

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT  
QEH SIXTH FORM?

WHAT ELSE CAN  
I GET INVOLVED IN?

WHAT COMES NEXT?

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS  
FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024

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Welcome to our co-educational Sixth Form,

Your Sixth Form years are special. They are a time when you take on increased responsibility for your own learning and work in partnership with teachers who help you develop a rounded maturity, resilience and strength of character which equip you for the evolving challenges of the world beyond. It is an exciting time of change and self-discovery for all.

Here at QEH we pride ourselves on academic excellence and our proven ability to support you to fulfil your potential. You will be able to choose from a wide range of courses taught by enthusiastic, well qualified and experienced teachers. Our results speak for themselves, with our students consistently exceeding national expectations for student attainment.

Of course we offer a great deal beyond enabling you to gain excellent A-level grades. At the heart of our ethos is an emphasis on helping you, as an individual, to prepare fully for life beyond school by developing your unique talents and skills to the full.

We will encourage you to take on new challenges and push yourself beyond your comfort zone through our extensive programme of co-curricular activities and we will help you find your own way to contribute positively to our strong school community by offering you a range of leadership opportunities.

Your Sixth Form years are crucial to your future success. We set high standards and work with you to ensure you meet them. We offer academic excellence, a sense of community, individual support and perhaps most importantly of all, a strong sense of fun and life long friendships.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Porter', written in a cursive style.

**Richard Porter**  
Head of Sixth Form

# YOUR SIXTH FORM EXPERIENCE



**Top:** Composing in the Music department  
**Middle:** QEH Sixth Form is located in the heart of Clifton  
**Bottom:** The Sixth Form Centre offers space to work as well as catch up with friends



With our two sons being at this school over the past 13 years, we could not be happier with the amazing teachers, teaching and all the extra activities outside of the curriculum. Both boys have come away with outstanding results and aside from that as perfectly rounded, confident and well-mannered young men.

**Sharon, parent**

Your time in the Sixth Form provides the foundation for the rest of your life. These are years when you step into adulthood, gain a better understanding of who you are as a person, and gain qualifications that will unlock doors to university and beyond.

We want you to leave QEH armed with the excellent qualifications that will help you start on your chosen career. But we also want so much more for you.

We want you to develop a strong inner confidence and self-respect – and an open minded acceptance of others too. We want you to gain the leadership skills that will enable you to thrive in the wider world – the ability to take the initiative, learn from your mistakes and work well with others. And we want you to have the opportunity to develop all your talents whether that means taking to the stage in our state-of-the-art theatre, scoring a goal on the pitch or arguing a point in our debating society.

In short, we want you to leave QEH not just well qualified but well educated, as an emotionally intelligent young adult able to think critically for yourself and with the skills to lead a rounded and fulfilling life.

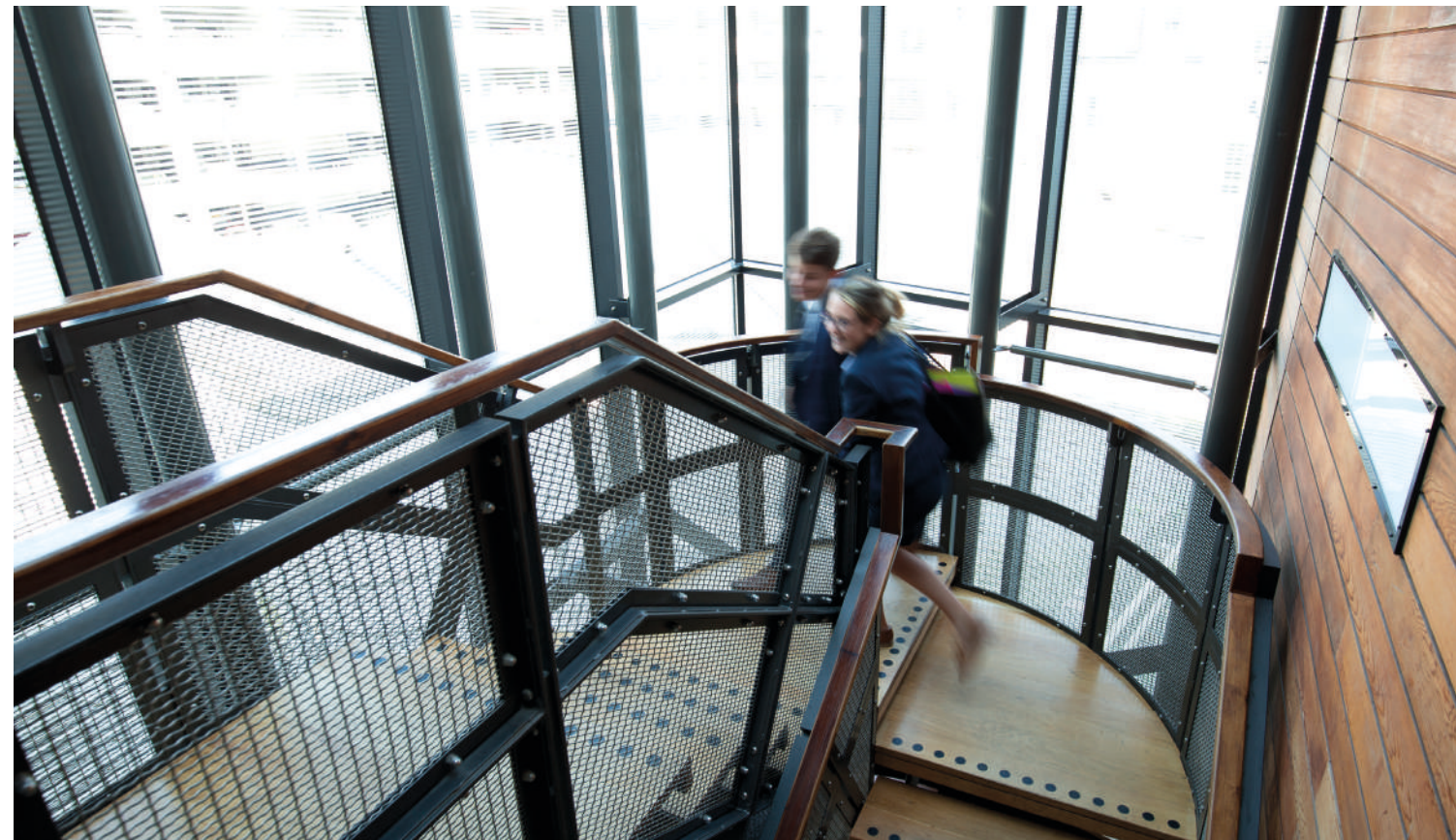
This is the QEH Sixth Form experience. We hope you enjoy it.





**Top:** There's room to relax in the Upper Common Room  
**Middle:** The Sixth Form has its own entrance  
**Bottom:** The silent work room is a great place to concentrate and get your work done

# SIXTH FORM SPACE



Whether you want to do some reading, focus on that all important essay, or relax and catch up with your friends, the purpose-built Sixth Form Centre ticks all the boxes.

You'll have your own dedicated space to access your own devices, as well as a Sixth Form library area, a silent work room for maximum concentration, and communal study areas for when you want to brainstorm ideas with fellow students.

When you're hungry or just want to put your feet up, there are comfy sofas and chairs in the Upper Common Room and a café in the Lower Common Room serving a range of hot and cold food including jacket potatoes, pizza and toasties. And if you fancy a breath of fresh air and want to stretch your legs, you can head outside to the nearby shops and cafés in Clifton.



There's a relaxing atmosphere in the Sixth Form Centre but a good work ethic too. Having our own study space is really useful... and the food is amazing!  
**Katie, current student**





# YOUR STUDIES



Top: Help and advice are on hand  
Middle left: Taking note  
Middle right: A-level chemists complete their experiment  
Bottom: Creativity thrives at QEH



Most students find A-levels quite a jump up from GCSEs but we'll help you manage the transition and support you in areas where you're struggling. We expect you to study four A-level subjects in Year 12 and continue with at least three of them in Year 13. If you choose, you can also study for an Extended Project Qualification. This is a self-directed research task that's highly valued by universities.

Whatever subjects you choose, you will also follow our weekly General Studies programme. This is designed to give you important life skills. We'll also discuss moral, social and political topics, helping you to challenge assumptions and see issues from different perspectives.

Lessons themselves will include discussion, practical work, research tasks, essay writing and exam preparation. You'll be in a small class, so you get plenty of individual attention. And there will be periods in the school day when you don't have timetabled lessons. These are for private study to consolidate what you're learning in the classroom.

We have a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy for students in the Sixth Form. We see the implementation of these devices as improving seven key areas of teaching and learning. Collaboration, feedback, creativity, research, communication, organisation and preparation for the future.



She is rising to the academic challenge and there is no opportunity for her to be bored at any point. Moving to QEH has clearly been absolutely the right decision for her.

Current parent







**Top left:** A demonstration of physics in the real world!  
**Top right:** Computer Science is a popular subject  
**Middle:** Analysing experiment results  
**Bottom:** Finding out more about the UCAS process



We'll treat you as the young adults you are fast becoming and in return we want you to think of teachers as partners – people who will work alongside you to help you achieve your own goals.

This is a relationship based on mutual trust and respect. Your teachers will respect you as individuals, trusting that you will work to the best of your ability. They'll monitor your progress carefully, identifying your strengths and giving you constructive feedback in areas where you need to improve.



We ask you to respect them too, trusting that they have your best interests at heart and that they'll do their best to help you succeed in your studies.

# A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH TEACHERS



I just wanted to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to study at QEH these last two years. I have really enjoyed my time at the school, and appreciate what an honour and a privilege it has been to be a student at QEH.

**Recent leaver**







QEH educates not just academically, but in terms of experience, character, outlook and attitude.

Clare, former parent

It may be popular in some schools to look like you're always bored, but here it's the norm to be interested in and to explore new opportunities – to sing, act, put on a concert, challenge yourself on the sports field or expand your cultural horizons.

Our sports include rugby, football, hockey, badminton, netball, swimming, tennis and rowing. You can also go hiking, climbing, kayaking and mountain biking or take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

If you sing or play an instrument, there's every kind of choir, orchestra and band to suit your taste. And if drama is your thing, we'll encourage you to produce your own play or take a lead role in our popular technical club.

Opportunities are not just confined to the school site. In recent years, QEH Sixth Formers have enjoyed expeditions to Finland, investigated history and politics in New York and Washington and explored mountain ranges around Europe.

In short, whatever your passion, we'll encourage you to follow it – we'll even help you set up a completely new club or society in an area that interests you.

# OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Top left: Getting to grips with a play rehearsal

Top right: Outdoor Pursuits expeditions take you off the beaten track

Middle: The cafés of Clifton are on our doorstep

Bottom: Orchestra? Jazz Band? Battle of Bands? Say yes to all three!



# A CHANCE TO LEAD



Your success in the wider world after school depends in part on your ability to take responsibility, be proactive, learn from your mistakes, and work alongside others to make things happen.

We'll help you develop these leadership skills through roles such as School Prefects, House Captains, and Peer Supporters where you'll help younger pupils settle in and make the most of life at QEH. You can also be a Theatre Mentor, Music Prefect or Librarian, and we'll encourage you to lead one of our weekly assemblies to build your confidence in public speaking.

Other opportunities to take the initiative include our Sixth Form council and charity fund-raising. Sixth Formers run the school's charity committee, so if you're really passionate about a particular cause, this is your chance to get involved. As well as raising money for your favourite charity, you can also volunteer, either on games afternoons or in your own time.



**Top:** Peer supporters help younger years to settle in  
**Middle:** Senior Prefects speak at all the major public events  
**Bottom left:** House Captain and Vice-Captains organise teams for competitions  
**Bottom right:** The traditional bluecoats make an appearance at Prize giving and Cathedral services.



Both of my sons think that their Sixth Form years were a special time at QEH. The range of opportunities offered, the chance to step up and give back, and the camaraderie with fellow Sixth Formers have given them many happy memories.

**Catherine, parent**







We'll give you lots of freedom and independence but we also recognise there may be times when you need support. If you do, we'll be there to help.

You'll be assigned to a tutor and will meet with your tutor group every morning. Typically, these groups consist of about 12 or 13 students. Your tutor, who will be with you throughout Sixth Form, will help you adapt to the challenge of A-levels, monitor your progress and work with you to resolve any issues. They will also write a reference for university or job applications.

We also have a designated Head of Year 12 and Head of Year 13, supported by Assistant Heads. They're experts in the particular needs of these years and can offer you plenty of advice and guidance.

Sometimes you may want to sit down and talk in confidence about issues that aren't related to your life at QEH – for example, problems with a relationship. If so, our school counsellor is on hand to listen and our Health Centre is open five days a week.

# SUPPORT WHEN YOU NEED IT



QEH fulfilled its role in turning out a well-rounded young man. Not one simply packed full of facts, but importantly one able to take his place in the world, where he has the ability to think for himself.

Former parent



Top left: Form tutors see their tutor group every morning

Top right: Preparing for inter form debating

Middle: Subject support is always available

Bottom: Teachers are specialists and passionate about their subjects

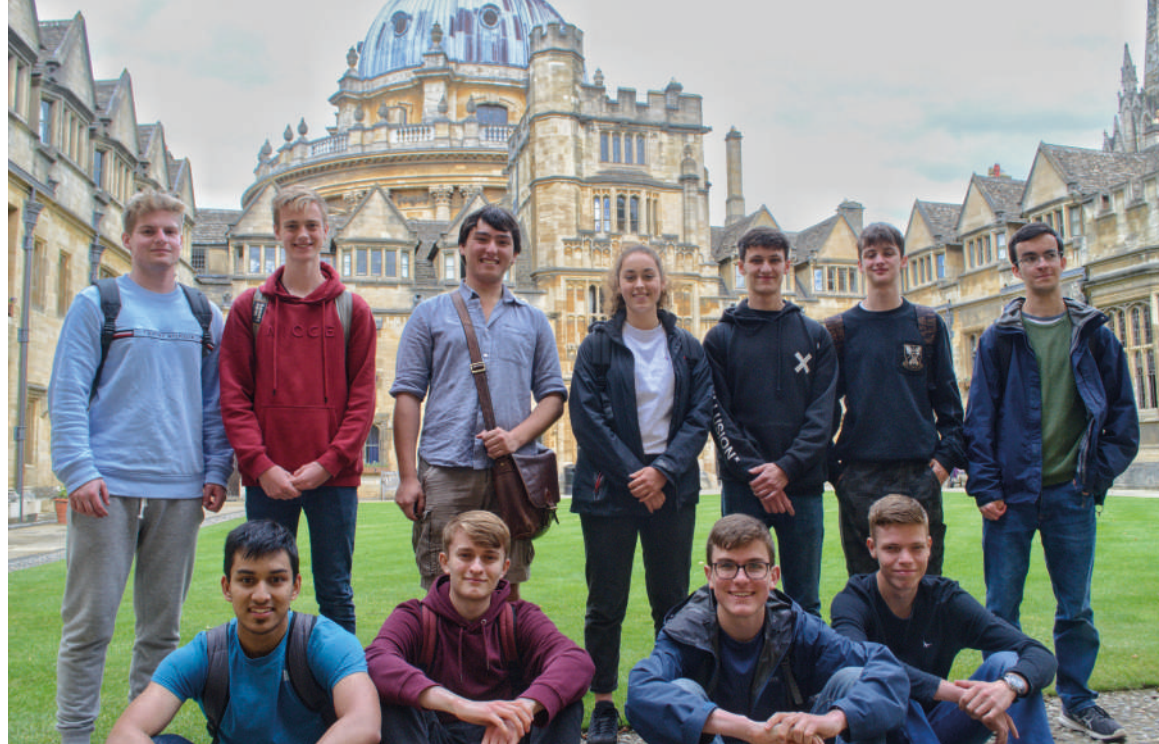


# LIFE BEYOND SCHOOL



It is exciting to be going off to university but I will miss QEH a great deal.

**Recent Leaver**



**Top left:** Elizabethans take Year 12 on a tour of their college at Oxford University

**Top right:** Visiting speakers share their experiences of life post University

**Middle:** Staff mentor current students in a number of areas

**Bottom:** Alumni return to school for the Annual Dinner

You may already have your future mapped out or you may need help thinking through your options. From the day you join the Sixth Form, we'll help you prepare for the day you leave.

This preparation takes many different forms, led by our dedicated UCAS Co-ordinator along with our Head of Futures. We'll ask universities and major employers to come in and talk to you about subjects, jobs and apprenticeships. We'll invite former QEH students back to share their stories. And we'll also give you mock interviews, help you arrange relevant work experience, and advise you on how to write a powerful personal statement.

If you want to apply to a highly competitive university or aspire to a particular career such as Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science, we'll assign you to a teacher who specialises in your chosen discipline. They'll advise you on how best to prepare, and will mentor you as you move through the application and interview process.

Whatever your plans, we'll help you decide on your next step and support you in getting there.





**Top left:** A-level art students have their own space in the studio  
**Middle right:** Well practiced revision strategies improve exam success  
**Middle:** Check the course information carefully to choose the right A-level  
**Bottom:** Teachers ensure you understand your subjects thoroughly



Deciding what to study at A-level is not always easy. You may not know what you want to study at university or even whether university is right for you. There may also be subjects that you enjoy but where you're worried that your performance is not strong enough to tackle an A-level.

We'll help you understand your strengths and weaknesses and advise you on which subjects you need to do if you already have a particular degree course in mind. And if you're already at QEH, we'll let you know whether you're on track to achieve higher grades in your chosen subjects.

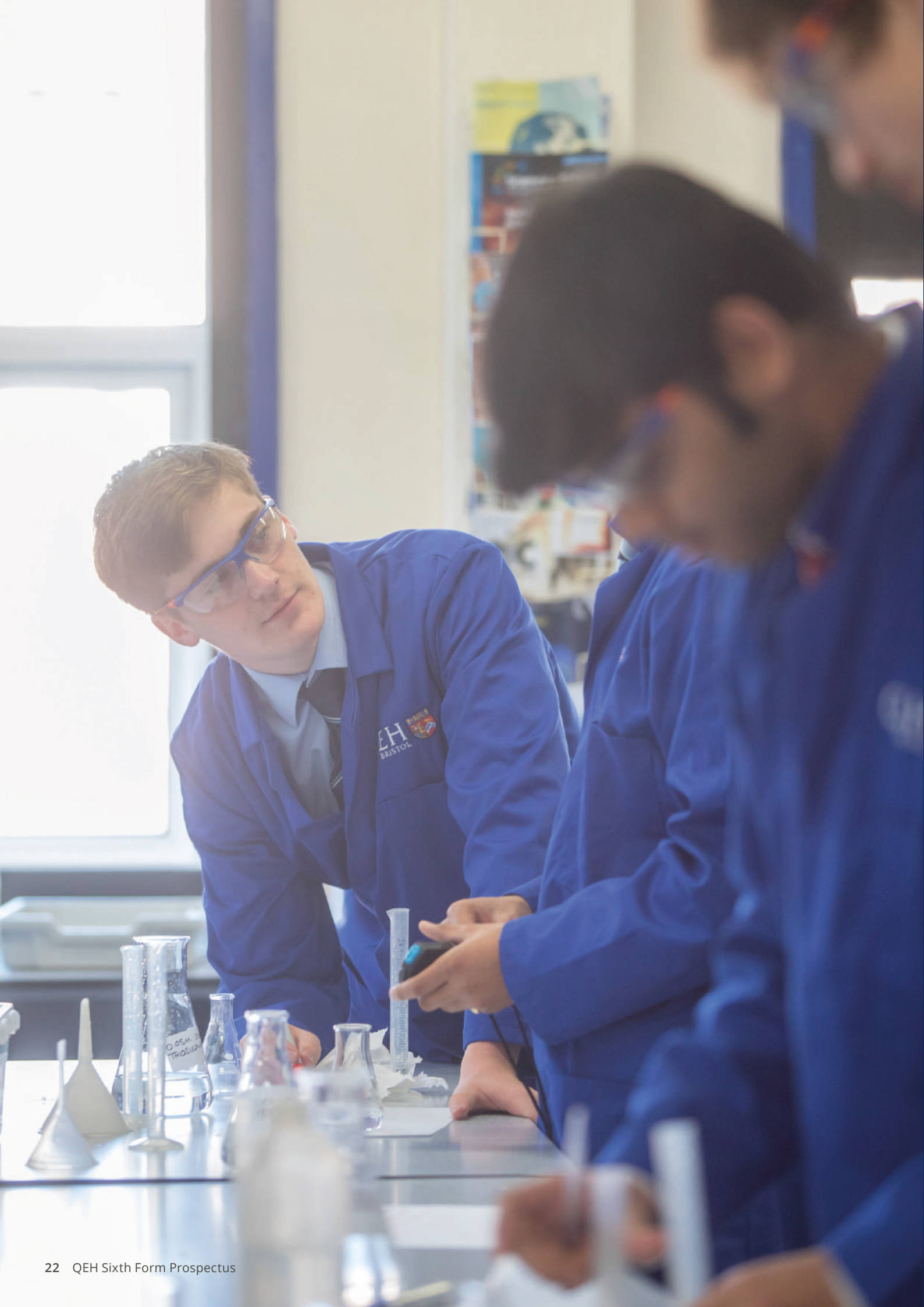
Our Open Evening in October will give you a chance to meet the Sixth Form team and talk to relevant teachers. Read the course information in this prospectus carefully. Talk to your teachers and also ask existing Sixth Form students for their views.



Their experience at QEH will provide them with the foundations required to lead happy and fulfilling lives.  
 Former parent

# CHOOSING THE RIGHT A-LEVELS





# COURSES



# WHY STUDY ART?

Discover exciting new ways to express your visual creativity. Explore a wide range of media including painting, printmaking, sculpture and photography. Find inspiration in the work of other artists and try out their techniques. Fine Art offers a rich, personal experience and the freedom to explore ideas, experiment and take risks. If you think visually and have a genuine passion for art, you'll love studying it at A-level.

## Minimum entry requirements

You'll need at least a grade 6 in GCSE Art together with our general entry requirements. See page 50.

## What you'll study

This is a highly practical course with an emphasis on drawing. You'll also develop your understanding of the work of others through in-depth analysis and research. Throughout your studies, you'll use sketchbooks and mounted presentation sheets to show how your thinking and ideas evolve.

In the first year, we'll introduce you to new techniques and processes, asking you to use selected media to respond in personal, meaningful ways to clear starting points. You'll then be set an in-school exam in the spring term which you will sit in the summer term.

In your second year, you'll work more independently and manage your own timescales, but you'll still enjoy one-to-one tutorials and group discussions – helping you reflect on your practice. You'll spend this year on your two-term, externally assessed Personal Investigation and in February you will prepare for your Externally Set Assignment.



## How you'll be assessed

We follow the AQA syllabus.

Component 1: Personal Investigation. This is worth 60% of your final marks. You'll explore your own theme, idea, concept or issue, creating a portfolio of exciting and original practical work. You'll also submit written material of between 2,000 and 3,000 words to support this, including a bibliography.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment. This is worth 40% of your final marks. You'll develop artwork in response to one of eight themes set by the exam board. You'll have time to think and research in a set preparatory period and will then create your piece of art in a 15-hour exam spread over three days.

## Where Art can take you

Art will develop your creativity, curiosity, originality and problem-solving skills – qualities that are all highly valued by employers. You could go on to study for a career in architecture, advertising, animation, graphic design, set design or photography – to name but a few. Even if you don't want to pursue an artistic career, your ability to think imaginatively and originally about issues will stand you in good stead whatever path you take.



**There should be something revelatory about art. It should be totally creative and open doors for new thoughts and experiences.**

**Tracey Emin**

# WHY STUDY BIOLOGY?

Biologists are tackling some of the toughest challenges we face in the 21st century from conservation to cancer research. If you'd like to take a closer look at the world around you and find out more about how the body works too, Biology could be a good A-level choice. It's a subject that will stretch you intellectually but you'll also find it deeply interesting and rewarding.

## Minimum entry requirements

Our general entry requirements apply. See page 50.

## What you'll study

You'll cover a wide range of topics including cell biology, human physiology, respiration and photosynthesis, biochemistry, DNA, ecology, inheritance and selection, and classification. Along the way, you'll develop skills in collecting, presenting and evaluating data, statistical analysis, and laboratory practical techniques. We'll also teach you how to use your existing knowledge and principles to explain unfamiliar concepts.

This is a subject where you'll need to read widely – not just textbooks but also specialist books and scientific journals. You'll also attend lectures, take part in discussions, carry out practical and project work, and observe computer simulations.

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the OCR syllabus.

You'll take three exams at the end of Year 13 covering six key areas. These are: development of practical biology; foundations in biology; exchange and transport; biodiversity and disease; genetics, evolution and ecosystems; and communication, homeostasis and energy.

You'll also work on 12 key practical tasks, recording them in a lab folder. Following assessment at the end of the course, you will receive a Practical Endorsement alongside your A-level grade.

## Where Biology can take you

Biology helps open doors to a wide range of careers in areas like medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary science, agriculture and conservation. It's ideal preparation for further biological studies at university and is highly regarded in applications for other degree courses because of the breadth of ground covered and rigorous subject content.



**In the struggle for survival, the fittest win out at the expense of their rivals because they succeed in adapting themselves best to their environment.**

**Charles Darwin**





# WHY STUDY BUSINESS?

What are the critical ingredients of business success? What do you need to have in place in order to build a company? And why do some fail? This course will introduce you to the dynamic world of business and to concepts like motivation, marketing and profit margins. If you're interested in how businesses work and the process from start-up to survival, it could prove an excellent choice. You can take it with virtually any combination of A-levels and don't need previous knowledge of the subject.

## Minimum entry requirements

Our general entry requirements apply. See page 50.

## What you'll study

You'll study what businesses do, how they're classified, and the social, legal, environmental, ethical, economic and technological factors that influence them.

You'll look closely at the four functional areas of business – accounting and finance; marketing; human resources; and production – and explore how they interact with one another. Throughout the course the emphasis is on problem-solving and decision-making, using contemporary business tools and models. We'll also bring your academic studies to life using up-to-date case studies, stimulating discussion and current business events to illustrate the concepts covered.

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the Edexcel syllabus. You'll take three two-hour exams at the end of Year 13. These will be based on case studies of three real businesses – a small, local enterprise; medium-sized, national business; and a large, international organisation. The exams will use a mix of question types including multiple choice, short answer and extended writing to test your quantitative, reflective and decision-making business skills.

## Where Business can take you

Business is an excellent foundation for a wide range of careers and for any university degree, not just courses weighted with business content. That said, some careers particularly value this A-level, many of which promise high earning potential. Possible careers include banking, insurance, advertising, distribution, sales, accounting, law, education, central and local government, and business consultancy.

Whatever route you take, your studies will give you a solid understanding of business terminology and practices. This will serve you well as both employee and budding entrepreneur.



**What's dangerous is not to evolve.**  
**Jeff Bezos**



# WHY STUDY CHEMISTRY?

Chemicals are everywhere – in the water you drink, food you eat, clothes you wear and medicines you take. So studying Chemistry will deepen your understanding of how the world works. It will teach you how to reason, solve problems, and make informed decisions. It will help you understand product labels. Above all, although considered one of the most challenging A-levels, it's huge fun. If you enjoyed Chemistry at GCSE and are confident with the mathematical aspects, it could be an excellent choice, giving you a qualification that holds great currency with both employers and universities.

## Minimum entry requirements

Our general entry requirements apply. See page 50.

## What you'll study

Topics include:

### Physical Chemistry

Atomic structure  
Bonding  
Amount of substance  
Energetics  
Rates of reaction  
Equilibria  
Redox chemistry

### Inorganic Chemistry

Periodic trends  
Groups 2 and 7 properties

### Organic Chemistry

Basic hydrocarbons  
Haloalkanes  
Alkenes  
Alcohols  
Polymers  
Analytical techniques  
Plus more in Year 13

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the AQA syllabus. You'll take three exams at the end of Year 13. There's also a practical assessment. This consists of 12 set experiments which you'll need to complete by the end of the course. You will pass if you successfully complete the experiments, but you can repeat any that you've struggled with. Your practical skills will also be assessed in a dedicated section of the third exam.

## Where Chemistry can take you

Many science degree courses require a good grade in Chemistry A-level, including medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science. It's also an excellent foundation for degrees outside the sciences, showing you have an analytical mind and good practical skills. Chemical and related industries are the biggest employers of chemistry graduates, but alumni also enter many other sectors.

A recent study by the University of Nottingham showed that its chemistry graduates went on to the following destinations: Postgraduate Research (33%), Industrial Scientists (18%), Finance (13%), Management (10%), Human Resources (7%), Marketing (5%), Teaching (5%), Information Technology (5%) and Overseas Employment (4%).



**Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.**  
**Marie Curie**





# WHY STUDY CLASSICAL CIVILISATION?

The legacy of the Classical world is all around us – in our contemporary culture, politics, society and language, particularly in Western Europe. Studying Classical Civilisation will help you understand this impact, giving you valuable insight into our own society. If you like reading and have an interest in the Classical past, it could be a highly enjoyable and rewarding A-level choice. It goes particularly well with English, Theatre Studies, Religion & Philosophy, Art, History, and Politics. We'll read all texts in translation too, so you don't need to know any Greek or Latin.

## Minimum entry requirements

Our general entry requirements apply. See page 50.

## What you'll study

We'll take a multi-disciplinary approach to explore the literature, art, philosophy, and social history of the Classical world. Your studies will have three main components:

- The Odyssey of Homer and Virgil's Aeneid.
- Greek Art.
- Love and Relationships of ancient Greece and Rome.

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the OCR syllabus. There's no coursework. You'll take three exams at the end of Year 13.

Each exam will consist of a mix of question types. Some will be based on a printed extract from the texts. There'll also be a more general essay.

## Where Classical Civilisation can take you

The study of Classical Civilisation is a good stepping stone to many arts-based degree courses. It's highly regarded by universities and a good grade is seen as proof of an agile, lively intellect and the ability to analyse evidence, present information clearly, and approach problems in a logical manner. All are qualities valued by employers.



**No great genius has ever existed without some touch of madness.**  
**Aristotle**



# WHY STUDY COMPUTER SCIENCE?

Computer Science is a highly creative and practical subject, combining innovation with logical thinking. You'll learn academic principles and then apply them to real-world computer systems, developing the skills you need to solve problems, design systems, and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

An A-level in this subject is ideal preparation if you're thinking of studying Computer Science at a higher level or want to work in the ever-changing world of computing. It's also a good grounding for other subjects that require logical thinking and analytical skills.

## Minimum entry requirements

You'll need grade 7 in GCSE Computer Science and/or proven programming experience, together with our general entry requirements. See page 50.

## What you'll be studying

The course is split into three areas – Computer Systems; Algorithms and Programming; and a practical programming project.

In Computer Systems and Algorithms and Programming, you'll study a wide range of topics including:

- Software development
- Programming
- Data types, representation and structures
- Design systems
- Algorithms
- Problem solving
- The legal, ethical and moral issues you may face
- Elements of computational thinking
- Exchanging data and web technologies.

In your practical programming project, you will choose a real-world problem and then design, develop, implement and test a solution.

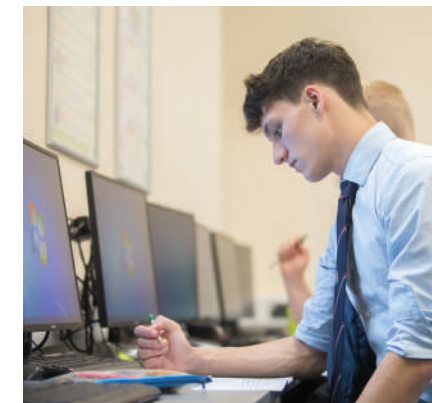
## How you'll be assessed

We follow the OCR syllabus. You'll take two written exams at the end of Year 13, one in Computer Systems and one in Algorithms and Programming. Each exam lasts two and a half hours and is worth 40% of your final marks.

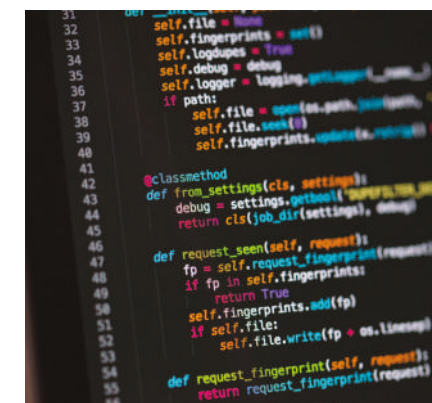
You'll start your practical programming project in the Spring term of Year 12 and finish it in the Spring term of Year 13. The assessment will look at your ability to apply computational thinking to a practical coding problem. This is worth 20% of your final marks.

## Where Computer Science can take you

Computer Science gives you highly transferable skills in conveying data and ideas clearly and accurately. These are much valued by universities and employers. An A-level in this subject will help prepare you for a range of careers in the IT sector or creative industries including computer games development, website development, software development, programming and systems analysis.



**I think it's fair to say that personal computers have become the most empowering tool we've ever created. They're tools of communication, they're tools of creativity, and they can be shaped by their user.**  
**Bill Gates**





# WHY STUDY DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES?

Passionate about acting? Love creating theatre? Interested in playwrights, changing performance styles, and major developments in theatre history? If one or more of these apply to you, this could be an A-level you'll really enjoy. It will help you understand theatre from the point of view of a performer, director, designer and audience member, making links between theory and practice. The work will be wide-ranging and demanding, both physically and intellectually. But it will also be extremely rewarding and you can look forward to forming a strong bond with your fellow students.

## Minimum entry requirements

Our general entry requirements apply. See page 50.

## What you'll study

You'll cover a wide range of classical and modern set texts and theatrical styles, focusing on contrasting practitioners such as Artaud and Brecht. You'll also analyse the work of current theatre companies like Frantic Assembly, Splendid Productions, Gecko Theatre Company, Wise Children and The Wardrobe Ensemble.

You can look forward to seeing a variety of live performances and also working with professional actors, drawing inspiration from both experiences for your own work. We aim to stretch and challenge you as a performer, encouraging innovation.

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the Eduqas syllabus. There'll be both a written and a performance exam.

The written exam will test your understanding of the social and historical context of the texts you've studied. It will also give you a chance to demonstrate your awareness of performance, directing and design possibilities.

For the performance exam, you'll need to produce three elements – a scripted piece and devised piece (showing a contrast in style), and also a re-interpretation of a script.

## Where Drama & Theatre Studies can take you

This is a rigorous, academic course that also allows you to demonstrate excellent communication skills and the ability to engage an audience. Our students go on to study many different subjects at university, from medicine and theology to law and dentistry. Some even study drama! Whatever path you take, your studies will give you confidence in public situations, building valuable skills for life.



To find a form that accommodates the mess, that is the task of the artist now.

Samuel Beckett



# WHY STUDY ECONOMICS?

This is an exciting time to be studying Economics. Fundamentally, this subject is about analysing choices and advising people how to use scarce resources efficiently to achieve their chosen goals. In the aftermath of the credit crunch, we've realised that the economic models and theories of the future are still to be written. You could be the one that ends up writing them! You can take Economics with virtually any combination of A-levels and you don't need previous knowledge of the subject.

## Minimum entry requirements

Our general entry requirements apply. See page 50.

## What you'll study

You'll study macro and microeconomic theory, building your own analytical tool kit for considering economic problems and evaluating a government's response.

In microeconomics we'll explore markets for goods, services and labour, the failure of these markets, and policies used to remedy this. We'll also look at how markets are structured and how these structures influence a business's production decisions and motivation.

In macroeconomics we'll consider the fiscal, monetary and supply-side policies that are used to achieve the major economic goals of low inflation, full employment, steady growth and balanced trade. Plus, we'll look at international economics, poverty and inequality and emerging and developing nations.

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the Edexcel syllabus.

You'll take three exams at the end of Year 13.

Two of these will test your knowledge and understanding of microeconomics and macroeconomics.

The third paper will assess content across both micro and macro economics and you will apply your knowledge and understanding to make connections and use higher order skills in this paper.

## Where Economics can take you

Economics is well regarded by universities as a subject that teaches good analytical skills. It's also an excellent foundation for almost any subsequent degree. Statistically, Economics graduates receive higher average starting salaries and are more likely to make it into 'elite' graduate jobs in areas such as banking and management consultancy. However, the actress Cate Blanchett, football manager Arsene Wenger, politician and former film star Arnold Schwarzenegger and comedian Russell Howard all studied Economics – so the career options for economists are certainly diverse.



Lotteries are a tax on ignorance.

Adam Smith





# WHY STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

Are you fascinated by the way language shapes the way we see the world? Are you intrigued by the different ways in which people interact and how we use language to manipulate others? If this sounds like you – and you enjoy reading and analysing all kinds of texts – English Language could be a very rewarding A-level choice.

## Minimum entry requirements

Our general entry requirements apply. See page 50.

## What you'll study

Your studies will focus on two key areas – 'Language, the Individual and Society', and 'Language, Diversity and Change'.

You'll look at a wide range of texts and genres and analyse the language and representation of different social groups. You'll also explore regional dialects and world English, analyse historical and contemporary changes in the English Language, and write about linguistic topics. Teaching will consist of whole class work and independent research culminating in either a written assignment or delivering a seminar to the group.

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the AQA syllabus. You'll take two exams at the end of Year 13. Each is worth 40% of your final marks. One is on 'Language, the Individual and Society', the other is on 'Language, Diversity and Change.'

There's also a 20% coursework component. This consists of a 2,000-word linguistic investigation of your choice and an original writing portfolio of 1,500 words.

## Where English Language can take you

The superior linguistic, analytical and research skills that you'll gain by studying English Language will enhance your performance in virtually every career you choose. Some careers explicitly require a high command of written and spoken English. Think journalists, copywriters, spin doctors, philosophy dons, and barristers. But you'll need to communicate in most other jobs too – to share ideas, contribute to meetings, write up reports, and take succinct notes. Hone your language skills and you'll reap the rewards the rest of your working life!



**Style is not neutral; it gives moral directions.**  
**Martin Amis**



# WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE?

English Literature is a vital force that records and shapes the way we think and live. Studying it will help you appreciate the context and cultural heritage of literature and better understand the world. It will also foster your creativity and develop your analytical skills. This is a subject that sits well with other essay-based subjects and can also provide the communicative and creative spark for mathematicians and scientists.

## Minimum entry requirements

Our general entry requirements apply. See page 50.

## What you'll study

Your studies will consist of three main activities: reading texts, talking about texts and then writing about them. You'll study a wide range of plays, novels and poetry and get to know the rich realism of Chaucer, the polished wit of Tennessee Williams, the luminous wisdom of Shakespeare, and the complex psychology of Henry James. You'll discover writers who will stay with you for the rest of your life – and maybe one or two you'll want to forget! Whatever your experience, you'll deepen your love of good writing and learn how to articulate your opinions and feelings with clarity and sophistication.

## How you'll be assessed

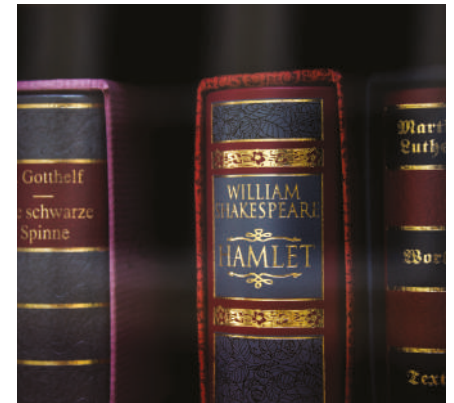
We follow the OCR syllabus. You'll take exams at the end of Year 13.

These exams will include: a paper on American Literature or Dystopian fiction; an essay on Shakespeare; an essay on pre-C20th drama and poetry; an essay on thematically linked texts; and analysis of unseen prose texts.

You'll also do coursework comparing and analysing post-C20th texts.

## Where English Literature can take you

Universities and employers hold English Literature in high regard as a subject that's academically rigorous and intellectually stimulating. Careers like law, journalism, media, business and the creative arts all welcome a literate and creative student. But the transferable skills you gain analysing complex material and communicating your ideas will be valuable in almost every profession.



**If literature isn't everything, it's not worth a single hour of someone's trouble.**  
**Jean-Paul Sartre**





# WHY STUDY FILM?

Film A-level is ideal for students who want to explore how and why films are made. This course of study encourages learners to watch, engage critically with and explore a wide range of film; to develop and sustain confident, personal responses to film via textual analysis; and to enjoy a variety of critically acclaimed films across the major genres. These include films from different cultural perspectives, films from the Silent Era to the present day, and different forms of film, including documentary, shorts and experimental.

## Minimum entry requirements

Our general entry requirements apply. See page 50.

## What you'll study

The course involves studying 12 very different films: from Hollywood classics such as Scorsese's Raging Bull and Hitchcock's Vertigo to modern classics including Whiplash, The Dark Knight Rises, Ex Machina, District 9, The Grandmaster and the Oscar winning documentary Man on Wire. Students will also study the critically acclaimed silent film, The General, and three films from the French New Wave movement. Looking at film form, meaning and response, context, spectatorship, narrative, ideology, authorship, critical and theoretical debates, Film A-level will introduce you to a wide range of film-making processes so that you develop, through discussion, analysis and debate, a wide range of technical skills for both constructing and deconstructing film. OCR's A-level in Film Studies has been designed to ignite a passion for film and encourage broader cultural and historical perspectives on this academic area of study.

## How you'll be assessed

Learners take three components: Film History, Critical Approaches to Film and the coursework element, making short film.

In the two examined units, you will compare and deconstruct the set films and demonstrate a sophisticated contextual understanding. Film A-level requires that you develop an inquisitive mind and consider the deeper social, political and economic contexts of those films. You will also have the opportunity to develop your own creative skills as you explore film-making techniques from different times and places.

The coursework element (20%) allows you to experiment with a variety of film-making technology and film-editing software to develop your creative skills. You will have the chance to produce your own short film or write your own screenplay.

## Where Film can take you

A-level Film Studies students can go onto study Film, TV or Media at University. Students have the option to study a practical degree, theoretical degree or a combination of the two. This can lead to a very broad range of professions with many students able to develop skills that will enable them to apply for production roles within the Film, TV and Media industries. Some students opt for careers within Journalism and photojournalism. A good degree in a creative arts subject like Film Studies can also develop a wide range of transferable skills including analysis, visual communication, problem solving, as well as communication, presentation and organizational skills. It is our strong desire that an A-level in film should inspire learners to continue learning beyond

the confines of the classroom as well as developing personal and interpersonal skills that will serve them well both in Higher Education and in the workplace.



**If it's a good movie, the sound could go off and the audience would still have a pretty clear idea of what was going on.**  
**Alfred Hitchcock**

# WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

Straddling the humanities and sciences, Geography is the ideal link between diverse A-level subjects such as Biology, Economics or Politics. It will give you a holistic view of the world around you, developing your understanding of physical geographical phenomena and the relationship between people and landscape.

## Minimum entry requirements

Our general entry requirements apply. See page 50.

## What you'll study

You'll look at a balanced and wide-ranging blend of physical and human geographical subjects. On the human side, we'll explore the challenge of managing 'commonly held' resources such as Antarctica and study how landscape, economy and people combine to give any location its unique character. Physical topics will include coasts and natural hazards.

Fieldwork is a central element of the course and you'll take part in a residential field trip in Year 12 – as well as shorter trips. These will develop your investigative, statistical and graphical skills. You'll also have the opportunity to attend evening lectures organised by the Bristol branch of the Geographical Association and access leading online Geography publications.

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the AQA syllabus.

You'll take two exams at the end of Year 13, with both short and extended questions.

One of these exams will test your knowledge of physical geography including water and carbon cycles, coasts, and hazards. The other will examine your understanding of human geography including global governance, changing places, and urban growth and change.

You'll also carry out fieldwork, writing up a report of between 3,000 and 4,000 words that includes data you have collected yourself.

## Where Geography can take you

Geography will develop your social and environmental awareness, enhancing your employability in an increasingly inter-connected, environmentally-conscious world. You'll learn how to convey data and ideas clearly and accurately, gaining highly transferable skills in data collection and analysis, problem solving, presentation, team-work and computer literacy. A degree in Geography opens doors to a variety of careers including management and administration, finance, marketing, environmental services and education.



**Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?**  
**Michael Palin**





# WHY STUDY GOVERNMENT & POLITICS?

If you're interested in current affairs, and how power is allocated and used in the 21st century, you should seriously consider this subject. British and American politics have entered an unprecedented phase of volatility. We're living in an era of huge change, with insurgent parties forcing issues of national identity and sovereignty to the top of the agenda. Studying Government & Politics will help you see these events in context and judge their significance.

## Minimum entry requirements

Grade 6 in a humanities subject together with general entry requirements. See page 50.

## What you'll study

The aim of the course is to give you a deep knowledge of British and American politics and an understanding of the big debates involved on both sides of the Atlantic. You'll study each country's constitution, the relationship between executive and legislature, the pros and cons of different electoral systems, why people vote in the way they do and the rising impact of pressure groups.

You'll learn through a weekly diet of discussion, debate and written analysis. Plus, you will visit Parliament, hear from visiting political players, and follow high-quality political media. Throughout the course, we will consider the health of our democracy, asking ourselves if it's as robust as we think.

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the AQA syllabus.

You'll take three exams at the end of Year 13.

The key skill is the ability to construct a well-informed argument – in other words, write a good essay!

## Where Government & Politics can take you

Politics is an ideal accompaniment to History and other social sciences. It's also an excellent foundation for a career in the media, government, civil service, international organisations and yes, you guessed it, politics! It's a rigorous qualification that will help you understand how the UK is run and will develop your research, written communication and debating skills. Ultimately, it shows potential employers you have a solid awareness of the contemporary world and the confidence to analyse and operate within it.



**Men willingly believe what they wish.**  
**Julius Caesar**



# WHY STUDY HISTORY?

Explore interesting new ideas. Become an expert researcher. Gain the confidence to argue your case. History will help you build all these skills and qualities – and many more too. It's an ideal choice if you relish debate, can see comparisons between events and enjoy the challenge of weighing up different theories before arriving at your own judgement. We'll help you develop a broad world view and the ability to look below the surface of the process of change.

## Minimum entry requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE History together with general entry requirements. See page 50.

## What you'll study

You'll cover a broad sweep of history, studying pivotal developments in both Britain and the United States. In British history, you'll look at the seventeenth century, focusing on the turmoil leading up to the English Revolution. In American history, you'll focus on the years from 1865 to 1975. This period saw momentous events, from America's emergence as an economic giant and subsequent collapse in the 1930s, to her establishment as a superpower and the struggle for Civil Rights.

Your sources will range from the latest research in leading journals to lectures by eminent contemporary historians. Throughout the course, you will ask yourself this key question: How does a nation form and sustain itself?

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the AQA syllabus.

You'll take two exams at the end of Year 13.

You'll also take on your own independently-researched historical enquiry. This is designed to test a range of skills including analysis, evaluation and interpretation.

## Where History can take you

History is seen as a weighty subject that demonstrates excellent powers of analysis and communication. If you go on to study it at university, you'll be well-placed to find a job – History graduates enjoy some of the highest rates of employment. QEH historians have gone on to work in journalism, politics, the foreign office and civil service. Others have become successful lawyers and academics, and a few have even taken up teaching!



**The only thing new in the world is the history you don't know.**  
**Harry S Truman**





# WHY STUDY LATIN?

The study of Latin in the original language is a rich and rewarding experience and will deepen your understanding of one of the most interesting historical cultures: ancient Rome. If you're intellectually curious and enjoy reflecting on the impact of the ancient world on European culture and language, this could be an immensely satisfying A-level.

## Minimum entry requirements

You'll need at least a grade 6 in Latin GCSE, together with our general entry requirements. See page 50.

## What you'll study

You'll study a mixture of language and literature, building on the knowledge you've developed in your GCSEs.

In your literature studies you'll read both prose and poetry, looking in depth at the author's methods and intentions. Recent authors have included Cicero, Tacitus, Sallust, Catullus, Ovid and Virgil in Latin, and Homer, Lysias, Euripides, Sophocles, Herodotus and Plato in Greek.

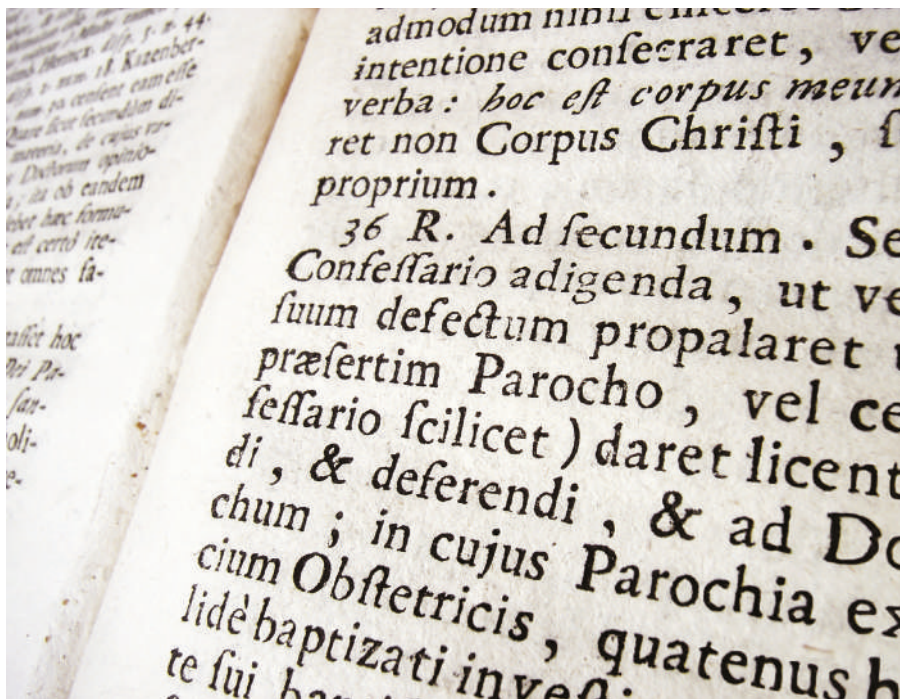
In your language studies, you'll consolidate the grammar, syntax and vocabulary skills you have already developed, strengthening them further.

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the OCR syllabus.

There's no coursework.

You'll take four exams at the end of Year 13. These will test your knowledge of language and literature equally. In literature, questions will range from simpler, GCSE-style comprehension questions to longer, essay answers.



## Where Latin can take you

An A-level in Latin is a highly regarded qualification. Few other subjects offer the same potential to acquire advanced knowledge of languages and also develop your critical sensitivity, analytical thinking and essay writing skills. Our students go on to study a wide range of degree courses and then enter professions like law, journalism, film, television, banking, teaching, academia, and museum and gallery work.



**Poets utter great and wise things which they themselves do not understand.**

**Plato**

# WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS?

Mathematics is regarded as one of the most valuable A-levels and a gateway to higher education. It will give you excellent numeracy skills, help you think logically and analytically and enhance your approach to problem-solving. A good understanding of Mathematics will strengthen your abilities in many other disciplines, but it's also a beautiful subject in its own right.

## Minimum entry requirements

You'll normally have at least a grade 7 in Mathematics GCSE, together with our general entry requirements. See page 50. There's a lot of algebra in this course and you may find this difficult if you've struggled with the more challenging topics at GCSE level.

## What you'll study

You'll study a mixture of Pure and Applied Mathematics. In Pure Mathematics, you'll cover: proof; algebra and functions; coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane; sequences and series; trigonometry; exponentials and logarithms; differentiation; integration; numerical methods; and vectors.

In Statistics, you'll study: statistical sampling; data presentation and interpretation; probability; statistical distributions; and statistical hypothesis testing.

In Mechanics you'll look at: quantities and units in mechanics; kinematics; forces and Newton's laws; and moments.

If you've done very well in your GCSE, achieving a level 8 or 9, you may want to study 'Double Mathematics'. This will give you two A-levels, one in Mathematics and one in Further Mathematics. You'll complete the

single Mathematics course in Year 12 and the Further Mathematics course in Year 13. If you're considering a Mathematics, Engineering or Science degree, you'll find the Further Mathematics course invaluable.

## How you'll be assessed

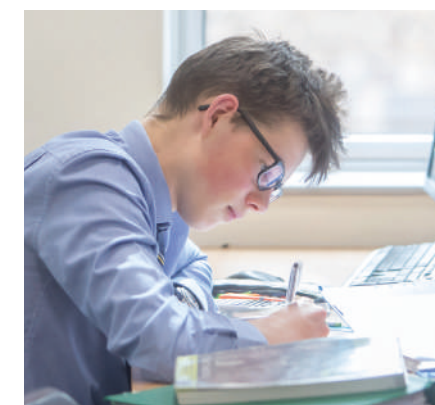
We follow the Edexcel syllabus.

In single Mathematics, you'll take three exams at the end of Year 13 (or Year 12 if you're studying Double Mathematics). Two will be in Pure Mathematics, the third in Statistics & Mechanics.

In Further Mathematics, you'll take four exams at the end of Year 13. Two will be in Further Pure Mathematics and two in areas you've chosen from a range of options. You'll be able to use a calculator in all your exams.

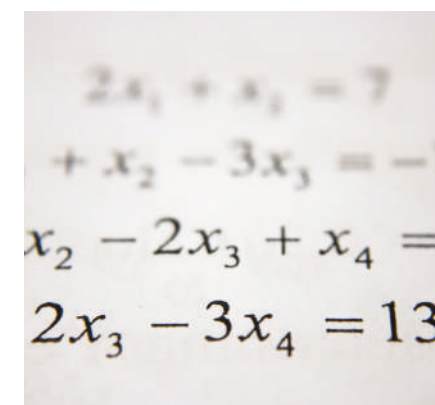
## Where Mathematics can take you

Mathematics lays the foundations for a wide range of careers and is a specific requirement for many degree courses and careers including engineering, computer sciences, and careers in the financial and business sectors. Universities widely acknowledge the hard work and determination required to gain a good grade in A-level Mathematics while employers appreciate the rigorous problem-solving skills it gives you.



**Do not worry about your difficulties in mathematics. I can assure you mine are still greater.**

**Albert Einstein**





# WHY STUDY MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES?

Studying a modern language will broaden your horizons, both personally and professionally. As well as learning to speak, read, write and listen to another language, you'll explore a wide range of topics including literature, politics, history, art, music, theatre, ethics, technology, cinema and fashion. In the process, you'll learn how to research effectively, debate complex subjects, empathise with others, and express your views clearly and concisely.

## Minimum entry requirements

You'll need at least a grade 7 at GCSE in your chosen language, together with our general entry requirements. See page 50.

## What you'll study

In each language, your studies will fall into four main areas:

**French:** Current trends and issues in French-speaking society; artistic culture in the French-speaking world; political life in the French-speaking world.

**German:** Aspects of German-speaking society; artistic culture in the German-speaking world; multiculturalism in German-speaking society; political life in the German-speaking world.

**Spanish:** Aspects of Hispanic society; artistic culture in the Hispanic world; multiculturalism in Hispanic Society; political life in the Hispanic-speaking world.

You'll also study at least one work of literature, several films and will choose a topic relating to the language studied to research and discuss in your speaking exam (your Individual Research Project).

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the AQA syllabus.

You'll take two written exams.

Paper one will test your reading, writing and listening skills. You'll be asked to summarise texts, translate in and out of the language and answer questions to check your comprehension.

Paper two involves writing two essays, examining the film and novel you've studied.

You'll also have a speaking exam.

Part one (five minutes) will involve talking about a topic you've studied.

Part two (ten minutes) will be a discussion about your Individual Research Project.

## Where Modern Foreign Languages can take you

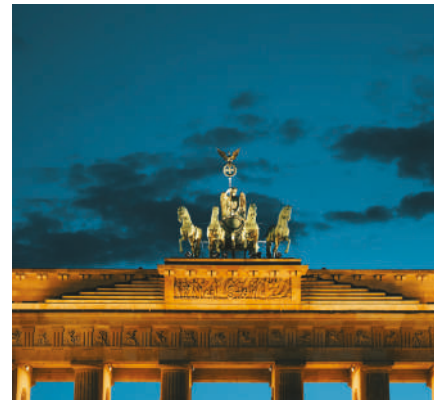
Many of our students go on to study languages at university, sometimes as a Joint Honours degree alongside another subject. As a linguist, many careers will be open to you including the foreign civil service, translating, interpreting, advertising, airline services, teaching, the military, hotel management, import/export businesses, and editing and publishing.

Employers will see you as a strong communicator who will pay excellent attention to detail, be able to construct logical arguments and have a highly developed sense of empathy.



**If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.**

**Nelson Mandela**



# WHY STUDY MUSIC?

You may love singing or playing an instrument. You may dream of becoming a composer or conductor. Or you may simply want to study something creative alongside your other A-level choices. Whatever your reasons for choosing Music, this is a highly fulfilling and enjoyable A-level that will greatly enhance your ability to appreciate music and also play your chosen instrument. You'll have the chance to study a wide range of composers and musical genres, discovering music that could make a lifelong impression.

## Minimum entry requirements

You'll need at least a grade 5 or above on your first choice instrument together with our general entry requirements. See page 50.

## What you'll study

Your studies will fall into three areas: appraising music, performance and composition.

In appraising music, you'll focus on the Western classical tradition from 1650 to 1910. You'll also pick two of the following topics: pop music; music for media; music for theatre; jazz; contemporary traditional music; and art music since 1910.

In performance, you'll develop your technical and expressive control and learn how to demonstrate an understanding of context, including the chosen style or genre of music that you perform and the composer's purpose and intention.

In composition, you'll learn how to develop musical ideas, use appropriate musical elements and compose music that is musically convincing as a whole.



## How you'll be assessed

We follow the AQA syllabus.

You'll take three exams:

**Appraising music.** This consists of 40% of your final marks. It's a written exam that will test your listening, analytical skills and contextual understanding. You'll also write an essay.

**Performance.** This consists of 35% of your final marks. You'll perform as an instrumentalist or vocalist – solo and/or ensemble – for at least ten minutes.

**Composition.** This consists of 25% of your final marks. You'll compose two pieces of music of at least four and a half minutes. One of these will meet a specific brief.

## Where Music can take you

Music can take you into a wide range of careers including performance, composition, arts management, music editing, broadcasting/journalism, music therapy, and teaching – depending on where your strengths and passions lie. It can also lead to degree courses and careers that don't necessarily involve music. Universities and employers value the transferable skills you'll have gained, particularly on the creative, analytical and technological side.



**Music is the social act of communication among people, a gesture of friendship, the strongest there is.**

**Malcolm Arnold**



# WHY STUDY MUSIC TECH?

This is a challenging and exciting course that will introduce you to the skills and knowledge you need to work in the music technology industry. It will develop both your practical skills and your ability to listen analytically to music. If you enjoy making music on computers rather than performing live, it could be an excellent A-level choice.

## Minimum entry requirements

A basic level of competency on the keyboard is required together with our general entry requirements. See page 50.

## What you'll study

This course is a mixture of practical and academic work. You'll learn how to capture, edit, process and mix recordings. You'll also create, edit, manipulate and structure sounds to produce technology-based compositions. Throughout the course, you'll learn about recording and production techniques and principles, studying how they've developed from mono, analogue technologies in the 1930s to modern digital technologies.

## Your studies will fall into three main areas:

Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes

The principles of sound and audio technology

The development of recording and production technology.

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the Edexcel syllabus.

You'll undertake two practical projects which will be externally assessed:

Recording – this consists of 20% of your final marks.

Technology-based composition – this consists of 20% of your final marks.

You'll also take two written/practical exams:

Listening and analysing – this written exam consists of 25% of your final marks.

Producing and analysing – this written and practical exam consists of 35% of your final marks.

## Where Music Technology can take you

Whether you're interested in becoming the next top music producer, designing acoustic spaces for traditional orchestral ensembles, or becoming a sound engineer for a professional studio, this course is an excellent step in the right direction. It will stimulate your creativity and imagination, develop your ability to appraise and analyse a piece of music and give you highly-transferable skills in areas like project management.



Music is essentially an emotional language, so you want to feel something from the relationships and build music based on those feelings.

Howard Shore



# WHY STUDY PHOTOGRAPHY?

If you love taking photos and communicating your ideas visually, this could prove an exciting A-level choice. It will give you the skills to produce imaginative and technically-competent collections of photographs. You'll learn how to organise your own photo shoots, drawing on your own experiences and interests and using the work of other photographers as inspiration. You'll need a good quality DSLR camera.

## Minimum entry requirements

At least a grade 6 in GCSE Art or Photography, together with our general entry requirements. See page 50.

Experience of using a DSLR camera. It's helpful if you have a basic knowledge of Adobe Photoshop.

## What you'll study

This is a highly-practical course that will give you the opportunity to work independently, following your own interests and passions. You'll reflect on your own work and the work of fellow students through one-to-one tutorials and group discussions. You'll also develop an understanding and appreciation of the work of leading photographers, exploring a range of images and genres. Throughout the course, you'll use digital sketchbooks to show how your ideas evolve.

In the first year, we'll ask you to create a series of personal photographic responses to a variety of briefs. In your second year, you'll complete your two-term, externally-assessed Personal Investigation and then in February you will get ready for your Externally Set Assignment.

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the AQA syllabus.

There are two components:

Component 1: Personal Investigation. This is worth 60% of your final marks. You'll explore your own theme, idea, concept or issue, developing a portfolio of exciting and original work. You'll also submit written material of between 2,000 and 3,000 words to support your practical work, including a bibliography.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment. This is worth 40% of your final marks. You'll create a portfolio of photographs in response to one of eight themes set by the exam board. You'll have time to think and research in a set preparatory period and then produce your photographs in a 15-hour exam spread over three days.

## Where Photography can take you

Photography is an excellent foundation for a career in the creative industries including advertising, animation, architecture, CGI (computer-generated imagery), fine art photography, documentary and fashion photography, film making, graphics, television and theatre. Students have gained places on Film Animation courses at highly reputable universities.



You must know with intuition when to click the camera. That is the moment the photographer is creative.

Cartier-Bresson





# WHY STUDY PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

If you love sport, this course will deepen your understanding of the mental and physical factors that affect performance. You'll also have the opportunity to improve your own skills. Sporting excellence is not essential but you will be assessed either as an athlete or a coach in a sport of your choice.

## Minimum entry requirements

Our general entry requirements apply. See page 50.

## What you'll study

Your academic studies will fall into three main areas: physiology, psychology and socio-cultural issues. You will also look at contemporary issues in sport such as the use of technology, performance-enhancing drugs and the increasing commercialisation of sport.

## This will involve studying:

Applied anatomy, biomechanical movement and physiology, learning how the body works and moves and what happens when we exercise.

Sport psychology, exploring the psychological factors that affect successful performance.

Sport and society, studying the relationship between the two and looking at how we gain sports skills. Throughout the course, you'll be able to put your learning into practice, either by taking part in your chosen sports or through coaching others.

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the AQA syllabus.

You'll take two written exams, each worth 35% of your final marks, at the end of Year 13.



These exams will test your understanding of the factors affecting participation and optimal performance in physical activity and sport.

Your own physical and sporting performance will also be assessed. This is worth 30% of your final marks.

## Where Physical Education can take you

This course is an excellent starting point if you're considering a career in the health-related fitness industry or want to study physiotherapy at degree level. All universities and colleges accept it as a qualification. Previous students have gone on to work in dentistry, physiotherapy, chiropractic medicine and teaching/coaching roles. Others have followed careers not related to sports.



**Float like a butterfly,  
sting like a bee.**  
**Muhammad Ali**

# WHY STUDY PHYSICS?

Learning to think like a physicist will help you get to the root of problems and draw connections that aren't obvious to others. Physics won't give you all the answers but it will teach you how to ask the right questions. It will challenge both your creativity and your logical thinking, giving you transferable skills you can apply to just about every area of work from setting up your own business to saving the planet.

## Minimum entry requirements

You'll need at least a grade 7 in GCSE Physics and Mathematics, together with our general entry requirements. See page 50.

If you're considering going on to study Physics or Engineering at university, you'll need to take A-level Mathematics too.

## What you'll study

You will learn how to apply maths to real-world problems, exploring new areas such as radioactivity, electric fields and cosmology.

In Year 12, you'll study Particle Physics, Electromagnetic Radiation and Quantum Phenomena (such as the photoelectric effect), Waves, Forces, Energy, Materials and Electricity.

Year 13 covers Periodic Motion (e.g. oscillating systems), Gravitation, Thermal Physics (including kinetic theory), Electric Fields, Capacitors, Magnetic Fields and Radioactivity.

For your optional topic, you can choose between Astrophysics and Engineering Physics. Astrophysics will involve topics about lenses and telescopes, the classification of

stars and cosmology. In Engineering Physics you'll look at rotational dynamics, thermodynamics and engines.

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the AQA syllabus.

You'll take three written exams at the end of Year 13. These will be a mixture of multiple-choice, short and long answer questions.

There's no coursework but some of the exam questions will test your practical skills including graph work, data handling and error analysis.

You'll also complete 12 'required practicals' during the course.

## Where Physics can take you

Physics A-level is highly regarded by leading universities as a subject that develops clear, analytical thinking. It's a must if you're considering a degree in Physics, Engineering or other Physics-dependent courses and is also a good foundation for other science routes.

A degree in Physics goes on to open up an unrivalled range of career options, from manufacturing to health services, and finance to the computer games industry. Research shows that Physics graduates can expect to earn more on average than the graduates of most other disciplines.



**Physics is really nothing more  
than a search for ultimate  
simplicity but so far all we have  
is a kind of elegant messiness.**  
**Bill Bryson**





# WHY STUDY PSYCHOLOGY?

How do our minds work? What governs our behaviour? Psychology is the scientific study of the brain and behaviour, and will introduce you to a host of interesting theories about why we behave as we do. The British Psychological Society describes it as 'one of the best examples of all-round education'. If you're curious about other people's thought processes and emotional reactions to events, this could be a fascinating subject to study.

## Minimum entry requirements

You'll need to have achieved a grade 6 in both maths and biology. Also a grade 6 in English is preferable together with our general entry requirements. See page 50.

## What you'll study

You'll investigate the influence of peers and authority figures on our behaviour; how our memories work and why they're important; the impact of early childhood on later life; and the causes and treatments for various psychological conditions. Later in the course, you'll explore an area that particularly interests you, choosing from topics like aggression, schizophrenia and gender.

To support your studies, you'll take part in trips to We The Curious, The Wild Place and national student conferences. Some students also run a psychology club for younger pupils, consolidating their knowledge by explaining it to others.

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the AQA syllabus. You'll take three written exams at the end of Year 13. These exams will assess your subject knowledge, analytical thinking, evaluative skills and ability to consider the ethical dimension in a psychological intervention.

## Where Psychology can take you

Studying Psychology will give you important transferable skills – from testing experimental hypotheses to debating the merits of different theories. You'll develop strong evaluative expertise, an appreciation of scientific methodology, and the ability to interpret and present information in a range of appropriate forms. You'll find these useful in many different degree courses. Looking further ahead, if you're considering a career in chartered psychology as a clinical, forensic, educational or sports psychologist, Psychology A-level is an excellent starting point.



**To be a hero, you have to learn to be a deviant – because you're always going against the conformity of the group.**  
**Philip Zimbardo**



# WHY STUDY PRODUCT DESIGN?

Everything in our built environment has been designed by somebody to do something. Our goal is to develop a modern curriculum that inspires the designers and engineers of the future. We are committed to preparing students so they are ready to enter the UK's world leading, creative, design and engineering industries.

We hope to reflect fast changes that are happening in industry and the design world, and address the big issues of our age throughout the course. For example, people's health and well-being, global issues and their effect on design and manufacture, in addition to championing the sustainability agenda.

We aim to give students real world applications of the skills and knowledge gained in DT, ensuring that they relate subject content to industry and explore how design and innovation can play their part in shaping and improving the world.

## Minimum entry requirements

You'll need to have achieved a 6 or 7 at GCSE Design and Technology or shown similar aptitude in other creative subjects for example in Art or Textiles. In addition you will need at least a level 5 in English and Math's. See page 50 for our general entry requirements.

## What you'll study

You'll learn how to effectively communicate ideas using hand drawn and computer-generated designs. You'll use traditional hand manufacturing skills to shape timbers, polymers and metals, alongside computer aided design and manufacture. We cover a wide range of processes including



**Design should not dominate things, should not dominate people. It should help people. That's its role.**  
**Dieter Rams**

laminating, metal turning and casting, 3D printing, CNC routing and laser cutting in addition to more traditional timber and polymer workshop activities.

You'll complete research projects and gain inspiration from other designers and follow the iterative design approach and develop and model ideas, leading to product realisation and testing. You'll learn about the human factors of design, how products are manufactured on mass and how this works with the global manufacturing network amongst other technical and problem-solving challenges.

## How you'll be assessed

AQA A-level Product Design is assessed in three parts. 50% is internally assessed and students will need to produce an extended project of their choosing.

It will be a substantial folio project that is based on detailed research and will start in Year 12. Students will also need to complete a sketchbook and manufacture a high-quality product which is extensively tested. The other 50% is spread over two exams that contain detailed application of knowledge in materials science, advanced and global manufacturing, principles of design, mathematics in design and extended writing. In Year 12 students will complete a series of units that will develop the skills and knowledge needed to complete both the exam and controlled assessment.

## Where Product Design can take you

Many students study engineering or design and architecture courses at university. Beyond study there are many exciting careers in creative and technical industries. These include the various engineering disciplines, industrial and product design, video game design, interior design and architecture. Design education supports careers as entrepreneurs, art directors, set designers, robotics engineers, automotive and aeronautic engineers, fashion and exhibition designers, to mention just a few.



# WHY STUDY RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY?

Religion & Philosophy is an exciting, stimulating course that will develop your skills in research, reading complex texts, and forming clear, strong arguments. If you've got an open and enquiring mind, are interested in how religious and secular beliefs have shaped societies around the world, and enjoy debating, it's an excellent choice.

During your studies, you will attend national conferences, hear from local experts, and take part in our Philosophy Society debates with other schools in Bristol. You'll also have the chance to broaden your cultural and historical understanding through trips in the UK and abroad.

## Minimum entry requirements

You don't need to have a GCSE in Religion & Philosophy in order to study this subject at A-level. Our general entry requirements apply. See page 50.

## What you'll study

The A-level is split into three components – Philosophy of Religion, the study of Christianity, and Religious Ethics.

In Philosophy of Religion, we'll explore:  
Arguments for the existence of God and challenges to religious belief from psychology, science, new atheism, and the problem of evil and suffering  
Different types of religious language and the work of logical positivists  
The case for and against religious experiences and miracles.

In the study of Christianity, we'll consider:  
The person and the work of Jesus using biblical and theological texts

Social and historical developments in Christian thought including issues such as wealth, migration, feminist theology, pluralism and ecumenism  
Key theological debates.

## In Religious Ethics, we'll cover:

Ethical theories such as Natural Law, Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics and Religious Ethics

The application of ethical theories to current issues such as animal experimentation, nuclear warfare, sexual ethics, immigration, abortion and euthanasia

The free will and determinism debate and the idea of predestination

The value of ethical language.

## How you'll be assessed

We follow the WJEC Eduqas Religious Studies syllabus.

You'll take three 2-hour exams, one focused on the Philosophy of Religion, one on Christianity and one on Religious Ethics.

Each exam consists of two essays (chosen from a range of options)  
There is no coursework.

## Where Religion & Philosophy can take you

Religion & Philosophy is an excellent foundation for a wide range of careers including journalism, politics, law, medicine, business and finance. Our focus on ethical issues and constructing and analysing arguments makes it a good choice if you're planning to study law or medicine at university. Recent QEH 'philosophers' have progressed to top universities (including Oxford and Cambridge) to study philosophy, theology, medicine, law, history, politics, psychology, English literature, classics and music.



**Astonishment is the root of philosophy**  
Paul Tillich

# WILL SCHOLARSHIPS BE AVAILABLE?

We offer a range of Sixth Form scholarships for talented students. All students awarded a scholarship will receive an annual grant of funds to support their academic enrichment development.

Our Sixth Form scholars will be stretched and challenged beyond the A-level curriculum, and will adopt a student ambassador position within their subject area.

## How we award scholarships

We award Sixth Form scholarships on the basis of an interview and, in some cases, a practical assessment as well. Our offer is also likely to be conditional on you achieving specified grades in your GCSEs. If you're applying for an academic scholarship, you'll need to achieve mostly grade 7/8s in your GCSEs as well as very high grades in your specialist area.

## Existing QEH students

If you're an existing QEH student, you are welcome to apply for a Sixth Form scholarship provided you don't already hold another scholarship.

## Bursaries

At QEH we are determined to improve the accessibility of the school in order that the school community more closely reflects that of the city and the region.

Inspired by the philosophy of our founders, we recognise that ensuring the school is accessible for all enriches our community, enhances academic standards, is socially inclusive, and widens educational opportunity.

Means-tested financial support is available in the form of a bursary, funding up to 100% of the fees.

All students (including those awarded a scholarship) are eligible to apply for financial support based on an assessment of the family's means which takes parents' income and the value of capital assets into consideration.

## The scholarships on offer

We offer scholarships in the following areas:

### Art

Open to students planning to study art or photography at A-level, and considering a career in an art-related field.  
Award based on your portfolio of work.

### Arts and Social Sciences

Open to students planning to study at least two arts or social science subjects at A-level.  
Award based on interview performance and grade predictions.

### Drama

Open to students planning to study Drama & Theatre Studies at A-level.  
Award based on practical assessments and grade predictions.

### English Literature

Open to students planning to study English Literature at university.  
Award based on interview performance.

### Languages (Ancient and Modern)

Open to students planning to study either two modern foreign languages, a modern and a classical language, or two classical languages (A-level languages options are

French, German, Spanish, Latin and Greek).  
Award based on assessment in both your languages.

### Maths

Open to talented mathematicians planning to study Maths at A-level.  
Award based on interview performance and, ideally, a successful track record in external maths competitions.

### Music

Music is at the heart of QEH and Music scholars will be involved in the School's specific Music Scholarship Programme. Award based on practical assessment and grade prediction.

### Science (including Computer Science)

Open to students planning to study three sciences plus Maths at A-level.  
Award based on interview performance.

### Sport

Sport is strong at QEH, with a recent £3m investment into our facilities at Failand. Sport scholars will be involved in the School's specific Sport Scholarship Programme. Students should submit a CV, with video evidence of key skills and match play in one sport, as well as a reference from club or school coaches, and will be required to attend an interview.

## Find out more

For further information about our Sixth Form scholarships and bursaries please contact Admissions on 0117 930 3068 or admissions@qehbristol.co.uk



# WILL THERE BE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

## Existing QEH students

If you're an existing student, entry to the Sixth Form is conditional on you achieving a minimum of six GCSEs at grade 6. You don't have to complete an application form.

## New students

Every year we welcome new students from a wide range of schools.

We make offers to new students on the basis of an interview and a reference from your current school. Our offer will also be conditional on your GCSE results. The minimum grades we accept are at least 6 GCSEs at grade 6, with a grade 7 in subjects you're planning to study at A-level. However, due to high demand for places, it is likely that offers made will be higher.

We strongly recommend that you attend our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 18 October if possible. This will give you the opportunity to meet Sixth Form staff and other teachers, and to talk to existing Sixth Form students.

## Individual visits

We'd be delighted to welcome you on an individual visit. You'll meet the Head of Sixth Form and have a tour of the school led by current Sixth Form students. Please contact Carolyn Matthews, our Admissions Register on [admissions@qehbristol.co.uk](mailto:admissions@qehbristol.co.uk) to arrange.



## Find out more

For further information and an application form, please contact Admissions on 0117 930 3068 or [admissions@qehbristol.co.uk](mailto:admissions@qehbristol.co.uk)

“

There's good communication and a great social atmosphere. We're treated like adults but there are always people around to help you.

**Roshan, current student**



**Top:** The Sixth Form Centre is the perfect place to catch up with friends  
**Middle:** Help and advice is at hand  
**Bottom:** Quiet concentration in the art studio





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**0117 930 3068  
[www.qehbristol.co.uk](http://www.qehbristol.co.uk)**