bright inspiring colours, thinking toys and tools. The second room has 18 computer stations with dedicated software, floor to ceiling white board walls, changeable light colours and ability to play music to create the right atmosphere.

The software enables users to add ideas simultaneously and anonymously allowing everyone to have an equal voice. The white board walls allow creative idea sharing and the ability to easily expand on others ideas. The bright colours and toys allow the recapture of the childhood imagination through fun while addressing real issues and focusing the energy on educational activities.

The iLab within the school is used by all subjects for revision, debates, designing, problem solving and planning and development. Other users include the student council that use all aspects of the iLab including the brainstorming methods and anonymous voting to achieve their goals.





Inspiring **Leadership**

Inspiring *Understanding*

Inspiring *Maturity*

Inspiring **Creativity**

Inspiring **Personal
Development**

Art is enjoyable, but important as it is a subject which allows students to produce work from imaginative minds, embracing high level technical skills. It allows students to immerse themselves in an enriched diet of visual experiences and addresses the areas of critical reflection, refinement and the synthesis of ideas.

What do you study?

Art will involve students in investigational, analytical experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and Judgement. It will develop intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive powers and provide an understanding of the inter-relationships between Art and Design and an awareness of the contexts in which they Operate. Art will involve in AS Level classes 2 units studying; Expressive Art experimenting with a range of materials, processes and technologies and a Thematic enquiry.

Students will regularly work in the local environment and visit artists and exhibitions. All students will also sit an externally set assignment. In A2 students look at 2 units; a contextual study with a creative problem solving enquiry and an externally set assignment.

Beyond A Level

Art and Design may be studied to degree level through colleges of Art or university. A Foundation course at the local Art College is the normal route before a degree course. This enables students to decide their specialist course; Fine Art Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture, Graphic Design, Ceramics, Theatre Design, Photography, Film, Fashion, Textiles, Jewellery.

Art and Design is a BA Level Qualification required for the vocational aspects of the various Art Disciplines, including Media Studies and related courses as well as Architectural and Environmental Design. But it should be noted the qualification is appropriate to any non-degree specific career.

Examinations

Examination board Edexcel

AS

Specification code: 8AD01

A2

Specification code: 9AD01

A Level Art and Design consists of 4 units (2 AS and 2 A2).

AS Thematic enquiry with Expressive skills.

Externally set Assignment

A2 Contextual Study supporting a Creative Problem Solving enquiry

Externally Set Assignment

Staff Members

Mrs Calcutt Head of Art

Deputy Head of Lower School (Years 7—9)

Mrs Hatwell Teacher of Art

Student comments

"This has been an interesting course in which I have been able to explore a wide range of ideas and processes, which I feel has furthered my own style."

"Be prepared for a lot of hard work; the more work you do, the more you'll understand and enjoy the subject. Nevertheless, the atmosphere is friendly and the work is always enjoyable."

"I found the course interesting and enjoyed being able to personally meet some of the artists we studied."

"A highly enjoyable course that enables you to express your art in your own specific way."

"A well structured course which makes sure the end results are something to be proud of."





Biology

Biology is an exciting, rapidly advancing area of science that forms the basis of many important issues in today's society and will take us into unknown areas in the future. Frequently in the news there are headlines concerning Biology such as stem cell therapies, cloning, genetic engineering, DNA at crime scenes used as evidence, zoonotic infections, biodiversity, infectious disease outbreaks and vaccinations. All these and more, are topics considered during the A Level course.

What do you study?

The course encompasses the whole biological spectrum from cell structure to molecular biology, with topics such as biochemistry, genetics, excretion, endocrine and nervous systems, health and disease and many more. The current specifications are challenging, thought provoking and up-to-date. All modules at AS and A2 Level are taken in June with the exception of the practical skills which are set by the exam board and tested throughout the year internally.

You will undertake many practical based lessons to supplement the theory in our well equipped laboratories, including modern molecular biology practical work.

We go on a 4 day residential Ecology field trip to a field centre based at Osmington Bay in Dorset late in the Spring Term. Here you will be taught by Ecology specialists and undertake Ecology practical activities in the fabulous surrounding area, such as sampling invertebrates in rivers and assessing pollution, sand dune formation and succession, conservation management, transects and identifying plant species and their adaptations.

Beyond A Level

Biology is a very important A Level subject highly regarded by universities as it develops a wide range of skills, such as analysis, evaluating, independent research and thought. It is acceptable for many courses in higher education leading to degrees in Biological Sciences, Biochemistry, Molecular Genetics, Psychology, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and many other subjects. It is a preferred subject for many including Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine Courses and students without Biology find themselves at a disadvantage in the early stages of these university courses. There are many Biological Sciences degree courses available, which are not only stimulating in their own right but provide entry to other careers including Law, Marketing, Accountancy, the Civil Service and Industry. Above all the Biology Department is keen to produce successful biologists with a love of the subject that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Examinations

Examination board OCR

AS Specification code: H021

A2 Specification code: H421

A Level Biology consists of the following modules:

AS

F211 Cells, Exchange and Transport.

1 hour examination.

F212 Molecules, Biodiversity, Food and Health.

1 hour and 45 minute examination.

F213 Practical Skills, internally sat during Year 12 with practical tasks set by the exam board.

A2

F214 Communication, Homeostasis and Energy.

1 hour and 15 minute written examination.

F215 Control, Genomes and Environment.

2 hour examination.

F216 Practical Skills, internally sat during Year 13 with practical tasks set by the exam board.

Staff members

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Miss Bagley | Teacher of Biology Advanced Skills Teacher |
| Miss Cant | Teacher of Biology |
| Dr Martin | Head of Biology |
| Mr Landy | Teacher of Biology |

Students comments

"A Level Biology provided a fantastic preparation for University - the detail we covered meant that often I was revising topics we had covered at school rather than having to learn them for the first time & when material was new it was much easier for me to grasp as I already had an excellent grounding in the basics.

*"I'm sure this all contributed to my exam success."
Dr Sarah Prince (Medicine at King's College)*

"Doing A Level Biology at CCHS is really good fun. If you're looking to do Science beyond Sixth Form, Biology knowledge is good to have, and if you're not it's a really interesting topic anyway!"

From personal experience, I have really felt the benefits of doing Biology at CCHS as even now (doing Natural Science at Cambridge) I am always building on the foundations of knowledge I learnt at CCHS.



Chemistry

Chemistry is important. Chemists design new drugs which save lives. They develop the materials from which every product is made. They help farmers produce enough food to feed the world's increasing population. They are playing a key role in finding ways to minimise global warming. Chemists have played a major role in improving life expectancy and quality of life. Chemists are at the forefront of scientific research, medicine and industry. Chemistry is a good basis for almost any career.

A Level Chemistry is a popular choice at CCHS being chosen by 50 to 60 students each year.

What do you study?

Inorganic Chemistry is the study of the periodic table. It is similar to GCSE but also looks at how and why things happen. Physical Chemistry explains the properties of substances and how far and fast reactions go.

Organic Chemistry is the study of carbon compounds and links with Biology. 25% of time is spent on practical work such as: analysing aspirin, making dyes & indicators, making TCP, extracting orange oil and making fruity esters.

Beyond A Level

A Level Chemistry provides a starting point for the study of: Chemistry, Pharmacy, Biology, Biochemistry, Agriculture, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Environmental Science, Food Science, Materials Science and Chemical Engineering. It is often considered valuable for: Physics, Geology, Psychology, Forensic Science and Physiotherapy. Much of industry is based on Chemistry, so chemists are employed not only in Research and Development but also in Management, Marketing, Production and Personnel. The problem solving and numerical skills in Chemistry make it a good starting point for many other careers such as: Journalism, Advertising, Finance, Banking and Accountancy. There are countless opportunities open to a well-qualified chemist.

Examinations

Examination board OCR

AS Specification code: H034

A2 Specification code: H434

A Level Chemistry consists of six modules:

AS

F321: Atoms, Bonds and Groups

30% of the total AS GCE marks - 1 hour written paper

F322: Chains, Energy and Resources

50% of the total AS GCE marks - 1.75 hour written paper

F323: Practical Skills in Chemistry 1

Internally assessed. 20% of the total AS GCE marks

A2

F324: Rings, Polymers and Analysis

15% of the total Advanced GCE marks - 1 h 15 minutes written paper

F325: Equilibria, Energetics and Elements

25% of the total Advanced GCE marks - 2 hour written paper

F326: Practical Skills in Chemistry 2

Internally assessed. 10% of the total Advanced GCE marks

Both A2 modules are taken in the Summer of Yr 13 and Yr 12 for current students.

Staff members

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Dr Cox | Teacher of Chemistry, Head of Science |
| Dr Gwyther | Teacher of Chemistry |
| Dr Parrott | Teacher of Chemistry |
| | Assistant Headteacher (Upper School) |
| Dr Van Mierlo | Head of Chemistry |

Student comments

"I have to say the way this school teaches Chemistry has really changed my way of thinking and I have truly enjoyed the lessons"

Katy Leung (Medic).

"Thanks for some really fun Chemistry lessons. I've really enjoyed these last two years at CCHS"

Lucy Tyne (Vet).

"Thanks for some very inspiring lessons that will never be forgotten"

Mel Beckett (Biochemist).

"There is so much that this school does which you just don't realise. Chemistry here [Cambridge University] has been really easy as we did an awful lot at A Level which the majority of other students here didn't do....Our Science Departments at school are amazing."

Lucy Dunbar (Cambridge Chemist).

Classical Civilisation

Classical Civilisation is a truly broad multidisciplinary subject, involving elements of English, History, Art, Mathematics, Sciences, Philosophy etc. The purpose of the course is to introduce candidates to a time and culture which is so different, and yet so similar to our own, and in so doing develop an awareness of the progress and nature of humans and their interaction within an organised society.

What do you study?

AS : Archaeology : Mycenae and the classical world.

Students will study the development of Archaeology through the centuries. The main focus will be on an understanding of the methods which archaeologists use to study the physical remains of the classical world.

AS : Greek Tragedy in its context.

Students will study the plays, in translation, of the ancient Greek playwrights Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides, as both works of literature and as social documents.

Beyond A Level

Classical Civilisation is particularly useful for those interested in History, English, Art and Archaeology and the course provides a suitable foundation for the study of Classics course in higher education.

Students acquire and develop a range of skills (analysis, interpretation, critical thinking and the ability to produce evaluative writing) which prepare them well for a wide range of courses in higher education and beyond.

Examinations

Examination board OCR

AS Specification code: H041

A2 Specification code: H441

A Level Classical Civilisation consists of four units (2 at AS and 2 at A2), taken in the May/June of the appropriate year.

AS Level:

CC1 Archaeology: Mycenae and the classical world.

CC4: Greek Tragedy in its context.

A2 Level:

CC8: Art and Architecture in the Greek

CC10: Virgil and the World of the Heroes

Staff members

Miss Hodgkinson

Head of Classics

Mrs E Clark

Teacher of Classics

Student comments

"I thrived on the creativity of the subject"

Lauren Michaelides Year 13 2012

"It is really interesting to see how the skills of ancient civilisations developed and where ideas originated from"

Eliza Hardman Lea Year 13 2012

"It is like English Literature and History rolled into one!"

Yvonne Carroll Year 13 2012





Critical Thinking

A Level Critical Thinking is a practical subject which helps you to improve the quality of your thinking.

Recent research suggests a dramatic one grade improvement in A2 results for those students who have taken AS Critical Thinking.

In 2011, the school received an award for the 6th consecutive year, from the Good Schools Guide for the best results at A Level achieved by girls taking Critical Thinking at an English Grammar School.

What do you study?

In particular, Critical Thinking will help you to analyse arguments, assess the credibility of an argument, identify and assess flaws in arguments and most importantly to be able to write your own reasoned, persuasive and cogent arguments.

Beyond A Level

Critical Thinking gives you valuable life and university skills.

Many of the questions are very similar to the BMAT, LNAT and other admissions examinations, as well as employment selection tests.

University admissions tutors want to see these skills at interview.

Prof Tim Birkhead - Professor of Behavioural Ecology at Sheffield University:

"I recently suggested that an A Level in 'Thinking for myself' ought to be a requirement for university entrance. That qualification already exists. A Level Critical Thinking."

Examinations

Examination board OCR

AS Specification code: H052

A2 Specification code: H542

AS

F501 Introduction to Critical Thinking –

1.5 hour written paper. 50% of the AS marks.

F502 Assessing and Developing Argument –

1.5 hour written paper. 50% of the AS marks.

Both AS modules are taken in the Summer of Year 12.

A2

F503 Ethical Reasoning and Decision Making

1.5 hour written paper. 25% of the A Level marks.

F504 Critical Reasoning.

F504 is a 1.5 hour written paper and is 25% of the A Level marks.

Both A2 modules are taken in the Summer of Years 13 and Year 12 for current students.

Staff members

Miss Bonner Teacher of Critical Thinking

Mrs Greenland Head of Critical Thinking

Student comments

"It was a great help with my other subjects."

"It has made me listen more carefully to people."

"The Universities that I applied to, liked it"

"It was included in some of my offers"

"I liked learning how to write a solid, well-structured argument, without flaws"

"I write more reasonably and competently now"

"It supported my argument writing in French, too"





Economics

Dramatic events in the world's economies over the past few years have put Economics centre stage and contributed to a sharp rise in interest among students. Ultimately Economics affects us all, which is why everybody has an opinion on the economy. In fact, everybody seems to be an expert – it appears that everyone knows how to put the economy right! However in order to truly grasp what is going on in the world today, a basic level of economic understanding is essential.

What do you study?

Economics will help you to understand what is happening in the world. It explains such concepts as inflation, recession, business cycles and economic growth. It answers familiar questions such as why the exchange rate is different at the start of your holiday from the end, why do interest rates go up and down, why some countries seem to be forever poor and others rich and what exactly are these stocks, shares and bonds.

Beyond A Level

If you are looking to a career in business, finance, perhaps starting your own business venture, or are just keen to understand what is going on in the world, Economics may well be for you. It may also be a good starting point if you are passionate about the environment, helping the poor or have an interest in politics.

Economics is a practical subject to study so, while theory is involved, students are encouraged to relate ideas to the real world. Even if you do not continue with Economics beyond A Level, it will forever allow you to understand what they are talking about when the economy makes the news!



Examinations

Examination board AQA

AS Specification code: 1141

A2 Specification code: 2141

A Level Economics consists of four units:

AS

Unit 1 – ECON1 Economics: Markets and Market Failure

50% of AS, 25% of A Level - 1 hour 15 minutes examination

Unit 2 – ECON2 Economics: The National Economy

50% of AS, 25% of A Level - 1 hour 15 minutes examination

A2

Unit 3 – ECON3 Economics: Business Economics and the Distribution of Income

25% of A Level - 2 hour examination

Unit 4 – ECON4 Economics: The National and International Economy

25% of A Level - 2 hour examination

Previous knowledge of the subject is not necessary as the course is self-contained, there is no Mathematics involved beyond simple percentages, and you do not need to have an interest in politics or current affairs; although it is helpful if you do.

Staff members

Mr Good Teacher of Economics

Mr Hughes Teacher of Economics

Students comments

Most students speak favourably about Economics - unsurprisingly perhaps. But two factors speak far louder:

• *Economics has one of the highest 'progression rates' from AS to A Level of all subjects – that is, a large majority continue from AS to A2.*

• *Most of our students continue to study Economics in some form at university. Those whose interests lie with government action to improve life often choose Politics, Philosophy and Economics, a popular option. Others who seek business careers combine it with Business Studies in some form, while those good at Mathematics or want to study the law find many interesting combinations available.*

Ultimately, economics is an essential and practical subject that will serve you well if you wish to further your understanding of the society/economy in which you live today.



English Language

The English Language is a fascinating subject to study. It is constantly changing, spoken entirely differently from one person to the next and now faces the massive impact of new technologies. Maybe you listen with particular interest when you come across an accent that is different from your own; or you might have a young child in your family learning to talk before your very eyes; or perhaps you are intrigued by the way new words seem to appear on a weekly basis - or even by the unique histories of older words. Each of these, and many more besides, are the business of the linguist - and that is what you will become if you study English Language at A Level.

What do you study?

The course begins with a focus on analysing texts, both spoken and written. These tend not to be literary texts but could range from an advertisement to a comedy sketch. You will then move onto studying language in society, particularly looking at how technology, power and gender influence language use. You will also be creating your own texts for the coursework module. In the second year of the course you will explore how language has changed and how children acquire language.

By now you will also have the skills to embark on your own language investigation into a topic which interests you. In the past these have ranged from investigations into the language of comedy in 'Friends' to how global warming is presented in the media.

Beyond A Level

What does the future hold for a linguist? English Language is a subject very well regarded by Higher Education institutions, and because you are studying your own language it easily complements any educational course you might follow. English related courses range from creative writing to speech therapy and your A Level studies will share ground with subjects such as Psychology and Law.

Examinations

Examination board: AQA

AS Specification code: 1706

A2 Specification code: 2706

AS

Unit 1 Categorising Texts

60% of AS marks - 2 hour examination

Unit 2 Creating Texts

Coursework 40% of AS marks.

A2

Unit 3 Developing Language

2 hours 30 minutes examination - 30% of A Level marks.

Unit 4 Investigating Language

Coursework 20% of A Level marks

Staff members

Mrs Armstrong Teacher of English

Mrs Bingham Acting Head of English
(Mrs Palmer is on Maternity Leave)

Miss Carey Teacher of English

Mrs Wilson Teacher of English

Student comments

"English Language at A Level offers a lot of freedom; there are next to no barriers on coursework, for example. It encourages independence through research and self-study and is altogether extremely enjoyable!"

"English Language allows you to explore some of the reasons behind why we live and speak the way we do at present."

"I was able to get really creative with the coursework and I found the exam topics interesting. I find the things I learn in language easy to apply to real life."



English Literature

"Reading a book is like re-writing it for yourself. You bring to anything you read all your experience of the world. You bring your history and you read it in your own terms."
Angela Carter.

The first requirement for studying English Literature at A Level is that you love reading and enjoy discussing and analysing what you have read. Texts range from Chaucer and Shakespeare to Hardy's 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' and Ian McEwan's 'Atonement'.

What do you study?

You will have the opportunity to study literature across the genres of prose, poetry and drama. You will explore the historical and social background of the texts as well as honing your techniques of literary analysis. The course begins with Post-1900 literature coursework. Texts studied have included: 'Regeneration', 'Birdsong', 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time', 'Strange Meeting' and 'Moon Tiger'. The examination focuses on poetry and prose between 1800 and 1945.

In the second year of the course the examination focuses on Shakespeare and important writers such as Chaucer, Milton and Marlowe. The coursework offers scope for independent research and a comparison of three texts is required.

Beyond A Level

The analytical and communication abilities that studying English Literature develops are transferable skills for any degree course. Studying English Literature at university opens many doors. The ability to read, reflect and critique – and then synthesise your conclusions clearly – is essential to many kinds of work – as is the ability to construct and defend an argument.

Examinations

Examination board: OCR

AS Specification code: H071

A2 Specification code: H471

A Level English Literature consists of four units.

AS

F661 Poetry and Prose 1800-1945

(2 hours examination) 60% of AS marks.

F662 Literature post-1900

(coursework) 40% of AS marks.

A2

F663 Drama and Poetry pre-1800

(2 hours examination) 30% of A Level marks.

F664 Texts in Time

(coursework) 20% of A Level marks.

Staff members

Mrs Armstrong Teacher of English

Mrs Bingham Teacher of English/Head of Drama/Acting Head of English
(Mrs Palmer is on Maternity Leave)

Miss Carey Teacher of English

Mrs Davidson Teacher of English

Mrs Fox Teacher of English

Mrs Wilson Teacher of English

Student comments

"Studying English Literature has really increased my awareness of different types of societies and broadened my horizons and I enjoyed gaining an insight into genres I would never have read before. I also found that my own writing has improved enormously. The context of books and the poetry were also very interesting."

"The set texts broadened my interests. The historical context is of great interest to me, being an aspect of analysis that I have enjoyed the most. I feel English Literature has made me more aware of the influence of society on the author."

"I found I enjoyed the books I studied far more by reading them in depth."

Extended Project Qualification

What is the EPQ?

It is a qualification that:

- *Comprises a single piece of work, of your choosing, that shows evidence of planning, preparation, research and autonomous working*
- *Is equivalent to about half the size of an A Level study programme and will be graded on a six point scale of A* to E. (70 to 20 UCAS points)*
May include: a design; a report; a dissertation; an artefact or a performance

Some examples of titles are:

- *Next Generation Nanotechnology*
- *The Stream of Consciousness: It's inheritance and legacy*
- *Period Drama: A Modern Fascination*
- *Is cardiovascular disease the number one killer in the UK?*
- *Breaking the Strangles Hold – an investigation into the equine disease known as 'The Strangles'*
- *The Credit Crunch and its effects on Higher Education*

What are the benefits?

- *Extend planning, research and critical thinking, presentation synthesis and evaluation skills*
- *To allow you choice and input into the design of an extended piece of work.*
- *To support your application to higher education in the personal statement on the UCAS form and also at interviews.*
- *To provide a 'tool kit' of skills, knowledge and understanding which you will be able to use when tackling similar projects in the future such as dissertations at University.*

Examinations

Examination board AQA - Specification code: 9990

For more information follow the link:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications/projects/extended-project.php>

Staff members

Centre Co-ordinator

Mrs Moss

Each student will be allocated a Supervisor which will be allocated once the student has identified their chosen topic.

Student comments

"I did enjoy this project and I think it is a good idea for students who need a bit more flexibility to express their potential."

"I am pleased that I decided to do the extended project because it has been useful and interesting."

"I really have enjoyed the project even though it wasn't easy to find information. I was really happy I could do something personal instead of working on specific themes for my exams."





French

Studying French gives you access to an enormous range of career options. As languages are no longer compulsory at GCSE, there are fewer students studying them at A Level. Therefore linguists who have studied French to A Level and beyond will seem like gold dust to future employers. Learning a modern language opens your mind to other cultures and A Level French will enable you to broaden your job prospects on all five continents. Many UK employers are prepared to offer higher salaries to people who can speak other languages.

What do you study?

The main aim of the course is to develop the use of the language and an informed understanding of the culture and people of France. Oral communication in French is seen as being of tremendous importance and a conversation period in small groups with the French Assistant is available every week. We can also offer Year 12 students contact with a French school in Normandy so they can potentially set up an individual French exchange. Topics covered at AS Level include the media, fashion, family and relationships, healthy living. At A2, they will include the environment, immigration and racism, politics, law and order and two cultural topics which are currently the work of a French film director and the novel 'Manon des Sources' by Marcel Pagnol.

Beyond A Level

A Level provides the basic entrance requirements for university language courses. Although a French degree is an end in itself, French A Level can open up a whole range of career options including: Banking, Marketing, Journalism or Business Management. French forms an integral part of many more courses than ever before. Here are some examples: French with Politics, Law with French, European Business Management, Engineering with French and Computer Studies with French. In fact, French goes with everything!

Examinations

Examination board AQA

AS Specification code: 1651

A2 Specification code: 2651

All modules are taken in May/June.

AS

Module 1 Listening, Reading and Writing.

2 hour written paper worth 70% of AS marks.

Module 2 Speaking.

35 minutes (including 20 minutes of preparation time) worth 30% of AS marks.

A2

Module 3 Listening, Reading and Writing.

2.5 hours written paper worth 35% of A Level marks.

Module 4 Speaking.

35 minutes (including 20 minutes of preparation time) worth 15% of A Level marks.

Staff members

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Ms Davison | Head of Modern Languages |
| Mrs Huggon | Teacher of French and Spanish |
| Ms Ollite | Head of French |

Student comments

"I was really unsure as to whether to take French or not. I was never the best in my class at GCSE and so thought maybe I would really struggle. However, the support you get is amazing and if you don't understand the teaching staff do all they can to help you. I'm really glad I took French!"

"French A Level is a really useful subject to take for a multitude of careers. I chose to study French because it adds breadth to the three sciences which make up my other A Level choices. I am going to go and study sciences at university, but having an A Level in French can be a strength, as many universities now offer science based courses with one year of study in a European country. It is also more interesting than GCSE as you soon find yourself speaking 'real' French and discussing topics such as the environment, eating disorders and the impact of television on society."

Further Mathematics

Studying Further Mathematics boosts students' performance in AS/A Level Mathematics. Further Mathematics qualifications are prestigious and are strongly welcomed by universities. Students that do Further Mathematics are really demonstrating a strong commitment to their studies, as well as learning mathematics that is very useful for any mathematics-related degree.

There are many good reasons to take Further Mathematics:

- *Students taking Further Mathematics overwhelmingly find it to be an enjoyable, rewarding, stimulating and empowering experience.*
- *For someone who enjoys mathematics it provides a challenge and a chance to explore new and/or more sophisticated mathematical concepts.*
- *It enables students to distinguish themselves as able mathematicians in the university and employment market.*
- *It makes the transition to a mathematics related university course easier.*

What do you study?

To do Further Mathematics you must also study the normal A Level in Mathematics meaning that over a 2 year period you will be studying for 2 A Levels in Mathematics. You will study and be examined on 6 modules in Year 12 and a further 6 in Year 13, leading to 2 A Levels, one in Mathematics and one in Further Mathematics. Further Mathematics is normally offered to A2 Level although it is possible to study it to AS Level in Year 13. We offer the more advanced Pure Mathematics modules together with some combination of modules from Probability and Statistics, Mechanics, or Decision Mathematics. The modular system does allow us a degree of flexibility in the combination that we choose.

Beyond A Level

As well as giving you the necessary preparation for a degree in Mathematics or for mathematically related degrees such as Engineering, Computing, Physics and Chemistry, Further Mathematics considerably enhances your reasoning ability, and it is possible to study completely unrelated courses.

Examinations

Examination board OCR

Mathematics specification code:

AS 3890

A2 7890

Further Mathematics Specification code:

AS 3892

A2 7892

You will study A Level Mathematics in Year 12 and Further Mathematics A Level in Year 13. We follow the OCR Advanced GCEs in Mathematics and Further Mathematics, modular courses each consisting of six units. Written examinations are in January and June of Years 12 and 13. There is no coursework element.

Staff members

Mrs Ball *Head of Mathematics, Year 12/13*

Mr Good *Year 12/13*

Mrs Boreham *Year 12*

Mrs Roshen *Year 12*

Student comments

"I found that the course not only gave me an advantage over other students when applying for university places but it also really helped my understanding of Mathematics and made everything on the A Level Mathematics course seem so much easier."

"I found doing Further Mathematics at A Level to be extremely beneficial when studying Physics at university. A degree in Physics requires you to have a strong knowledge and understanding of mathematics, and a Further Mathematics A Level really helps to prepare you for this."

"You have to be willing to accept that it is a challenging subject, and you need to be prepared to work quite hard – it is definitely not the easiest A Level you can take! I found that the teachers explained the material well and were able to help me with any problems I had in understanding the material."





General Studies

Summary

General Studies is designed to broaden your post-16 education and complement your other studies and enable a deeper understanding of important contemporary issues. General Studies will encourage you to:

- *think across specialist subjects*
- *engage successfully with issues through the use of stimulating authentic source material*
- *develop your thinking skills, capacity to construct arguments and ability to draw conclusions*
- *improve your communication and presentation skills*
- *work independently and with others.*

What do you study?

AS

At AS, the specification builds upon a base of knowledge acquired through studying a broad range of subjects at GCSE. Students discuss the nature of knowledge, truth and belief; analyse data; information, ideas, opinions and argument; examine questions, form values, make judgements and draw conclusions:

Unit 1: Culture and Society.

1.5 hour written paper. 50% of AS marks.

Unit 2: Science and Society.

1.5 hour written paper. 50% of AS marks.

Beyond A Level

General studies provides useful preparation for higher education and life in general.

Examinations

Examination board AQA AS Specification code: 1761

For more information follow the link:

http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/humanities/general_studies_a_noticeboard.php?id=10&prev=10

Staff members

Sixth Form Tutor Team

Student comments

"General Studies encourages us to consider the implications of practices and concepts from different view points"

"It develops our Critical Thinking skills and enables us to develop a well-rounded opinion"

"It allows us to keep in touch with other subjects as well as those we are studying"



Geography

Michael Palin recently said, *"Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future"* and, if you study A Level Geography, you will certainly be better prepared to understand the issues currently affecting our planet such as climate change and sea level rise.

In addition to knowing about our planet and its people, those who choose to study A Level Geography will learn many life skills including an ability to think critically, research and communicate their thoughts through writing and other means. You will also learn the importance of team work and independent enquiry.

This course will particularly appeal to those students who:

- *have an interest in and concern for the environment,*
- *are interested in current affairs,*
- *enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences,*
- *enjoy finding out their own answers – not just being taught.*
- *want to broaden their AS or A Level studies to cover both 'sciences' and 'humanities',*
- *and want to keep their options open – Geography AS or A Level is an appropriate qualification for a very wide range of higher education or career choices.*

You do not need to have studied Geography at GCSE in order to study this course. If you have studied it at GCSE, you will be exploring familiar topics in greater depth as well as tackling completely new and exciting ones. Also, please note that there is no longer any coursework involved in Geography A Level.

Beyond A Level

As Geography is such a diverse discipline, it can lead to numerous career options in areas ranging from business location systems to hazard management.

Examinations

Examination board AQA

AS Specification code: 1031

A2 Specification code: 2031

A Level Geography consists of four modules:

AS

GEOG1 Physical and Human Geography

35% of A Level. 2 hour written examination

GEOG2 Geographical Skills

15% of A Level. 1 hour 30 minutes written examination

A2

GEOG3 Geographical Issues.

30% of A Level. 2 hours and 30 minutes written examination.

GEOG4B Issue Evaluation Exercise.

20% of A Level. 1 hour and 30 minutes written examination or

GEOG4A- Geographical Skills

20% of A Level. 1 hour and 30 minutes written examination.

Staff members

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr Bennett | Head of Department |
| Miss Bonner | Teacher of Geography |
| Mrs Jackson | Teacher of Geography |
| | Deputy Headteacher |
| Mr Turner | Teacher of Geography |
| | Assistant Headteacher (Lower School) |

Student comments

"The Field trip was amazing and made up my mind about studying Geography at University."

"I didn't realise just how much Geography overlapped with my other A Level subjects."

"Studying Geography at A Level has been awesome and I now look at the World in a different way."

"I didn't do GCSE Geography and to begin with it was hard work learning new terms. However, it soon became much easier and I went on to get an A grade."

"My first year studying Geography at Uni was quite easy because I'd already done much of the work during my A Level Geography course at CCHS."



German

Studying German to A Level gives you an enormous range of career options. The world is literally your oyster! As there are fewer students studying languages at GCSE, linguists who have studied German to A Level will seem like gold dust to future employers. Learning a modern language opens your mind to other cultures and A Level German will open up opportunities worldwide. Many UK employers are prepared to offer higher salaries to people who can speak an additional language. And it can even be fun!

What do you study?

The aim of the course is to develop the use of the language and acquire a sympathetic and informed understanding of the culture and people of Germany. Communicating effectively in spoken German as well as writing is essential and a 30 minute conversation lesson per week in small groups with the German Assistant is offered. The German exchange is open to Years 12 and 13 enabling students to practise speaking German and develop their knowledge of German society by staying with a family in Giessen. It is also possible for students to do a week's work experience as an alternative to the traditional exchange. The AS topics are popular culture, family and relationships, healthy living and the media. The A2 topics are the environment, immigration and racism, global issues and two cultural topics which are currently a work of literature and a German film.

Beyond A Level

A Level provides the basic entrance requirement to university language courses. Although a German degree is an end in itself, German A Level can open up a whole range of career options including: Banking, Marketing, Journalism or Business Management. German forms a part of many more courses than ever before. You could say German goes with everything!

Examinations

Examination board AQA

AS Specification code: 1661

A2 Specification code: 2661

A Level German consists of 4 modules which are taken in May/June:

AS

Module 1 Listening, Reading and Writing,
2 hours written paper.

Module 2 Speaking.

35 minutes (including 20 minutes preparation time).

A2

Module 3 Listening, Reading and Writing,
2 hours and 30 minutes written paper.

Module 4 Speaking.

35 minutes (including 20 minutes preparation time).

Staff members

Ms Davison

Mrs Hodgkinson

Head of Modern Languages

Teacher of German

Student comments

"Studying German at A Level enables you to improve your essay writing skills. German also compliments most subjects; it is logical like maths and science, but the essays help with English and History."

"German at A Level is much more thought provoking and challenging than in previous years. Not only do your language skills progress at a fast pace but your knowledge of German culture expands, which is fascinating."

"It's not just about learning the language but also about the culture and history of Germany, which is interesting. Plus the teachers are great!"



History

History is not just a fascinating study in itself, it is a valuable way to increase our understanding of the world in which we live. Learning how things came to be as they are enhances our appreciation of the political, economic, social and cultural organisation of our own and other countries.

It teaches us who we are and gives insights into the principles and values on which this is based. It explains age old conflicts, demonstrates the power of ideas and gives us the big picture of how change has proved possible in the past and may be possible in the future. History students gain valuable skills of organisation and analysis. Their critical abilities are sharpened and they learn to write stylishly and to argue effectively.

What do you study?

History students at CCHS study a stimulating combination of early modern and modern themes.

In Year 12 we study two modules which build on their knowledge of the modern world: "The USA, 1890-1945" is designed to enable a sophisticated understanding of change over time, whilst "The Impact of Stalin's leadership in the USSR, 1924-1941" is a short period studied in depth, through the examination of documentary evidence. These enrich our understanding of the wider world today.

In Year 13 we study "The Triumph of Elizabeth, 1547-1603", a formative period in the development of England. Students also have the opportunity to pursue a "Historical Enquiry", which is an analysis of historical issue of student's choice, evaluating a period of change over 100 years. This is an exciting opportunity to experience the research work of an academic historian.

Beyond A Level

The wide range of skills developed by History students are highly valued and create opportunities for many careers. The critical analysis of evidence and the ability to argue are an excellent preparation for Law, Administration and Politics. Law departments especially value History. History can be used directly in teaching, museum and heritage work and the tourist industry. It is a popular theme in film and television. Several past students work as historians in the media, researching information, costume and period effects, or in journalism. History enables the budding journalist to write well and equips her with a wealth of good examples.

Examinations

Examination Board: AQA

AS Specification Code: 1041

A2 Specification Code: 2041

All examinations are taken in May/June.

A Level History consists of 4 modules:

AS

Unit 1: "The USA, 1890-1945"

50% of AS, 25% of A Level

1 hour 15 minutes written examination

Unit 2: "The Impact of Stalin's leadership in the USSR, 1924-1941"

50% of AS, 25% of A Level. 1 hour 30 minutes written examination

A2

Unit 3: "The Triumph of Elizabeth, 1547-1603"

30% of A Level. 1 hour 30 minutes written examination

Unit 4: "Historical Enquiry"

20% of A Level.

Coursework unit (Approximately 3500 words on an analysis of a historical issue)

Staff members

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| Mrs Frost | Teacher of History |
| | Associate Assistant Headteacher |
| Mr Russell | Head of History |
| Dr Strange | Teacher of History |

Student comments

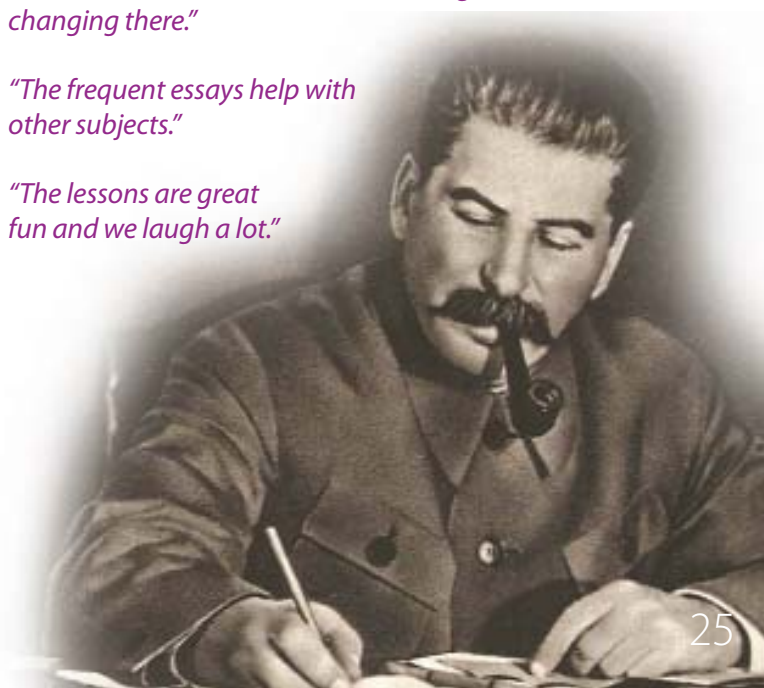
"The topics are fantastic and you learn such useful skills."

"History opened my eyes to why the world is the way it is."

"The Russian course is so relevant. Things are still changing there."

"The frequent essays help with other subjects."

"The lessons are great fun and we laugh a lot."



Latin

Classics/Latin is the first truly broad interdisciplinary subject. The purpose of the course is to provide an understanding of some of the elements of Classical Civilisation, literature and language which have had a great influence on our own, to fire imagination and to deepen and develop experience by considering a wide range of issues such as aesthetic, ethical, linguistic, political, religious and social questions. The course provides a satisfactory experience in itself and also a sound basis for further study.

What do you study?

The course continues to develop the knowledge of language and the skills gained at GCSE Level, but concentrates progressively on authentic Latin texts. You will read extracts from the works of several Latin authors, both poetry and prose. As well as using the texts as a vehicle to improve your knowledge of the language, emphasis will also be placed on the enjoyment of the texts as works of literature per se. You will also be expected to develop an understanding of the social and historical background against which the authors lived and wrote.

Beyond A Level

Latin is particularly useful for those interested in Modern Foreign Languages, English and History and is an asset for anyone intending to pursue a career in Law and Medicine. There are many careers and courses for which no particular A Levels are required and in these cases Latin is as relevant as any other subject. Classics graduates find employment at least as easily as other Arts graduates and are very popular with accountants, bankers, computer software designers and advertisers.

"Classicists think the pants off issues"
[Advertising agency]

Examinations

Examination board OCR

AS Specification code: H039

A2 Specification code: H439

Classics:

Latin specification consists of four units (2 at AS and 2 at A2), all taken in the May/June of the appropriate year.

AS

F361 Latin Language.

1.5 hour written paper. 50% of AS marks.

F362 Latin Verse and Prose Literature.

1.5 hour written paper. 50% of AS marks.

A2

F363 Latin Verse and Translation.

2 hour written examination. 25% of A Level marks.

F364 Latin Prose and Translation.

2 hour written examination. 25% of A Level marks.

Staff members

Mrs Clark

Miss Hodgkinson

Teacher of Latin

Head of Latin

Student comments

" Latin was my favourite subject all through A Level. I looked forward to every lesson and loved learning both the language and the history behind the literature."
[Danielle Smith 2010].

" A Level Latin was one of the best subject choices I ever made. I enjoyed the course which varies a lot so you can always find a strength whilst improving elsewhere."
[Rachel Babbage 2008].

"The fun and interactive lessons, coupled with the varied structure and tasters of different classical literature made the course the best A Level I took."
[Charlotte Robertson 2008].





Mathematics

Taking Mathematics at A Level will give you the opportunity to develop your powers of reasoning, mathematical skills, thinking skills and imagination with regard to problem-solving. Mathematics is a subject that becomes increasingly fascinating as you study it at higher levels. The skills that you acquire on the course are extremely useful, and are commonly used in fields as diverse as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Economics, Psychology and Engineering. Mathematics is a very popular subject and around 60 students choose to study it each year.

What do you study?

Modules studied include: Core Mathematics - the study of calculus, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, algebra and polynomials amongst other things. Statistics looks at the representation of data, probability, discrete random variables and bivariate data. Mechanics looks at forces, equilibrium of a particle, kinematics of motion in a straight line, Newton's laws of motion and linear momentum.

Decision Mathematics involves linear programming, networks, graph theory and algorithms. We feel that the Core Mathematics and the Statistics and Decision modules are the ones most useful to the majority of our students. However, the modular system does allow us flexibility and where there is demand we would be able to offer other combinations.

Beyond A Level

Mathematics is a highly respected academic subject, which is welcomed by employers and universities alike. As well as leading to degrees in Mathematics and mathematically related subjects such as Engineering and Physics, it provides excellent preparation for degrees such as Biology and Chemistry, Social Science degrees such as Economics and Psychology, and also Medical degrees. Moreover, many of our students who have studied Mathematics A Level have gone on to follow a wide range of Arts degrees including History and English.

Examinations

Examination board OCR

AS Specification code: 3890

A2 Specification code: 7890

A Level Mathematics consists of six units (3 AS and 3 A2). Three AS modules are studied in Year 12, leading to written examinations in January and June. In Year 13, we study three more modules with written examinations in January and June, in order to obtain the full A Level in Mathematics. There is no coursework element.

Staff members

| | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Mrs Ball | Head of Mathematics |
| Mrs Boreham | Teacher of Mathematics |
| Mrs Davis | Teacher of Mathematics |
| Mr Good | Teacher of Mathematics |
| Mr Mucklow | Teacher of Mathematics |
| Mrs Roshen | Teacher of Mathematics |

Student comments

"The work we do challenges the mind and makes what you have done previously seem easy. It makes you understand more fully what you have learned already and why it is needed."

"Work is marked thoroughly so that I can see what level I am at and how I can improve."

"Teachers go out of their way to help in free time."

"Teachers ensure that you understand the work you are covering and if you don't, or are unsure of something, they are willing (happily willing) to spend time helping you."

"I can definitely recommend it as a subject to take whilst in the sixth form. The strongest point for me about Mathematics A Level at CCHS is the incredibly high teaching quality."



Music

Music A Level is both practical and academic. It is hard work and time consuming but is enjoyable and involves working closely with others.

What do you study?

You will:

- *Develop your performing skills*
- *Perform as a soloist or in groups or both*
- *Develop your compositional skills*
- *Learn about harmony and how to write it*
- *Learn how other composers constructed pieces*
- *Learn to identify various styles of music.*

What experience should you have?

- *You must be able to read music*
- *Ideally, you should have, or be studying for Grade V Theory*
- *You should be at least Grade V standard on your main instrument*
- *You must be able to work with other people and be prepared to contribute time and effort to music-making in School*
- *You will be expected to join the Senior Choir and perform in an instrumental ensemble/orchestra*
- *You should take responsibility for encouraging others in music making.*

Beyond A Level

It is an obvious choice if you wish to pursue any type of musical career, in performing, composing music, criticism, music administration.

It is highly regarded generally as it involves academic work, a huge amount of self-discipline, IT skills and working with others.

Examinations

Examination board Edexcel

AS Specification code: 8Mu01

A2 Specification code: 9Mu01

AS Music

30% Performing - 5-6 minute recital

30% Composing

40% Developing Musical Understanding

A2 Music

30% Performing - 12 - 15 minute recital

30% Composing

40% Set works and aural

Staff members

Mrs Faulkner-Davis

Head of Department

Mrs Hill

Teacher of Music

Student comments

"Challenging."

"Enjoyable."

"Lots of opportunities for joining and running instrumental and vocal groups."

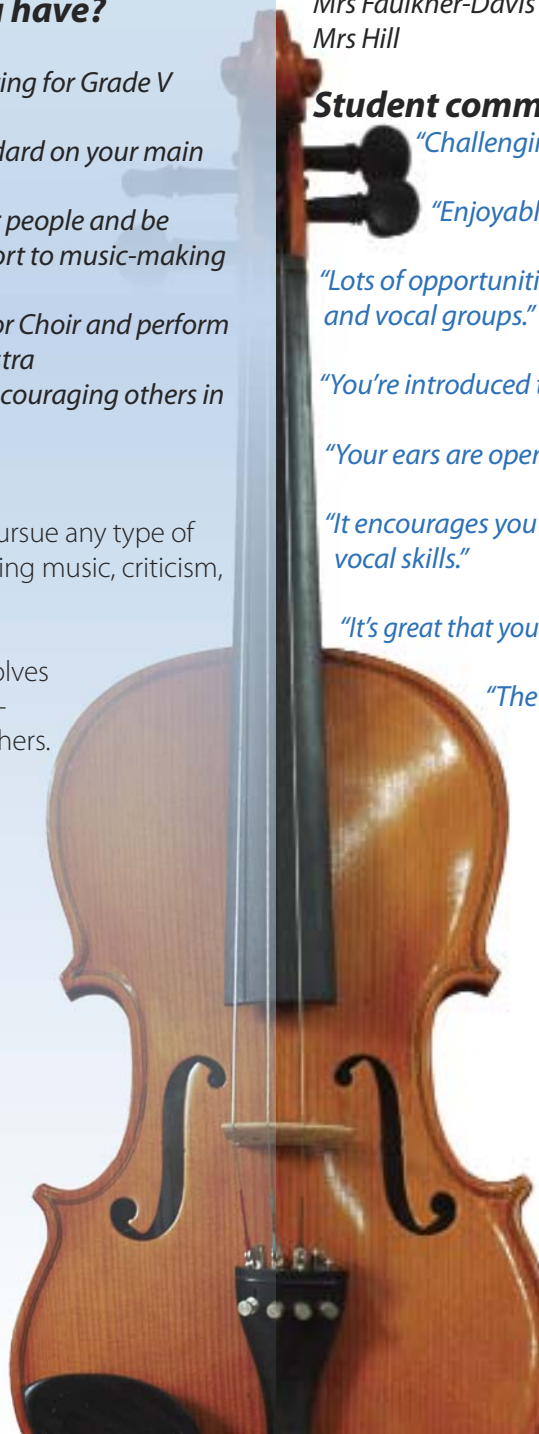
"You're introduced to a wide range of music."

"Your ears are opened to new sounds."

"It encourages you to develop your instrumental and vocal skills."

"It's great that you get free lessons on your first instrument."

"The boundaries are pushed in every area."





Physics

Physics is the 'biggest' science with magnitudes ranging from the diameter of a quark (10^{-35} metres) to the diameter of the observable Universe (around 10^{35} metres). It examines the interactions between the forces, matter and energy that make up the Universe.

Physics 'at work' is very easy to demonstrate as it is happening all around and inside you all the time. Its laws and relationships hold together the very fabric of the space-time continuum in which we exist and violations of these Laws invoke studies into other Universes.

The mind-set and ethos of any physicist leads them to be very progressive in their thought processes, highly logical and capable of collating and integrating very widely-distributed data in research, development and logistical fields.

The Physics GCE A Level is regarded very favourably on any CV.

Physics at CCHS is brought to the students by a highly-motivated, enthusiastic and skilled team with the students' achievement and progress clearly held to the fore, employing high degrees of visual and conceptual modelling along with a very 'hands-on' approach to learning.

Beyond A Level

Physics is a supporting A Level for many degree courses such as Engineering, Electronics, Physical Sciences, Natural Sciences, Geography, Sports Science alongside many more.

Examinations

Examination board OCR

AS Specification code: H158

A2 Specification code: H558

A Level Physics consists of 6 modules:

AS

G481: Mechanics.

30% of the total AS marks.

1 hour written paper taken in January

G482: Electrons, Waves and Photons.

50% of the total AS marks.

1 hour 45 minutes written paper taken in June

G483: Practical Skills in Physics 1.

20% of the total AS marks. Coursework

A2

G484: The Newtonian World.

15% of the total A Level marks.

1 hour 15 minutes written paper taken in January.

G485 Fields, Particles and Frontiers of Physics.

25% of the total A Level marks.

2 hour written paper taken in May/June.

G486: Practical Skills in Physics 2.

10% of the total A Level marks which is Coursework.

Staff members

Miss Blackburn Teacher of Physics

Mr Bowles Teacher of Physics

Dr Cox Head of Physics, Head of Science

Student comments

"It was thanks to the education that I received at CCHS that I arrived at UCL equipped with a firm grasp of basic concepts on which I was able to build solidly, particularly in Physics. I am beginning my career as a field engineer with "Schlumberger". I look forward to the challenges that this will bring knowing that I received a first class education from an inspiring Physics teacher and a school that instils self belief."

Student Graduate in 2007 1st Class Degree Engineering UCL.

Psychology

Psychology is a fascinating subject and is classed as a science. To some extent we are all naïve psychologists as we try to interpret and understand the behaviour of those around us. Psychologists further our understanding by generating theories and hypotheses and using scientific methods to test them and draw conclusions about both human and non-human animal behaviour.

What do you study?

There is a broad range of topics studied across the two year course. At AS Level in PSYB1 topics are compulsory and include key approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Gender Development and Research Methods. In PSYB2 there is a choice of topics from the three categories; Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology and Individual Differences. Likely choices are Social Influence, Remembering and Forgetting and Anxiety Disorders.

The A2 specification also has a choice of topics. In PSYB3 likely choices are Social Development, Schizophrenia and Mood Disorders and Forensic Psychology. In PSYB4 all of the topics are compulsory and include; Approaches in Psychology, Debates in Psychology and Methods in Psychology. This unit builds on knowledge gained throughout the course and is synoptic.

Beyond A Level

Psychologists are involved in many areas of research. Some conduct applied research seeking to answer actual problems. These can range from finding ways to reduce stress to advising on the design of complicated equipment. Pure research focuses on areas which may not have an immediate and obvious application. Psychologists are employed in a range of fields including teaching and education, social work, the probation service, clinical and counselling areas, hospitals, industry and commerce. The study of Psychology provides the student with transferable skills which can be utilised within many non-psychology careers including market research, advertising, careers guidance, retail management and personnel. It is extremely useful in any career which involves people or understanding people and is a popular choice at degree level.

Examinations

Examination board AQA

AS Specification code: 1186

A2 Specification code: 2186

A Level Psychology consists of four units:

AS

PSYB1 Introducing Psychology

50% of the total AS marks, 1 hour 30 minutes.

PSYB2 Social Psychology, Individual Differences

50% of the total AS marks, 1 hour 30 minutes.

A2

PSYB3 Child Development and Applied Options

25% of the total A Level marks, 1 hour 30 minutes.

PSYB4 Approaches, Debates and Methods in Psychology

25% of the total A Level marks, 2 hours.

- Both AS written papers are taken in May/June of Year 12
- Both A2 written papers are taken in June of Year 13

Staff members

Mr Barraclough Teacher of Psychology

Teacher of Physical Education

Miss Elliston Head of Psychology

Student comments

'Having only started Psychology at AS Level this year, I find it my most interesting subject. I am enjoying learning about why we behave in the way that we do and the complex workings of the mind. Psychology links particularly well with Biology and PE which I have also taken this year.'
Ellie Simmons Year 12 2012-13

'I look forward to each lesson and learning something new every time. It also helps improve your critical and analytical skills, which are essential for other subjects and everyday life. Overall it's fun, fascinating and accessible to everyone.'
Melanie Ersapah – Year 13 2012-13

"Psychology has given me a broad set of skills and knowledge, which can be applied to many domains. The learning experience at CCHS provided me with an excellent foundation to go on and study Psychology at University, where I have been awarded a First Class Honours Degree"
Lucy Butterworth - A Level 2007, Graduate 2011



RS: Philosophy and Ethics

In Religious Studies, we provide students with an opportunity to understand and reflect on both religious and secular beliefs and values that people hold in the world today. Religious Studies offers a creative and informative way for students to understand and evaluate complex ideas in a wide range of areas concerning belief in God, the nature of God, lifestyle choices and ethics.

What do you study?

We explore why people are Religious and we consider the big issues such as whether God exists and why is there suffering in the world. We ask whether people really have free will, and we consider the implications of deterministic and fatalistic approaches to life.

By the end of the Religious Studies programme students will have developed a good level of understanding of religious beliefs and why people hold them, as well as the logical and critical skills to assess and evaluate belief and value claims and their significance in people's lives today.

Beyond A Level

The creative and critical thinking skills developed in Religious Studies are most helpful for future studies and careers. Religious Studies A Level is highly and widely regarded and has a good market value for students interested in careers such as Law, Medicine, Journalism, Politics, Broadcasting, Education, and many of the caring professions.

For many students, the value of this course has been in the personal discovery and development it fosters. If you enjoy thinking about and discussing the existence of God, what's right and wrong and whether we have free will you would enjoy the Religious Studies course.

Examinations

Examination board OCR

AS Specification code: H172

A2 Specification code: H572

The A Level Religious Studies Course is made up of the following modules:

AS

G571 Philosophy of Religion.

1.5 hour written paper. 50% of the AS marks.

G572 Ethics.

1.5 hour written paper. 50% of the AS marks.

A2

G581 Philosophy of Religion.

1.5 hour written paper. 25% of the A Level marks.

G582 Ethics.

1.5 hour written paper. 25% of the A Level marks.

Staff members

Mrs Elder

Head of Religious Studies

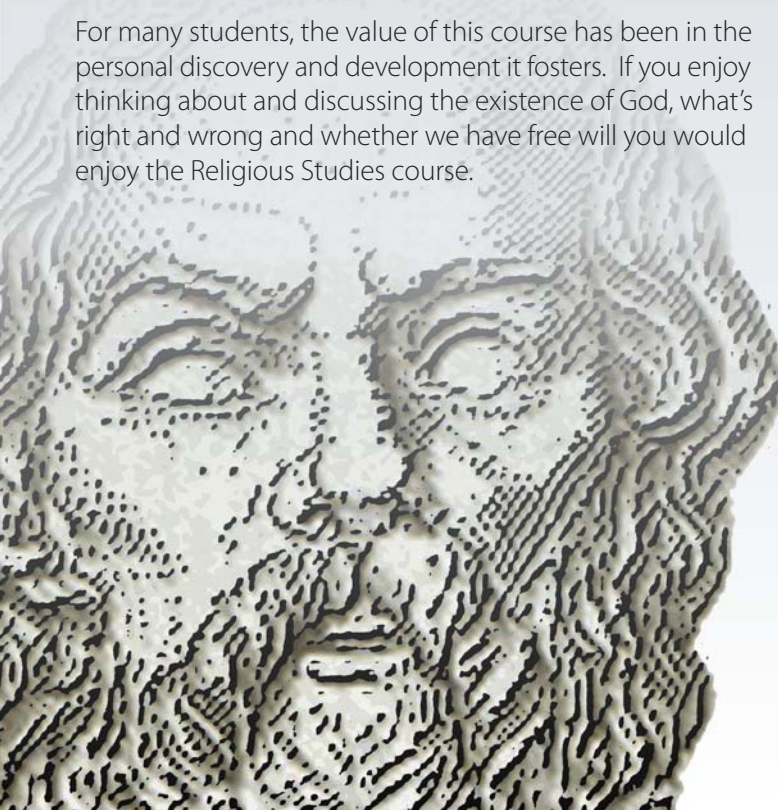
Student comments

"In a society where religion is being more and more marginalised by science, I believe it is more important than ever to properly understand God and religion."

Philosophy and Ethics develops one's ability to analyse theories and arguments, as well as teaching you to think outside the box and explore new ideas. It's not until you study Philosophy and Ethics for yourself that you can properly understand human nature, and start to comprehend the bigger questions of life." – Abbie Jupp

"I chose Religious Studies because I view it as a vital subject which has influenced the nature of meaning and thought. This subject involves a lot of discussion and it has developed my personal confidence in class. Philosophy and ethics develops your ability to effectively construct arguments." – Amy Gould

"I chose to study Philosophy and Ethics A-Level because it interested me at GCSE and I wanted to develop my understanding further. I was interested to learn about ethical issues we face in everyday life, they're much more common than I first realised. Studying Philosophy and Ethics has helped me to develop my essay writing skills to include a variety of balanced attitudes, rather than just one. It has also helped me to think about things in different ways to understand why some people make the decisions they do." – Georgia Howlett



Spanish

Studying Spanish gives an enormous range of career options. As languages are no longer compulsory at GCSE, there are fewer students studying them at A Level. Therefore linguists who have studied Spanish to A Level and beyond will seem like gold dust to future employers. Learning a modern language opens your mind onto other cultures and A Level Spanish will enable you to open your job prospects to all five continents. Furthermore, many UK employers are prepared to offer higher salaries to people who can speak another language as well as English.

What do you study?

The main aim of the course is to develop the use of the language and to develop a sympathetic and informed understanding of the culture and people of Hispanic countries. Oral communication in the foreign language is seen as being of tremendous importance and there is a time-tabled weekly conversation period with the Spanish Assistant. We also offer students the opportunity to improve their spoken Spanish and develop their knowledge of Hispanic culture by organising trips. In 2010 a group of students studied at a language school in Salamanca and another group went on an expedition to Ecuador where they worked in a school and then visited the Galapagos Islands. Topics covered at AS Level include the media, fashion, family relations and healthy living. At A2, they include the environment, immigration and racism, politics, law and order and two cultural topics which are currently the work of a Spanish film director and the short stories of Isabel Allende.

Beyond A Level

A Level provides the basic entrance requirements for university language courses. Most of our students studying Spanish opt to continue studying the language at university, often combining it with another language or widening their career prospects by studying Spanish with Politics, Law, European Business Management, or even Physics.

Examinations

Examination board AQA

AS Specification code: 1696

A2 Specification code: 2696

A Level Spanish consists of 4 modules which are taken in May/June:

AS

Module 1 Listening, Reading and Writing.

2 hours written paper.

Module 2 Speaking.

35 minutes (including 20 minutes preparation time).

A2

Module 3 Listening, Reading and Writing.

2 hours 30 minutes written paper.

Module 4 Speaking.

35 minutes (including 20 minutes preparation time).

Staff members

Ms Davison Head of Modern Languages

Miss Noriega Spanish Assistant

Mrs Huggon Head of Spanish

Student comments

"Spanish is such a worthwhile subject to take for A Level because of the countless opportunities that are available for people with language skills. Not only that, but the course is really enjoyable and you'll be amazed at how much progress you make from GCSE. The topics at AS Level are interesting and they are always put into context so you get the opportunity to learn about Spanish culture as well. You also get the chance to watch Spanish films which helps to widen your knowledge of Spanish culture and history".

"Often Spanish feels like the most practical subject I take, because it is so easy to apply what you've learnt from the lessons to real life. Studying Spanish culture really helped on our trip to Salamanca, and I also gained a lot more confidence, having experience in Spain itself, with native-speakers. I love the language and one day I hope to be really fluent in it!"



Year 13 Public Examination Results 2012 - 2013

GCE 'A' Level There were 118 students in the Year Group

| Subject \ Grade | A* | A | B | C | D | E | N | U (fail) | Number Entered |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|---|----------|----------------|
| Art and Design | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 5 |
| Biology | 21 | 23 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 0 | | | 64 |
| Chemistry | 12 | 30 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 0 | | | 58 |
| Classical Civilisation | 0 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 12 |
| Critical Thinking | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | 12 |
| Drama | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 4 |
| Economics | 1 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | | | 13 |
| English Language | 1 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 10 |
| English Literature | 4 | 14 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | 36 |
| French | 3 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 9 |
| General Studies | 2 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | 18 |
| Geography | 4 | 17 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | | 32 |
| German | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 4 |
| History | 12 | 11 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | 31 |
| Latin | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | 5 |
| Mathematics | 14 | 26 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 0 | | | 54 |
| Further Mathematics | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | 7 |
| Music | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | | 3 |
| Physical Education | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | | | 10 |
| Physics | 1 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | 15 |
| Psychology | 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 0 | | | 24 |
| Religious Studies | 0 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | | 11 |
| Russian | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 1 |
| TOTAL | 87 | 189 | 115 | 37 | 10 | 0 | | | 438 |
| % (accumulative) | 19.9% | 63.01% | 89.3% | 97.72% | 100.00% | 100.00% | | | |

Points Score

A Level

Grade A*=140, A = 120, B = 100, C = 80, D = 60, E = 40

AS level

Grade A=60, B=50, C=40, D=30, E=20

Points Score (A level only)

| | 120-179 | 180-239 | 240-299 | 300-359 | 360-419 | 420-479 | 480+ | Average Score |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|---------------|
| Number of girls in points range | 0 | 3 | 13 | 26 | 15 | 14 | 38 | |
| Mean points per student | | | | | | | | 441.77 |

Points Score (A level including 'cashed in' AS)

| | 120-179 | 180-239 | 240-299 | 300-359 | 360-419 | 420-479 | 480+ | Average Score |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|---------------|
| Number of girls in points range | 0 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 17 | 22 | 55 | |
| Mean points per student | | | | | | | | 521.86 |

Applying to University

We have a comprehensive programme of support to help you through the process of choosing a course through to making an application to University. In addition to the programme outlined below there will be a variety of talks during the year linked with Higher Education. You can contact our ex-students to gain an insight into particular courses and universities.

Year 12

October – Forward Thinking Day

You will spend the day looking at how to:

- Choose a university
- Write your Personal Statement

Investigate courses through work experience and/or reading around the subject.

There will also be talks given by Admissions Tutors and subject specific talks by external speakers.

January – PSHCE Talks

You will have a number of talks including:

- Options at 18
- Applying to Higher Education
- Applying to Oxbridge

April – Higher Education Evening

We will invite you and your parents to attend the evening where we will give you an overview of how the UCAS process works and how to prepare for an application. Admission Tutors will also be invited to share their expertise.

June/July – UCAS preparation

You will register online with UCAS and we will advise you on how to fill out the application form.

We will support you while you write your Personal Statement.

You will continue to research courses.

Year 13

September – UCAS application and interviews

You will have a review of your AS grades and UCAS application with your tutor. During PSHCE we will give you interview advice. You can submit your application to UCAS from early September. Deadlines for UCAS include 15 October for Oxbridge, Veterinary Science and Dentistry. All remaining courses will have a deadline in early January. Once you have submitted your UCAS form you will be invited to apply for Higher Education funding.

October/November – Preparation, interviews and offers.

During the PSHCE programme you will have mock interviews, advice on writing covering letters and advice on living on a budget. You will have a minimum of two mock interviews, your first interview will be a general interview and the second will be with a subject specialist. At this time of year you start to be called for interview.

February/March – Accepting offers

You will be given advice regarding making your first and second choices.

May/August – Results

We will give you guidance, outline the procedure for results day and be available if required on the day.



CCHS Sixth Form

Oxbridge at CCHS



Year 12

During the year there will be opportunities to talk to Admissions Tutors when they visit CCHS. You can contact our ex-students to gain an insight into particular courses and colleges.

January – PSHCE talks

Applying to Oxbridge – how the application process works and how to choose a college.

June/July – Writing your Personal Statement and Preparation for Admissions Tests

We discuss your choice of course and college with you and help you write a dazzling Personal Statement. Preparation for LNAT (Law) and BMAT (Medicine and Veterinary Science) takes place within PSHCE.

Those of you that will be applying for Organ or Choral Scholarships will need to complete the Oxbridge application form before the end of the summer term.

June/July – Oxbridge Presentation

Half day sessions with recent Oxford and Cambridge Graduates, covering a variety of subject areas.

July – The Cambridge Trip

We take you to Cambridge when the University and individual colleges have their open days. You will have the opportunity to hear talks by Admissions Tutors and lectures given by a variety of departments. Current students are also available to speak to.

Year 13

September – The Application

We support you through the final stages of making the application.

September/October/November – Preparation for Interviews

Mock interviews begin. You will have a minimum of two interviews (a general interview and an interview with a subject specialist).

December

Oxbridge interviews and offers.



Christ Church College, Oxford



Careers Guidance in the Sixth Form

Miss Bateman: - Careers Co-ordinator

Dr Parrott: - Assistant Headteacher (Upper School)

The Sixth Form Tutor Team

How we will support you

Within the two years leading up to finishing your A Levels, key decisions need to be made. You will need to decide your next steps after your time within the Sixth Form, as well as achieving the best qualifications you can, and build up your skills so that you are fully prepared when moving on to your next challenge.

Post -18 you will have three choices: Higher Education, Employment or a Gap Year. Throughout the two Sixth Form Years, the Careers Team will support you and provide you with the key information to make your important decisions.

Not only do you have the support of the Careers Team, your subject tutors and form tutors, you also have access to the Careers Library. This area contains information which you can use to research key areas. We have the latest information online; through using vetted websites you can get the most modern thinking, information on careers and key contacts within each employment area. Additionally the Careers Library contains work experience information, careers reference books, Labour Market Information, University prospectuses, detailed information on Oxbridge applications, Gap Year Information (volunteering, getting a job abroad) and Leavers Information, Interview Techniques, CV Writing and Covering Letters. There is a telephone available for use by students to contact employers, work experience providers and university admissions tutors. The photocopier is available for use so that each girl can compile her own careers reference file from the information in the Careers Room.

Every year we co-ordinate an Upper Sixth Mock Interview Programme, which stretches and prepares students for interviews, whether for 18+ applications or confidence in dealing with interviews in later life. Ultimately we strive to create a provision so that each girl is armed with the correct information so that she can make the right career decisions.

"The Careers Room has been incredibly useful to me. I have used it for everything from picking my future career to deciding which universities I want to go to! If it wasn't for all the information, prospectuses and support from the Careers Facilitator, I would have no idea what I would be doing in my adult life!"

STUDENT Comments

