



ALDENHAM

SCHOOL

Aldenham Sixth Form

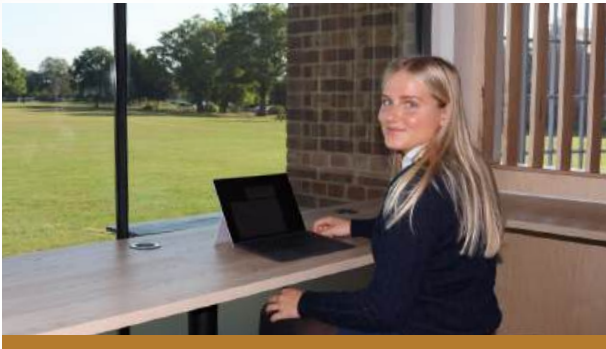




WELCOME TO THE Sixth Form

Welcome to the Sixth Form at Aldenham, where academic excellence meets personal growth.

Our ethos, deeply rooted in the boarding tradition, ensures an environment of close-knit communities, intimate class sizes, and an expansive array of subjects, complemented by a vibrant co-curricular programme.



Each Sixth Former becomes an integral part of our House system, placing pastoral care at the forefront of an Aldenham education. With dedicated single-sex houses for study and socializing, supported by caring tutors and Heads of House, every student finds a nurturing space for their own academic and personal journey.

We believe our Sixth Form is the embodiment of all that is best about co-education: girls and boys derive a wealth of social and academic benefits from their shared learning experiences in lessons and enrichment opportunities. They have the best of both worlds - the camaraderie of mixed activities and the option to retreat to their single-sex house for relaxation.

Our Sixth Formers are afforded a far greater degree of independence than younger students, fostering leadership skills through committee involvement, co-curricular enrichment and, for many, immersion into boarding life.

We instil a sense of social responsibility by offering avenues to become wellbeing ambassadors, outreach volunteers, or peer educators. Additionally, we create a supportive environment for tackling critical social issues through engaging discursive sessions. Private Study sessions and Study Skills classes, guided by expert teachers, are integrated into the Lower Sixth timetable, cultivating invaluable independent study habits.

The modern, spacious Sixth Form Centre, bathed in natural light, boasts a café and a common room dedicated to focused study periods and is used exclusively by Sixth Form students. For those looking to unwind, the Sixth Form Bar opens its doors every Tuesday and Thursday evening, offering a relaxed space to enjoy pizza and to socialize.

Tailored university and career guidance from our dedicated Sixth Form team, including a Head of Sixth Form, Assistant Head of Sixth Form, UCAS advisors, and a Careers Coordinator, are readily available within the Sixth Form Centre.





ALDENHAM
SCHOOL



Miss Katie Cooke

HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

kfcooke@aldenham.com



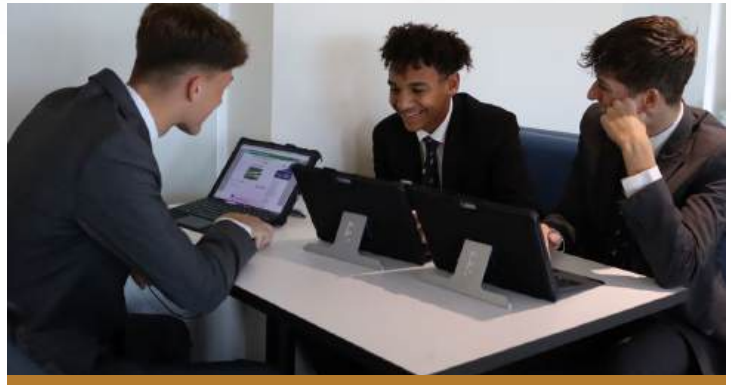
**Mrs Farah
Abdel-Karimm**

**ASSISTANT HEAD
OF SIXTH FORM**

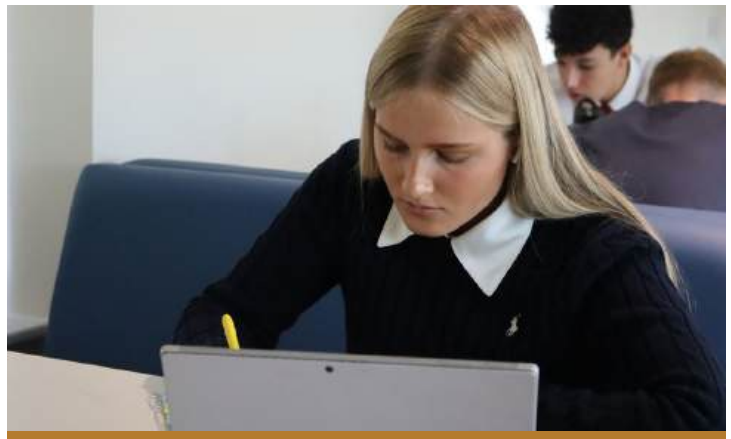
fabdelkarim@aldenham.com

WELCOME TO THE Sixth Form

At Aldenham, we place a premium on individuality, recognising that each student is on a unique journey of self-discovery and growth. We aim to empower our Sixth Formers to pursue their own pathways with confidence and purpose, whether it leads to top-tier university degrees, sought-after apprenticeships or specialist performing arts conservatoires. It is an enormous privilege to witness them celebrate their achievements, forge lasting friendships, cherish unforgettable experiences and become proud ambassadors for our wonderful school.



I hope this booklet provides you with a wealth of information about all that is on offer here in the Sixth Form. However, if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address below. I look forward to welcoming you to the Aldenham Sixth Form community very soon.



THE ACADEMIC

Programme

All students start with four subjects with the intention that, in the week before October half term of Year 12, they will make a reasoned and appropriate choice between the following three pathways:

1. Choose three subjects and an additional subsidiary subject. In the current academic year, we have offered the EPQ and Maths (Level 3) and we anticipate that these subjects will be available next year;
2. Continue with four subjects (if it is highly likely that four A or A* grades will be achieved) following appropriate discussions with the House team, the Head of Sixth Form and the Deputy Head (Academic); or
3. Carry on with three A-Level subjects only. We anticipate that this is likely to be the pattern followed by most of the year group.

Student performance is monitored throughout the course and communicated regularly via grade sheets and reports published on the portal. We aim to intervene actively if students fall short of their expected performance.

There are significant internal examinations in April of Year 12, the first week back in September and January of Year 13. External examinations take place in the Summer Term of Year 13. Results for public examinations are published in August.

SUBJECT CHOICES

One of our aims at Aldenham is to offer as much choice as possible to our students, avoiding many of the restrictions placed on subject combinations by other schools. If you confirm your intention to apply for the Sixth Form you will be asked to indicate your likely choice of courses in rank order following the mock exams in January of Year 11.

Students should discuss their choices with their parents, their Housemaster or Housemistress, their tutor, their subject teachers and/or Heads of Departments. At Aldenham the Head of UCAS, Careers Coordinator and the Deputy Head (Academic) are also available if further guidance is necessary.

The guiding principles should be 'what do you enjoy?', 'What are you good at?' And 'what do you need for the next stage of your life?'.



THE ACADEMIC

Programme

SUBJECT INFORMATION

The following information is provided to help you make decisions about the choices that face you.

You may already have an idea of what subjects interest you. However, you should read the outlines and watch the videos for each course, as some are quite different from the experience that you may have had at GCSE.

Also, you will discover that there are new courses offered here that might suit your interests. However, it is also imperative that you speak to those who have guided you in the past, such as your Housemaster/Housemistress and tutors, as well as the teachers and/or Heads of Department if you have a particular career or university course in mind. There is a huge number and variety of university courses on offer but please be aware many will require particular subject combinations for entry.

Finally, please note that some subjects may not be offered if the student demand is low. Please check with the School for further information

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

It is important that students have good Mathematics and English Language I/GCSE passes (minimum grade 4 and preferably a grade 5 – see criteria below). A-Levels are challenging and subsequent university or career applications may depend upon passes in these subjects.

Under exceptional circumstances individuals may be allowed to continue into the Sixth Form without a grade 4 in maths and English and will be supported in resitting these exams at the School. As a general entry requirement to the Sixth Form at Aldenham, students should have at least 30 I/GCSE points from their 5 best I/GCSEs and also meet the subject specific entry requirements given in the table below or at least grade 7 in 3 subjects' entry requirements and at least one more grade 5 or above in the 4th subject.

In cases where internal candidates have narrowly missed these entry requirements, we may consider allowing them entry to the Sixth Form if their average Year 11 'Attitude to Learning' grade is markedly better than the year group average.



Dr Pat Reid

DEPUTY HEAD (ACADEMIC)

pjr@aldenham.com

95% of Aldenham students were successfully accepted onto an undergraduate course at their first or second choice university on Results Day 2024

| A-Level Subject | Min. GCSE Maths | Min. GCSE Eng Lang | Other usual subject specific min. grade requirements (other evidence of ability may be accepted in some circumstances) |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| AT LEAST 30 POINTS FROM YOUR BEST 5 I/GCSEs INCLUDING... | | | |
| Art | 4 | 5 | Grade 6 or above in Art but may accept other evidence of ability |
| Biology | 5 | 4 | Grade 7 or above in 1 of Biology/Combined Science |
| Business | 5 | 5 | N/A |
| Chemistry | 5 | 4 | Grade 7 or above in 1 of Chemistry/Combined Science |
| Classical Civilisation | 4 | 5 | Grade 6 or above in 1 of Class Civ/English Lit |
| Computer Science | 5 | 4 | Grade 6 or above in Comp Sci. |
| Design Technology | 5 | 4 | Grade 6 or above in Design Technology |
| Drama | 4 | 5 | Grade 6 or above in Drama (but may accept other evidence of ability) |
| Economics | 6 | 5 | N/A |
| English | 4 | 5 | Grade 6 or above in English Literature |
| French | 4 | 5 | Grade 6 or above in French |
| Further Maths | 8 | 4 | N/A |
| Geography | 4 | 5 | Grade 6 or above in Geography |
| History | 4 | 5 | Grade 6 or above in History |
| Latin | 4 | 5 | Grade 6 or above in Latin |
| Maths | 7 | 4 | N/A |
| Media Studies | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Music | 4 | 4 | Grade 6 or above in Music (but may accept other evidence of ability) |
| Philosophy | 4 | 6 | N/A |
| Physical Education | 4 | 5 | Grade 6 or above in P.E. (but may accept other evidence of ability) |
| Physics | 6 | 4 | Grade 7 or above in 1 of Physics/Combined Science |
| Politics | 5 | 6 | N/A |
| Psychology | 5 | 4* | Grade 6 in 1 of English/Maths/Biology/Combined Science |
| Sociology | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Spanish | 4 | 5 | Grade 6 or above in Spanish |

* Unless using English as the grade 6 entry requirements



THE CO-CURRICULAR Programme

Aldenham is renowned for its outstanding co-curricular provision. All students partake in sporting activities at least twice a week. Some students will play the major sports (football, hockey, netball, cricket and rounders) and will take part in competitive weekly fixtures, whilst others may choose other sporting activities including sailing, dance, squash, tennis, badminton and yoga. Sixth Formers also have access to Aldenham's well-equipped fitness suite which boasts a range of weights and cardiovascular machines.

There are numerous opportunities to get involved with the School theatre, either acting in a range of School productions or learning the ropes as a member of the stage crew. Students also benefit from our outstanding Music School, in which a traditional Recital Hall operates alongside state-of-the-art music technology equipment.

In addition, students benefit from a twice-weekly activities programme. During this time they have the opportunity to take part in a wealth of extra-curricular activities including (but not limited to):

- Young Enterprise;
- Photography;
- Model United Nations;
- Golf;
- Politics Society;
- Running Club;
- Film Club;
- Tricks;
- Chess Club;
- Computer and
- Eco Garden.

Aldenham also boasts a thriving CCF and Duke of Edinburgh programme, both of which welcome new and existing Sixth Formers who are open to having new experiences, gaining new skills and enhancing their CVs.

There are also numerous opportunities to get involved in community service including:

- Volunteering at two local primary schools;
- The annual Year 12 trip to Malawi to work alongside the charity Ripple Africa;
- Helping to host a PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied) weekend at School, in which students and staff look after severely disabled children for 48 hours to give their carers some respite;
- Helping to host a weekly lunch for a local care home.

This is merely a snapshot of co-curricular life at Aldenham School. We are rightfully proud of our reputation for co-curricular excellence; the personal development opportunities Aldenham affords its Sixth Formers are unrivalled.

UNIVERSITY

Higher Education Applications

At Aldenham we take great care in supporting and advising our students as they transition beyond our school. We understand that these decisions can feel monumental and at times, overwhelming. It is our priority to reassure every student that we stand by their side throughout this journey, whether they are applying to UK universities, seeking opportunities abroad, exploring apprenticeships, or delving into career paths. We believe it is our duty to ensure that each student departs with a well-defined trajectory that will inspire, challenge, and motivate them.

For UK university applications, we navigate the University and College Admissions Service (UCAS) process. Our responsibility as a School is to provide thorough, impartial and personalised information, guidance and advice to each student. The applications process is one of the first big milestones where students can take an active step towards building their future. They learn valuable skills through the process, including time management, organisation skills and resilience. Although it is an independent and personal choice, our unwavering support is available to students at every turn.

We will closely support each student through the entire process; from helping them to register an account, to showing them how to complete the application forms correctly and finally to helping them click the 'submit' button! While some may embark on alternative and equally exciting paths, such as apprenticeships or employment, we believe in presenting every student with the option to pursue higher education.

Our support at Aldenham extends to coaching students in writing excellent personal statements, encouraging attendance at university open days, and engaging them in enriching workshops and discussions.

House teams take special care to ensure each student has an appropriate subject mentor dedicated to refining their personal statement to an exceptional standard, while providing expert advice in their chosen field. The UCAS journey begins for all students in the Summer Term of Year 12, with the goal of submitting applications by November of Year 13.

HSU students (refer to the following page) will adhere to an earlier deadline.



Nearly half of our 2024 leavers will be studying at Russell Group universities this September

HIGHLY SELECTIVE

Universities (HSU)

The programme runs from the beginning of Year 12 and is designed to push students intellectually, taking them beyond the limits of their academic A-Levels in a challenging, rewarding and enjoyable manner.

The programme assists with the preparation of an application for a highly selective course (e.g. medicine or dentistry) or to a highly selective institution (e.g. Oxbridge). It is also open to students who wish to participate and who display impressive academic curiosity.

To ensure students' applications are as competitive as possible, the programme includes individualised personal statement assistance, timetabled lessons to push students beyond the A-Level syllabuses, mock interviews, student lecture series, educational visits and trips, as well as tailored Humanities and STEM activities.

For any questions regarding university applications, please feel free to contact the UCAS team on the emails.



ALDENHAM
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Dr Paterson

HEAD OF HSU

djpaterson@aldenham.com



CAREERS

Programme

At Aldenham, we are committed to equipping all our students with invaluable, unbiased, and robust careers education and guidance.

Our primary aim is to empower students to make informed and independent choices that will enhance their life prospects and lead them towards pathways aligned with their aspirations and potential.

Our careers education and guidance framework is rooted in our core values and underpinned by the Aldenham Attributes: aspiration, cooperation, courage, curiosity, independence, and respect. It offers comprehensive opportunities for learning, spanning from Year 7 to Year 13, focusing on the development of skills crucial for higher education or the world of work.

Through carefully crafted activities and lessons, we instil independence and reflection in our students, helping them understand the transformative impact of education on their future careers. We aim to foster self-discovery and crucial qualities such as initiative, resourcefulness, and enterprise.



IN YEAR 12, OUR CAREERS PROGRAM OFFERS:

- Fortnightly career talks featuring specialists in various fields, including publishing, law, finance, media, and IT.
- Providing information on diverse educational pathways, including apprenticeships.
- Conducting one-on-one meetings and maintaining regular contact with the Careers Coordinator to establish and track career development throughout Year 12 and into Year 13.
- Assisting with CV preparation for prospective work experience placements.
- Mentorship opportunities through our network of accomplished Old Aldenhamians.
- Encouraging attendance at the Higher Education Fair in London.
- A Careers Fayre with over 30 different Careers providers.
- An evening for Year 12s providing interview experience.

IN YEAR 13, THE CAREERS PROGRAM SHIFTS ITS FOCUS TOWARDS:

- Assisting students in completing Personal Statements and UCAS applications during the Christmas Term.
- Conducting mock interviews with external interviewers to hone their interview skills.
- Securing work experience and job opportunities for gap year or full time employment.

A-LEVEL

Subjects

ART (FINE ART)

Head of Department:

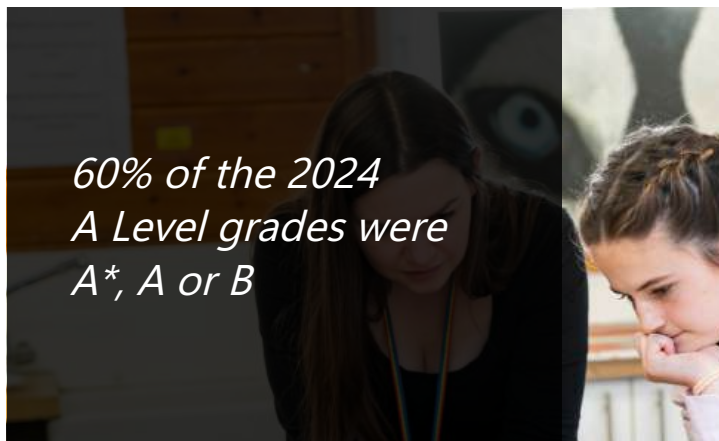
Ms. K Nicholson

Examination Board: Edexcel

Specification No: 9FA0

Aldenham School's Art Department enjoys quality facilities and a history of academic success. A-Level pupils have dedicated use of the Sixth Form studio and the spacious Art Cabin, which they can use throughout the school day in order to continue their independent studies. A-Level Art students will be given the opportunity to practically, critically and contextually develop personal work. They will use their own ideas, observations, experiences, environments and cultures to create work to build their portfolio, undertake written critical analyses and innovatively approach the final exam piece. Students are supported through specialist workshops, contextual visits and individual tutorials. The course is broken down into two components: component one, focusing on personal investigation and personal study is worth

60% of the course, and component 2, worth 40% of the course, contains the externally set assignment.



*60% of the 2024
A Level grades were
A*, A or B*

BIOLOGY

Head of

Department:

Dr A Camenzuli

Examination

Board: AQA

Specification No: 7402



Students will be introduced to a number of exciting and current topics that include biological molecules, cells, genetics, immunity, evolution and ecology. Students will sit three exams at the end of Year 13. There is also a practical endorsement examination which is assessed internally and is reported on separately as a pass/fail. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a Biology field trip, to enable them to develop fieldwork techniques linked to the theoretical component of the specification whilst also gaining a wider appreciation of outdoor Biology.

Many students with A-Level Biology go on to study a wide range of courses at university, including Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Dentistry, Medicine, Physiotherapy and Veterinary Science. Biology is often required for degrees in Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Environmental Science, Nursing and Midwifery, Pharmacy, Sports Science and Psychology.

A-LEVEL

Subjects

BUSINESS

Head of Department:
Mr L Flindall

Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification No: 9BS0



Students will understand the interrelated nature of business using business models, theories and techniques to support analysis of contemporary business issues and situations. The content is designed to engage students through topics and issues that are relevant in today's society – they will study key contemporary developments such as digital technology, business ethics and globalisation. Students will develop the knowledge and skills needed to analyse data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions – all skills that are needed for further study and employment

Due to the importance of numerical and evaluative skills required for Business, it is expected that students will have strong Mathematics and English grades before embarking on the course. An interest in contemporary events is also a prerequisite, as much of the course involves discussion of the current economic situation.



CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Head of Department: Mr J Goss

Examination Board: OCR
Specification No: H408

Classical Civilisation involves the study of the literature and culture of the ancient world through modern translations and the art, architecture and archaeology of the period. It focuses on the study of Classical literature and thought, in the context of ancient society. Students explore a range of interesting themes, ideas and issues, many of which are still relevant and influential today.

There is no need for Classical Civilisation or Latin GCSE to be successful at the course. It consists of three components: the world of the hero; Greek theatre; and love and relationships. These each lead to an exam taken at the end of the course. There is no coursework.

The emphasis is on understanding the ancient world through investigating primary sources, texts and materials and the exciting discussion of ideas. The course helps develop the skills of evaluation, complex analysis and communication which are very valuable for university and a wide variety of professional careers.

A-LEVEL

Subjects

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Head of Department:

Mr Nayake-Singh

Examination Board: Eduqas

Specification No:

601/5031/2

Course board: OCR Course Code: H446



Computer Science provides students with a unique skill set that is both academically and vocationally desirable. Learning to program is a life-changing experience as it changes the way that you think about the world around you. It makes you a more accomplished problem solver which is why graduate recruiters in banks and management consultancies recruit heavily from university Computing departments.

There is no need to have any formal background in computing to study this course but students should have a strong interest in computing and programming and should be numerate with strong problem solving skills. Coursework is worth 20% of the final mark and the examination comprises of two other modules of equal weight (40% each).

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN



Head of Department:

Miss C Macdonald

Examination Board: AQA

Course Code: 7552

50% Written examinations, 50% Non-examined assessment (NEA) Studying Design and Technology at A-Level will enable students with a flair for design to develop an understanding and appreciation for the world around them. We will help them to use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real world and relevant problems, whilst gaining an appreciation and understanding of global social, cultural and environmental issues in relation to engineering and technology. Students will learn how to consider their own and others' needs, wants and values as well as further developing skills of numeracy, computer literacy and attention to detail.

Two examination papers will be sat at the end of the A-Level course, testing understanding of technical, designing and making principles, together with specialist knowledge and understanding. They will also be required to undertake a substantial design and make task with portfolio (NEA) and produce a final prototype which they complete as coursework over approximately two terms.



A-LEVEL

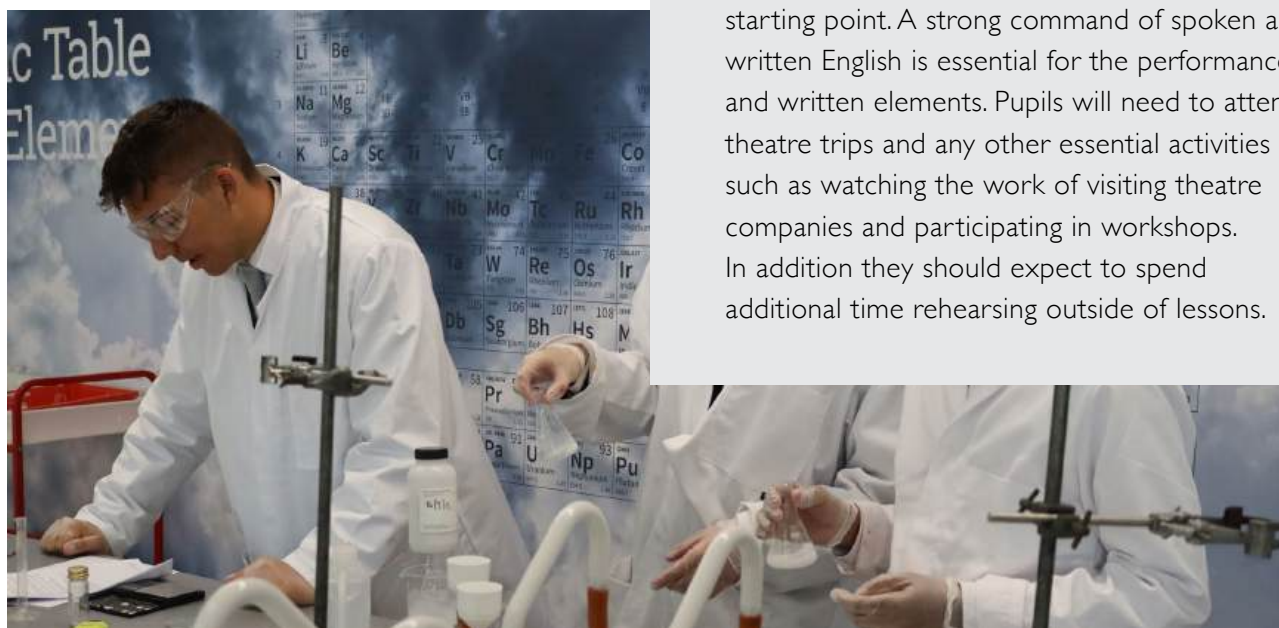
Subjects

CHEMISTRY

Head of Department:
Mr A Shead

Examination Board: OCR
Specification No: H432

Chemistry is a fascinating field of study, since it is so fundamental to our world. Chemistry plays a role in everyone's lives and touches almost every aspect of our existence in some way. Chemistry is essential for meeting our basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, energy, as well as clean air, water, and soil. Chemical technologies enrich our quality of life in numerous ways by providing new solutions to problems in health, materials, and energy usage. Thus, studying chemistry is useful in preparing us for the real world. It is recommended that students have strong mathematical skills in order to study Chemistry A-Level.



DRAMA AND THEATRE

Head of Department:
Mr E Avdjian

Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification No: 9DR0



Any university course or career which requires public speaking, confidence, communication and cooperation will be pleased to receive applications from students with a

Drama qualification. This rigorous and dynamic A-Level will develop practical skills of acting, directing and devising Drama over the two year course. Alongside the practical work there is a substantial written element in the form of both coursework and a written examination. Students will study a range of plays (which they will approach as both a performer and director) for performance and written analysis. A high level of commitment is expected from students; previous production experience is a necessary starting point. A strong command of spoken and written English is essential for the performance and written elements. Pupils will need to attend theatre trips and any other essential activities such as watching the work of visiting theatre companies and participating in workshops. In addition they should expect to spend additional time rehearsing outside of lessons.

A-LEVEL

Subjects

ECONOMICS

Head of Department:
Mr L Flindall

Examination Board: AQA
Specification No: 7136



Students of Economics must apply economic theory to support analysis of current economic problems. They must also appreciate the interrelationships between micro economics and macroeconomics. Students will develop the knowledge and skills needed to understand and analyse data and to be able to think critically about issues and make informed decisions. They will also build upon their quantitative skills and appreciate that, when evaluating arguments, both qualitative and quantitative evidence is important. During their course of study, students will be encouraged to develop a critical approach to economic models and methods of enquiry.

Due to the importance of numerical and evaluative skills required for Economics, it is expected that students will have strong Mathematics and English grades before embarking on the course. An interest in contemporary events is also a prerequisite, as much of the course involves discussion of the current economic situation.

ENGLISH LITERATURE



Head of Department:
Mr C Jenkins

Examination Board:
WJEC/Eduqas
Specification No: 601/4870/6

A-Level English Literature is a popular subject in the Sixth Form and gives students the chance to expand on the study of Literature undertaken at GCSE level by the detailed examination of more demanding and interesting texts than is possible at that level. The course is broken into four separate areas: Poetry (including both modern and classic texts) Drama (including Shakespeare, modern drama and other classic texts), Unseen Texts (including both unseen poetry and unseen prose) and Prose Study which is coursework-based.

Success at English Literature A-Level is dependent on the ability to read thoughtfully, to discuss with a breadth of mind, and to write with fluency and insight. There will be opportunities to study literature from the 16th Century to the present day and these studies can often be enhanced by trips to readings, study days and drama performances.

*Over a quarter of all A Level grades were an outstanding A-A**

"May the wind under your wings bear you where the sun sails and the moon walks."
J. R. R. TOLKIEN, THE HOBBIT



A-LEVEL

Subjects

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

Head of Department: Mr L Kirsten

Examination Board: QA

Specification No: 7993

The EPQ is a stand-alone qualification equivalent to half an A-Level. It gives A-Level students an opportunity to demonstrate independent research skills by completing a 5,000 word dissertation, staging a performance, creating an artefact or undertaking an investigation.



The project is supported by a production log recording how the project is researched, managed and evaluated. Students are assigned a supervisor who will support and guide them through the process. There are 30 hours of taught lessons and students are expected to spend a further 90 hours working on the project independently.

The EPQ course starts in the November of Year 12 and projects are submitted in October of Year 13. The EPQ is highly recommended for students applying to Russell Group universities as it demonstrates the ability to write and reference academically and provides evidence that they have a real interest in a specific subject matter. It mirrors the independent style of learning required for success at degree level.

The EPQ is worth up to 28 UCAS points for an A*. 79% of students achieved an A*, A or B grade in 2023.

FRENCH

Head of Department:

Srta. M Bustamante

Examination Board: AQA

Specification No: 7652



This course offers students the opportunity to talk and write about an interesting variety of topics such as social issues and trends, political science and artistic culture.

Both teaching and examinations are conducted mainly in the target language and we do expect candidates to subscribe wholeheartedly to this ideal, as well as being keen to undertake self-motivated study and essential development of skills such as wider reading and listening practice outside the confines of timetabled lessons, using a wide range of materials and resources.

The course is naturally suitable for students with a linguistic ability who wish to increase their employment opportunities in an increasingly international world.

The final examination assesses the full range of language skills. Students will sit three exams:

Paper 1 (50%) - Listening, reading and writing (including translation) on a variety of themes.

Paper 2 (20%) - Writing on the novel and movie studied.

Paper 3 (30%) - Speaking including a presentation of the IRP (Individual research project).

A-LEVEL

Subjects

GEOGRAPHY

**Head of Department:
Mr M Buckland**

Examination Board:
Cambridge
International A-Level
Specification No: 9696



Geography at A-Level is a broad and diverse subject that offers students real scope for independent learning and enquiry.



The curriculum aims to develop a wide range of geographical skills. As a department we are seeking students who are eager to engage with the world around them and whose inquisitive minds create a thirst to understand how geographical systems interact within both natural and human environments. In Year 12 the students study Hydrology and Rivers, Atmosphere and Weather, Weathering and Geological Landscapes, Population and Demographics, Migration Processes and Settlement dynamics. In Year 13 more detailed courses are undertaken in Managing Coastlines, Life in Hazardous Areas, Environmental management and Global interdependence. All students will be expected to attend the four day residential field trip held early in the summer term during Year 12. A good proportion of our recent students have gone on to read Geography at university. Geographers have access to a wide range of possible future careers.

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

**Head of Department:
Mr B Fraiss**

Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification No: 9PLO



The A-Level Government & Politics specification is designed to encourage students to develop their critical thinking skills and enhance their ability to interpret, evaluate and comment on the nature of politics. This is a very current A-Level and what is in a newspaper today may well be in an essay tomorrow. This is a rigorous subject that is respected by universities, especially given the demands of the new specification.

The subject is comprised of three modules with each one having their own exam. Students will study UK politics and government as well as the politics and government of the USA. There is also the opportunity to study core political ideas, such as conservatism, socialism, liberalism and nationalism.

Many students who have taken the A-Level in Government & Politics go on to study Politics or International Relations at university.



A-LEVEL

Subjects

HISTORY

Head of Department:
Mr B Frais

Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification No: 9HI0



This Modern History course follows the Edexcel specification. It is designed to cover at least 200 years through the three topics chosen for study. The course is also designed to give a variety of different types of historical study. There will be three linear courses with the exams at the end of Year 13 and one piece of coursework. The topics chosen are:

In search of the American Dream:
the USA, c1917–96

South Africa, 1948–94: from apartheid
state to 'rainbow nation'

Britain: losing and gaining an
empire, 1763–1914

Coursework, based on Chamberlain's
policy of appeasement and the
extent to which it was misguided

Students will be required to write at length and there will be an expectation that students research in depth. They will also need to show an understanding of the importance of primary and secondary sources. Many students who take History A-Level go on to study History or International Relations at university.

LATIN

Head of Department:
Mr J Goss

Examination Board: OCR
Specification No: H443

Latin literature and history have greatly influenced our culture. Latin A-Level involves the study of ancient literature and history through the reading of original Latin poets and historians such as Ovid, Virgil, Pliny and Tacitus. It is a challenging and academic A-Level and widely recognised as such by universities and professional employers. The course involves two language exams on the unseen translation of prose, verse and either Latin composition or comprehension, and two literature exams, answering on selected texts of Latin verse and prose literature which are studied in advance of the exam.

Latin appeals not only to literature students but also many scientists and mathematicians, who enjoy the logical, deductive and analytical thinking which underpins the Latin language. Latin can therefore complement a choice of either scientific or humanities A-Levels. The skills developed in analysis, deductive reasoning and communication are valued by universities and employers.



A-LEVEL

Subjects

MATHEMATICS

Head of Department:
Miss C Fulford

Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification No: 9MA0



An A-Level qualification in Mathematics is extremely well regarded by universities and employers as it demonstrates a student's ability to work in a logical and methodical way towards finding solutions to problems. People with well-developed mathematical skills are sought after in all sectors of industry.

The course is assessed by three equally weighted exam papers which are two hours each. The first two papers consist entirely of Pure Mathematics, whilst the third paper consists of Applied Mathematics (Statistics and Mechanics). The applied part of the course provides an excellent complement to other subjects, for example the statistical components of Psychology and Business Studies and the mechanical component of Physics.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Head of Department:
Miss C Fulford

Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification No: 9FM0

Further Mathematics is taken in conjunction with A-Level Mathematics. They are two separate A-Level awards and, consequently, are given twice the teaching time of a single Mathematics award.

It is a course for the Mathematics specialist and is often studied alongside Physics and Computer Science with a view to a career in Mathematics, Physics, Computing or Engineering.

In the first year students will complete A-Level Mathematics (see above). In the second year, a further four units are studied, of which Units 1 and 2 are Pure and Units 3 and 4 are Applied. A facility in algebra and a feel for numerical work are essential. Students taking this course must select it in both option blocks.



A-LEVEL

Subjects

MATHEMATICAL STUDIES

Head of Department:
Miss C Fulford

Examination Board: AQA
Specification No: 1350



This course is aimed at students who wish to pursue Maths as a support subject to their other A-Levels or for pleasure. The content of the course particularly supports DT, Business, Economics and Physics. It is a two year course which will be examined by two written papers. Paper 1 tests the Core content of the course, but schools may choose for Paper 2 between Statistical Analysis, Critical Path Analysis and Graphical Techniques. This will depend on the needs/interests of the students in each group.

Paper 1 - 1 hour 30 minutes - 60 marks

Analysis of Data, Maths for personal finance, Estimation, Critical analysis of given data and models.

Paper 2 - 1 hour 30 minutes - 60 marks

Topics include: Probabilities and estimation, Correlation and regression, Critical path and risk analysis, Expectation, Cost benefit analysis, Graphical methods, Rates of change and Exponential functions.

It leads to a qualification which leads to UCAS points (where A = 20 points). It has six lessons in the two week cycle.

MEDIA STUDIES

Head of Department:
Mr C Jenkins

Examination Board: CIE
Specification No: 9607



Media Studies is a popular subject at A-Level. It requires the ability to grapple with complex theoretical concepts and intricate, multifaceted issues and debates.

The subject offers the opportunity to combine a theoretical understanding of the mass media in society and methods of analysing media texts – television programmes, films, advertising, the press and websites.

The development of practical skills for media productions is vitally important. There is a balance of theory and practical work, which means that students will learn about how media industries operate, students will research and investigate issues and debates in contemporary media texts.

The course content is split into four components: Foundation Portfolio, Key Media Concepts, Advanced Portfolio and Critical Perspectives.



A-LEVEL

Subjects

MUSIC

Head of Department:

Mr M Hallas

Examination Board: Eduqas

Specification No: A660PA

or A660PB

Music is an exciting, varied subject to study at A-Level and is well respected by many top universities due to the breadth of skills required to succeed in the course. The three elements of performing, composing and developing musical understanding (appraising) are carried forward from GCSE. The students can choose to specialise as either composers or performers in year 13, opting for either a 6 minute recital and 3 compositions or a 10 minute recital and 2 compositions. Students will do one composition from a choice of four briefs set by the board in the year of the examination, other compositions can be a free choice. All compositions will be submitted at the end of Year 13.

The musical understanding section consists of three areas of study: The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900), a choice of Rock and Pop, Musical Theatre or Jazz and a choice of Into the 20th Century or Into the 21st Century. The exam consists of set work analysis with a score, comparison questions, an extended response on a wider context, short questions and aural dictation on unprepared extracts.

Students will be expected to contribute to the co-curricular music at the school and increase their wider listening by attending concerts in a variety of musical styles.



A-LEVEL

Subjects

PHILOSOPHY

Head of Department:
Miss A Morris

Examination Board: AQA
Specification No: 7172

Do we really know all that we claim to know? Is the human mind separate from the human body? Is there a proof for the existence of God? People have always raised profound questions such as these and the job of philosophers is to explore them in a disciplined fashion. Philosophy students develop the ability to apply reason with rigour, recognise important concepts, break down arguments into their significant steps, question debatable assumptions, learn about the history of theories and their wider implications, judge fairly and honestly, and communicate with clarity and precision.

The AQA Philosophy course consists of four units: Epistemology, Moral Philosophy, Metaphysics of Mind and Metaphysics of God. A student's final grade is based on two 3 hour written examinations to be taken at the end of Year 13. For this reason, we advise that students considering Philosophy are confident in their literacy ability. This subject will aid a student's learning in all academic subjects and is good preparation for most university degree courses.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Head of Department:
Mr D Breeze

Examination Board:
WJEC Eduqas
Specification No: 601/8838/8

Components 1 and 2 of the course are theoretical. They are worth 35% each and cover the following topics: exercise physiology, training and performance; movement analysis, technology and biomechanics; sport psychology; skill acquisition; and sport and society

Component 3 is based on practical aptitude and coursework. It is worth 30% of the A-Level. 15% is assessed internally, based on the candidate's ability as a performer or coach in one approved activity.

The remaining 15% is also assessed internally and is based on the candidate's ability to produce a research-based piece of coursework which will analyse and evaluate personal performance to provide recommendations for refining performance.



A-LEVEL

Subjects

PHYSICS

Head of Department:

Mr J Dingsdale

Examination Board:

OCR (A)

Specification No: H556

A-Level physics is the starting point for many high flyers. Not only for those entering careers involving science, technology, engineering, and maths, but equally for those who want to pursue a career in finance, medicine or law.

An understanding of the core principles of physics has been at the heart of many of the technological developments of the last century. In the future it will underpin our searches for sustainable energy, quantum computing breakthroughs, environmentally friendly transport systems and advanced modern medical techniques. Students may go on to develop supersonic flight, space travel and satellite technology of the future.

Ideal candidates have strong maths and science skills, an enquiring mind, enjoy problem solving, exploring new concepts, and applying them in both the macroscopic Newtonian world and in the sub-microscopic quantum realm. Students will study such diverse areas as forces, fields, cosmology, waves, electrical circuits, motion, stars, nuclear physics, medical physics, thermal physics, and quantum physics. The final exam involves three written papers and students must also undertake a compulsory series of non-examined practical investigations as part of their overall assessment during their 2 years of study.

PSYCHOLOGY

Head of Department:

Mrs F Abdel Karim

Examination Board: OCR

Specification No: H567



Psychology is the scientific study of mental processes and human behaviour. In the course we focus on understanding the fundamental aspects of the human psych and its impact on behaviour. We do this through exploring five foundation areas in Psychology, looking at specific research and studies and applying knowledge to real life.

Paper 1 is Research Methods: the process of conducting and analysing psychological research across a range of different methods. Students are required to conduct their own practical work (although there is no course work required). The exam questions include multiple choice questions and extensive data interpretation and analysis questions. This requires scientific knowledge and 10% of the course focuses on mathematical requirements.

Paper 2 is Core Studies. Students study 10 pairs of Psychology studies - both a classic and a contemporary study in an effort to understand human behaviour. This is assessed with questions including a 15-mark essay.

Paper 3 is Applied Psychology, which focuses on issues in mental health and 2 options. As a school we choose Child Psychology and Criminology as the options as they are the most interesting to study and because many students choose to study Psychology at university with a focus on child development or criminology. Therefore, these topics serve as a good foundation of knowledge for the students.

A-LEVEL

Subjects

SPANISH

Head of Department:
Srta. M Bustamante

Examination Board: AQA
Specification No: 7692



Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world and it is an asset to have in this competitive world market. During this course the topics of social issues/ trends and political and artistic culture, as well as the multiculturalism and aspects of political life in the Hispanic world will be studied. In addition, one movie and one novel are studied alongside a great deal of grammar. The final examination assesses the full range of language skills.

Students will sit three exams:

Paper 1 (50%) - Listening, reading and writing (including translation) on a variety of themes.

Paper 2 (20%) - Writing on the novel and movie studied.

Paper 3 (30%) - Speaking including a presentation of the IRP (Individual research project)

The course is suitable for students with a natural linguistic ability who wish to increase their employment opportunities in an increasingly international world. Our main aim is to provide students with a wide range of practical communicative skills in both the written and the spoken language for a variety of purposes in the world of work and leisure and for further study.

SOCIOLOGY

Head of Department:
Miss McCrae

Examination Board: AQA
Specification No: 7192

Sociology is the study of society by exploring how and why it works the way it does. Studying sociology will give you a range of skills that are applicable in many areas of work such as critical thinking and analytical skills along with improving and research skills.

The course is assessed by three equally weighted exam papers. The first paper is focused on Education with Theory and Methods, the second paper is focused on Topics in Sociology such as Families and Households, the third paper is focused on Crime and Deviance.

The course will aid in a student's learning by developing their communication and evaluative skills and will be an excellent complement to other subjects such as Psychology and Business Studies.





ALDENHAM

SCHOOL

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