

THE 6
St Catherine's



SIXTH FORM



St Catherine's
BRAMLEY

2025



“ The high-quality support provided for senior pupils applying to university is strong and includes a system where sixth form pupils are buddied with former pupils currently studying at the pupils’ first choice universities. ”

Independent Schools Inspectorate October 2023

THE 6

- 4 Welcome
 - 6 Why choose the Sixth Form
 - 15 Boarding
 - 20 The Curriculum
 - 22 Choosing your A Levels
 - 24 Enhancing your experience
 - 26 University Choices
 - 30 Careers ideas
 - 32 The Association Community
 - 35 A Level Results
 - 36 Beyond the Classroom
 - 41 Where do St Cat's girls go next?
 - 45 A Level Subjects
 - 59 Our Location
-





FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

One of the most enjoyable aspects of being Headmistress of St Catherine's is the privilege of watching our Sixth Form students develop from the most wonderful sixteen year olds into remarkable young women as the two years unfold.

During your two years of study you will build your portfolio of qualifications: A Levels, a subsidiary subject of your choice, possibly an additional GCSE/MOS qualification, and a raft of extra-curricular experiences and certificates. Your timetable will be built round your subject choices. You can gracefully say goodbye to those areas you may have enjoyed less at GCSE and can now immerse yourself completely in the subjects you relish. Your subsidiary subject will either complement those studies or provide variety or a mindfulness moment in your busy week.

Enjoying all of your subjects means that you find you have even more energy for other activities outside the timetable, and you start to be ready to lead. Leadership skills are extremely useful lifelong. Our Sixth Form *genuinely* help run the School and maintain its ethos as a place where academic achievement goes hand in hand with care for others and an increased sense of responsibility. The much closer relationship with the staff also

leads to a strong camaraderie which develops over time. And, the whole experience includes having a lot of fun, too.

With our contemporary Sixth Form Boarding House and Common Room for all, **The 6** (p.15-19), which opened in 2021, many of you will want to explore this pre-university boarding option and give yourselves more time to study and engage in extra-curricular activities.

I hope that these pages will give you much of the information you need about the Sixth Form at St Catherine's and will whet your appetite for this most exciting stage of your education.

The staff and current Sixth Form students are on standby to answer any further questions you may have. The next two years will see you taking on more responsibilities and leading from the top which is why the Sixth Form not only *makes* a difference but *is* the difference. Be sure to read what current pupils and parents say on page 44.

Alice Phillips

Mrs Alice Phillips MA Cantab - Headmistress

FROM THE HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

We very much look forward to welcoming you into our Sixth Form where you will find an inclusive and happy atmosphere in which everyone is encouraged to develop her talents and interests. St Catherine's will prepare you for your A Levels, as well as for whatever lies ahead, be it university, a gap year, or another of the many opportunities possible for an intelligent and capable young woman.

By studying your favourite subjects in depth, you will develop new skills and build on existing ones. There is also the opportunity to become involved in a huge range of activities, from fundraising to film-making. Friendships are strengthened, and new ones made. You will leave St Catherine's confident that you are ready to face life head-on and use your abilities to make the world a better place.

There is greater independence in the Sixth Form, too, which also means being responsible for managing your time effectively.

As you move into the Upper Sixth, you will contribute increasingly to the running of the School and your House, affording you valuable leadership experience as well as being a role model for the younger girls. The Sixth Form tutor team will support you in subject specialist form groups, helping you plan your university application and your future beyond St Catherine's. Please look at our Destination of Leavers (p.41-43) and our A Level results which are a testament to this each year.

Whether it is the team-building induction days at the start of the Sixth Form, the Lower Sixth Musical that is always a highlight at the end of the School year, the leadership of House events, or a whole range of activities and trips, St Catherine's Sixth Form is characterised by new challenges, enthusiasm, hard work, and a genuine sense of fun. When you finally leave us, it will be with a sense of achievement, purpose, self-belief, and a strong awareness of your place in the world as a young woman of extraordinary potential.

K. Hawtin

Mrs Kate Hawtin BA Dunelm, PGCE - Head of Sixth Form



“ St Catherine’s Sixth Form is the jewel in the St Cat’s crown.”

Alice Phillips, Headmistress

WHY CHOOSE THE SIXTH FORM AT ST CATHERINE’S?

We can list the reasons why St Catherine’s offers the very best Sixth Form experience but that won’t give you the whole story. Excellent examination results and outstanding facilities are tangible factors but what about the fundamental ethos and values which underpin the Sixth Form? House spirit is both unquantifiable and unthinkable without the leadership and energy the Sixth Form girls provide. It is hard to see where you would find such a close-knit community resulting in events such as the amazing annual Sixth Form Musical and the Charities Board Fashion and Talent Show. The Sixth Form at St Catherine’s provides an exciting launch pad for your future.



The Speech Hall Library
- your dedicated study space



“The passion of the staff and the pastoral care they provide, creates a supportive environment where everyone is able to thrive.”

Helena and Carys, Head Girls

To hear more from our Head Girls and other Sixth Form students about their views and opinions on life at St Catherine's please go to:
stcatherines.info/senior-school/sixth-form/why-choose-st-catherines

FROM THE HEAD GIRLS

The Sixth Form at St Catherine's allows us to explore the academic subjects we are most passionate about whilst also providing endless opportunities and extra-curricular enrichment. The ability to step into roles of responsibility and leadership as prefects and mentors provides a wonderful 'full circle moment', encouraging us to inspire the next generation of St Catherine's girls in the same way previous Sixth Formers inspired us.

One of the best parts of the Sixth Form, and something that the two of us have really felt, is the overwhelming sense of community that permeates every building and lesson. The year started in September with a bonding day and sleepover in **The 6** which was great fun and was our first opportunity to form wider friendships within our year group. This connection is strengthened by our form groups which are made up of people who share the same A Level subjects and, by extension, share similar interests. We both agree that this day now feels an age ago, mostly due to all the incredible experiences that have filled the weeks since. Highlights include, but are certainly not limited to, the Winter Ball, modelling in the Fashion & Talent Show and our L6 musical, *'The Little Mermaid'*. We are so lucky to be able to add to our academic studies by participating in such amazing activities, something we would love you to be a part of!

In all our classes, it is evident that there is a genuine passion, interest and desire to learn more about our chosen subjects from both the students and the teachers alike. The passion of the staff and the pastoral care they provide, creates a supportive environment where everyone is able to adjust to the challenges of A Levels and thrive. We feel confident to take advantage of all opportunities, both within the classroom environment and beyond to further our academic potential and our own personal enrichment. While the Sixth Form does bring greater independence, there is also a strong sense of community that enables us to flourish.

One of our favourite times within a busy day is the mad rush to the toaster at break time, something that would not be possible without the buildings that form your Sixth Form experience: **The 6** and the Speech Hall (Sixth Form) Library (SHLib). Both are for Sixth Formers only which helps create a tranquil and elevated experience. The SHLib is a quiet study area that fosters a studious environment where we can work at our own 'university style' desk. **The 6** offers social and boarding accommodation and provides an open and vibrant space where both day girls and boarders can bond, relax and eat the endless snacks on offer. The separate spaces for socialising and study allow us to create balance and distinction between work, life and relaxation. We can wear our own clothes which creates a more grown-up atmosphere which helps us develop and mature as individuals. In just one year of Lower 6, we have flourished into independent young women, ready to step into the world knowing that we are and will always be St Cat's girls and are incredibly fortunate to be so.

Helena and Carys, Head Girls 2024-2025

12
TUTOR GROUPS



87%
A*- B A LEVEL



172
GIRLS IN SIXTH FORM



1:1
UCAS
ADVICE



7
AVERAGE SIZE OF
TEACHING GROUPS



100+
CLUBS



3rd
PLACE RANKING AT
NATIONAL LACROSSE
2024



104
HIGHLY QUALIFIED
TEACHERS



28
A LEVEL SUBJECTS



1:1
MUSIC LESSONS
- OVER 26 INSTRUMENTS



84
PREFECT
ROLES



85000+
MEMBERS OF THE
ST CATHERINE'S
ASSOCIATION -
CAREERS NETWORK
FOR LIFE



50%
OF OUR CURRENT STUDENTS
ARE COMPLETING THE
GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S
AWARD





THE 6

IN NUMBERS

1st



PLACE BOARDING SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR **THE 6**

76%



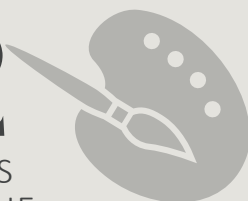
OF GIRLS GO TO OXBRIDGE OR RUSSELL GROUP UNIVERSITIES*

16



DIFFERENT SPORTS PLAYED

12



SPACES FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

15



CAREERS FOCUSED EVENTS IN A TYPICAL YEAR

35



DANCE CLASSES PER WEEK (TAP, MODERN, BALLET)

88

BEDS IN **THE 6**



*See page 41

A photograph of three young women walking along a path in a lush garden. The woman on the left is wearing a blue dress with a black leopard print. The woman in the middle is wearing a light grey V-neck sweater over a black top and blue jeans. The woman on the right is wearing a blue V-neck t-shirt and light blue jeans. They are all smiling and looking at each other. The background is filled with green foliage and white and yellow flowers. A large, light-colored, semi-transparent geometric shape is overlaid on the bottom left of the image, containing text.

“ St Cat’s goes above and beyond the specification when it comes to teaching. The subject trips that are offered allow us to enhance our understanding about the subject and give us an opportunity to attend seminars and talks that prepare us for university. ”

Emmanuella

BELIEVE. ACHIEVE. SUCCEED.

St Catherine's sets out to maximise your Sixth Form experience. We understand girls. After all, we've been involved in girls' only education for nearly 140 years!

These next two years will fly by. St Catherine's ensures every day is worthwhile.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

You will enjoy the benefit of working with highly qualified staff who are prepared to go the extra mile to help you. St Catherine's staff are experts in teaching girls. We also work very hard to tailor the timetable to fit your dreams and future plans, not the other way around.

Although one of the largest independent Sixth Forms in the area, class sizes are small to ensure your teachers know you, allowing them the time to provide the extra attention you need whether in the classroom or in assessing your work and giving you meaningful feedback.

St Catherine's Sixth Form girls are bright and have high aspirations, creating an exhilarating climate which fosters intellectual curiosity, develops confidence and creates a joy in learning. At St Catherine's you do not need to feel embarrassed about enjoying your subjects! Everyone has high aspirations.

“ The academic environment is competitive and stimulating, but also encouraging and ensures you can work at your own pace. There is a system and support network in place if you fall behind, and a team of people to encourage you when you excel. ”

Rose

Our results are recognised nationally. **76%** of St Catherine's girls go to Oxbridge or Russell Group Universities. **6%** choose overseas colleges and universities and **18%** non-Russell Group universities and Music & Drama conservatoires. In addition, **The 6** at St Catherine's was recognised as a community as the Winner of The Boarding Schools' Association 'Supporting Excellence' Awards 2022.



A SIXTH FORM JUST FOR GIRLS

We believe this is important. Why? Because it creates an environment where girls can take academic risks and make mistakes along the way without fear of assumptions being made that are gender based, and where there is no shame in working hard or being successful.

It also supports a 'can-do' philosophy. Girls hold all the senior positions at St Catherine's; all the scientists are girls; all the mathematicians are girls. There is no subject area or activity in which girls do not excel here.



HOUSE SYSTEM

Those of you in the Fifth Form at St Catherine's will understand the fundamental role of the House System. As a Sixth Former, you will play your part in running your House, gaining valuable, transferable skills and enjoying the many House competitions and events.

St Catherine's Sixth Formers experience genuine roles of responsibility and leadership with proper job descriptions which make a real difference and to which the younger girls aspire. Head Girls, House Captains and and no fewer than 27 prefect positions are pivotal. It is hard to imagine the School could run so effectively without this input.



SUPERB FACILITIES

You will enjoy access to everything you could possibly need to make your next two years a success: an attractive and dedicated Sixth Form Library, with full access to fast broadband and plenty of sockets for mobile devices, and a modern Common Room and kitchen in **The 6**. You will also have a state of the art sports and performance space - the Anniversary Halls – and plenty of resources, from books to computers, to ensure you have everything you need to be an effective learner and communicator in the 21st century. Extensive grounds and attractive green spaces add to the mix, making our Sixth Form a wonderful environment for your next two years.



BOARDING

Many day girls opt into Sixth Form boarding which offers a whole raft of benefits, not least the extra time gained for work and relaxation. Read more about it and all the boarding facilities in **The 6** on p.15-19.



OPPORTUNITIES GALORE

St Catherine's offers a raft of opportunities, inside and outside the classroom, and via our long-established and highly regarded House System. When it is time to complete your Personal Statement for UCAS or any other applications, you will be pleased you chose St Catherine's because your active participation in sport, music, drama, outdoor pursuits and charity work will make your application stand out. Moreover, you will all have had the opportunity to lead and take responsibility. As a result you will develop those 'soft-skills', which will benefit you in all sorts of ways at university and later in the world of work. Girls appreciate the advice and support they receive throughout their university applications and, for those who decide to take a gap year, that help continues, until you reach your chosen next step.



LIBRARIES

In addition to the Speech Hall Library, your study centre, the Senior School Library provides excellent support for Sixth Form students.

As well as books supporting curriculum teaching there is a particular focus on providing extended reading material and students are encouraged to read around their subjects to support their studies and help them decide on their university courses. A regularly updated range of fiction titles is also available to support reading for pleasure.

The Library takes a selection of newspapers and magazines including *The Economist*, *The Week* and *New Scientist*, and a significant number of online resources. The Senior School Librarian is available to help with literature searching, referencing and all aspects of using the library resources.

You can access the Oliver Library Catalogue on any computer in School or from any device at home: an excellent resource.





WELLBEING

One of the best features of the St Catherine's Sixth Form is the level of personal support and care you will enjoy.

You will be assigned a personal tutor who will, more than likely, be a specialist in one of your chosen subject areas and who has the experience to guide you in your academic studies and oversee your progress in general.

Your tutor will be your first port of call if you have any worries, be they academic or pastoral, and you will see your tutor twice a day for regular support. In addition you can, of course, talk to the Head of Sixth Form or your School Housemistress/Housemaster and, for boarders, the Sixth Form Boarding Housemistress, Senior Boarding Housemistress and the Resident and Medical Staff at any time.

Our Academic Mentoring department provides support for anyone with additional learning needs, including English as an Additional Language. Anyone is welcome to visit the department for extra study support, be that with study skills or revision timetabling.

The nursing team and resident psychologists in our Health Centre provide care for everyone, supporting you with your physical and mental health. You will also have access to a free and confidential counselling service in School.

As you build the foundations for the next important and exciting phase of your education, it is good to know you are in very capable hands. Make the best of everything on offer.





“I love the atmosphere of boarding and the community I am part of. Having the opportunity to do so many different activities with the community is really great.”

Cecilia



BOARDING

Boarders are fully immersed in life at St Catherine's, with so many opportunities for 'work, rest and play'. The Sixth Form Boarding House is run by Mrs Jackie Street, along with her boarding team of resident House Tutors. Together, they aim to ensure you feel welcome and that you enjoy a home-from-home experience.

Sixth Form boarding offers an enormous number of benefits and is a very popular option because it is a great transition between school and university. Current day girls often opt into boarding when they enter the Sixth Form and new girls join us from the UK and abroad.

Boarders enjoy a far wider range of freedoms in the Sixth Form, based on mutual respect and trust. Resident boarding staff enjoy their roles, ensuring there is always the right level of support and structure at this important time.

We asked girls what they like about boarding in the Sixth Form. They all agree the opportunity to make friends and be a part of a close-knit community are compelling reasons but there are others! Time saved is a huge bonus, with easy access to sport, drama, art and music facilities before School and into the evening as well as more time in which to study. There is no commuting/travel time.

Boarders can choose to work in their rooms during study periods or in the Speech Hall Library, known affectionately as 'the SHLib', which is open late and at weekends.

Boarding helps you manage your time. It enables sportswomen to attend early morning practices, have a delicious breakfast, shower, and still be ready for registration at 8.30am. Accessing Music practice rooms, the Sixth Form Art Studio, drama rehearsals, Sixth Form Lectures, and School concerts all becomes blissfully simple. The fitness suite, squash court and swimming pool are available for use by boarders in the evenings. Open House is a popular weekly social event hosted by Mrs Street. And weekends are never dull with lots of exciting trips as options, sports fixtures, concerts and rehearsals, as well as time to study.



To learn more
about the
building of The
6 please scan
the QR Code

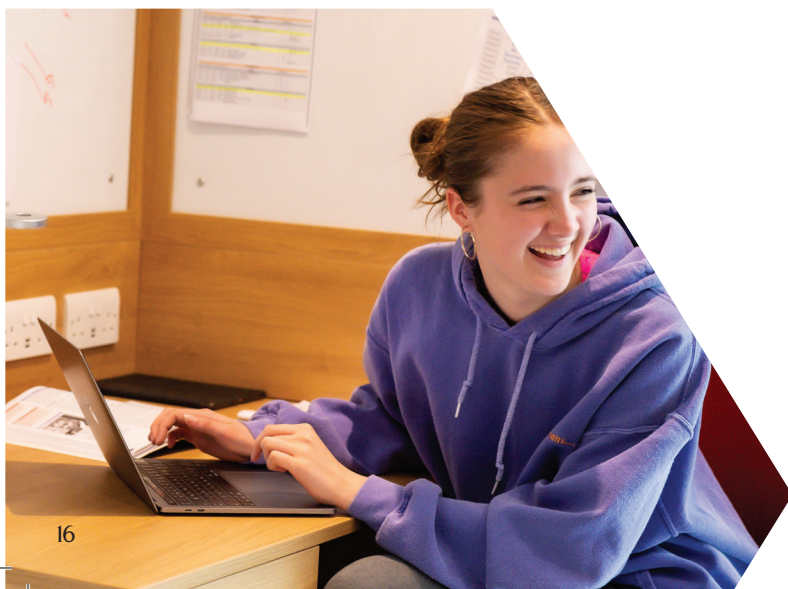


YOUR OWN SPACE – THE 6

St Catherine's is a community, not an 8.30am - 4.00pm School. Our boarding community of over 170 girls means St Cat's is always open. You can make use of the gym or pool in the morning or the Sixth Form Art Studio in the evening, reduce your travel time and focus on your studies.

The 6 is a contemporary building offering vibrant, modern boarding accommodation and a huge Common Room, a place where day girls and boarders can relax and recharge during the School day. There really is no better reward after a match or tough study session than tea or hot chocolate and toast, sitting on a comfy sofa chatting with your friends!

With spacious twin study bedrooms and bright, modern bathrooms, The 6 really does offer a home-from-home environment.





THE 6 IN NUMBERS

1

Common Room.....

for *all* the Sixth Form community, day girls and boarders alike: a comfortable seating space offering girls a place to relax, with a fully fitted kitchen to prepare refreshments anytime and meals at the weekends if the girls so wish.

2

'Snugs' – social spaces.....

off the main bedroom areas on the first and second floors for quiet time, relaxation, conversation, to watch TV or listen to music in the evenings and at weekends, or to share chat about the day's events or homework challenges.

2

Staff Reception Offices.....

to welcome our girls and visitors and also to support you in day-to-day Sixth Form life. There is always a member of the teaching staff on-hand 24/7.

3

Staff Flats.....

so its Housemistress and her Assistant are at hand so that boarders have guidance and support when they need it, just as they would at home.

10

Bathrooms.....

because we know that teenagers like hot, powerful showers and lots of bathroom space! You will have modern, contemporary bathrooms and 'private' bath spaces for relaxation.

44

Twin Bedrooms

designed by boarders for boarders. You will have a comfortable bed, a wardrobe with full length mirror, lots of under-bed storage, floor-to-ceiling windows for extra light, and your own study desk and shelving. You can make your room your own with your large pinboard walls and magnetic whiteboards for daily notes/reminders.

THE 6

St Catherine's



“Joining the tight-knit boarding community is the one of the best things about joining St Cat’s!”

Chelsea

“Sixth Form boarding bedrooms have the perfect amount of space and storage, and are all designed aesthetically and practically.”

Polina



THE CURRICULUM



WHY A LEVELS & NOT IB?

There are a number of reasons why we continue to offer A Levels at St Catherine's, rather than International Baccalaureate, or a mixture, but chief amongst these is that they continue to be the best guide to potential. University admissions tutors have told us that they like the fact that A Level students have studied topics in depth.

The A Level structure also offers students much more flexibility and personal choice; for example, in IB you may not study all three sciences together, which many girls wish to do at St Catherine's, and indeed do so with great distinction. We believe students about to enter the Sixth Form here are already highly qualified at GCSE across a broad range of subjects; they are more than capable of making well-informed choices, fully ready to focus on subjects which will prepare them for Higher Education and potential career choices. Girls can choose freely from 28 subjects. Additional languages such as Mandarin, Cantonese and Russian are also available by arrangement.



HOUSE STUDY/ SUBJECT 'CLINICS'

Alongside several scheduled non-contact periods, on Tuesday - Friday, a supervised House Study period of 30 minutes allows you to begin your prep in the Speech Hall Library or your boarding bedroom, or access subject clinics. If appointed as a Subject Mentor you may also be asked to help lead in clinics and assist younger girls, consolidating your own subject knowledge and confidence as you do so. Subject Mentors particularly enjoy this opportunity to develop their higher order thinking skills and learn more through teaching.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The sports facilities at St Catherine's are second to none. You will take part in Senior Games on Tuesday afternoons each week. A range of interesting activities is offered, designed to encourage you to think in terms of exercise and fitness for fun and for life. Senior Lacrosse and Netball squads also train at this time, and individual sportswomen may pursue their own choice of specialist sports off-site with permission.



CHOOSING YOUR A LEVEL SUBJECTS

There is lots of flexibility at St Catherine's over the choice of subjects, enabling you to specialise in those you most enjoy and at which you are most successful. If you do have a specific career in your sights, then bear this in mind when you make your choices. If you do not, do not panic. You are almost certainly in the majority at this stage which is absolutely fine! We do emphasise, however, that study in the L6 year is very important and the material is all part of the linear A Level which will be taken at the end of U6. It is never too early to start finding out more about your potential A Level subjects and trying to glean as much information as you can.

If you are already a St Catherine's student, as well as information from the respective Heads of Department, you will have a 1-2-1 chat with a senior member of staff during Year 11 who will offer you specific advice and guidance. Ask students already studying the subjects you are considering taking, as well as friends and family. Make sure, however, that the information is as up to date and accurate as possible. Focus on subjects you most enjoy and in which you are most successful or try out a completely new subject, having first used the Taster Lessons (Autumn Term of U5) to identify which of the 'new to Sixth Form' subjects you prefer. Trust our team of highly experienced Heads of Department, many of them experienced examiners, who have chosen the approach that best suits their students and helps them gain the right outcomes at the end of the U6 year.

The flexibility of our system enables you to choose three A Level subjects and an additional subject - a subsidiary - to enhance your experience see p.24. This may be a subject that you want to pursue to complement your other A Level subjects and potentially have recognised in a formal qualification at the end of U6, such as an additional language qualification, or maybe a subject you have since regretted dropping for GCSE, or it could be something you want to pursue for relaxation and for fun. Your university application will be enhanced by having a broader portfolio and your school week will be even more enjoyable.

In making your subject choices, you will find a great deal of advice on hand, both if you are a current student or an applicant for a place at St Catherine's. Just ask us.



SUBJECT CHOICES & IMPLICATIONS FOR UNIVERSITY COURSES

There are particular subjects which may be required or expected for entry to certain degree courses. These requirements may change and as such the following areas are highlighted for guidance purposes only:

- ARCHITECTURE
- BUSINESS STUDIES, MANAGEMENT
- COMPUTER SCIENCE
- ECONOMICS, PPE (POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY & ECONOMICS)
- ENGINEERING
- FOREIGN LANGUAGES
- LAW
- MEDICINE, DENTISTRY, VETERINARY SCIENCE, PHARMACY
- NATURAL SCIENCES
- PSYCHOLOGY

Please ensure that you contact the universities of your choice to confirm their subject requirements. Detailed requirements can be found on the UCAS and Informed Choices websites below.



ucas.com



informedchoices.ac.uk



“The support that we get for our UCAS applications from the teachers is incredible.”

Phoebe

CHOOSING YOUR A LEVEL SUBJECTS



If you are already a St Catherine's student



Study this booklet carefully to find out what St Catherine's offers you in the next stage of your education. Read through the subject pages and draw up a shortlist.



Talk to as many people as possible to get more advice, views and guidance, especially Heads of Department, subject mentors and your School Housemistress/Housemaster.



Come to the Sixth Form Open Evening in September. Ask questions and keep an open mind!



Choose the subjects you would like to explore further during the Sixth Form Taster Day. Use this opportunity to try some new subjects. Think carefully about whether boarding will help you manage your studies and activities. Why not try taster boarding too?



You will be invited for a series of meetings with your individual A Level Options Mentor to receive support and advice about your subject choices every step of the way. Come to each meeting prepared to talk about YOU. It's your future!



Assess all the information and then submit your final A Level option choices in February after mock exams.



Consider the subsidiary subjects on offer and select preferred choices.



Concentrate on your GCSEs and IGCSEs, enjoy your summer and wait for excellent results!



St Catherine's Sixth Form starts here!



If you are considering joining St Catherine's



Study this booklet carefully to find out what St Catherine's offers you in the next stage of your education. Read through the subject pages and draw up a shortlist.



Talk to as many people as possible to get more advice, views and guidance, especially Heads of Department and subject teachers in your current school or here.



Come to the Sixth Form Open Evening in September, look around, ask questions and keep an open mind! If you are unable to attend in person then you will be able to view the talks online.



Register as an applicant. If you are local think carefully about whether boarding will help you manage your studies and activities.



You are invited to sit the Entrance Assessment at School or you can arrange to sit the papers at a British Council centre or other approved centre.



All overseas applicants who are successful in the Entrance Assessments will have a Zoom interview with the Director of Studies or the Head of Sixth Form and a Head of Department of a subject you wish to study.



Successful applicants will be notified by the end of the Autumn Term.



Assess all the information and then confirm your final option choices when prompted by the School.



Consider the subsidiary subjects on offer and select preferred choices.



Concentrate on your GCSEs and IGCSEs, enjoy your summer and wait for excellent results!



St Catherine's Sixth Form starts here!



WHY SUBSIDIARIES AND NOT EPQ?

The super curricular and independent nature of anything done proactively cannot be underestimated when it comes to impressing a university. We have an essay competition which is an optional research piece over the summer holidays at the end of L6. This is essentially the same as an EPQ in terms of independent, in-depth research into any topic. If we taught the EPQ, it could be read as an expectation from the School, rather than something that someone was motivated to do for the love of learning.

The subsidiary subjects provide relaxation in an otherwise hectic week as a St Cat's Sixth Former. This ensures girls have access to a broad curriculum with no added pressure.



ENHANCING YOUR EXPERIENCE

Subsidiary subjects Subsidiary subjects give your Sixth Form experience more substance. Alongside your chosen three A Levels, you will select a course to study for the duration of your Lower Sixth year for two hours a week.

Your choice of Subsidiary will either:

Complement your A Levels and enhance your UCAS application or CV or

Continue a creative art or skill that you love, developing your creativity or finding a mindfulness moment in your busy week.

A selection of the possible subsidiary subjects on offer are listed, but are subject to change annually.

DESIGN ENGINEERING - LOTUS SEVEN PROJECT

Thinking STEM or Engineering at Uni?

Be part of a hands-on team tasked with the technical build of a Westfield 7 car, based on the legendary Lotus 7. From the basic chassis you will put together the braking systems, body work, electrics, suspension, steering, and interior. You will look at materials, mechanics, geometry, engine and gearbox technology during the build process. This course is aimed ideally at those wishing to study a STEM subject, or similar, at degree level.

PSYCHOLOGY

Interested in business, marketing, HR or professional psychology?

Explore how we think and learn, what drives criminal behaviour, how children's brains develop and the qualitative and quantitative research methods that analyse behaviour. Option to take Psychology GCSE.

CLASSICS - CLASSICAL CONTEXTS

Want to explore the many ways the ancient world has shaped our own?

A wide-ranging course looking at the vast, often surprising and sometimes controversial legacy of ancient Greece and Rome in art, literature, politics, and thought. No Latin or Greek required! Complements English, History, Latin/Greek or Fine Art A Levels.

ITALIAN FOR BEGINNERS

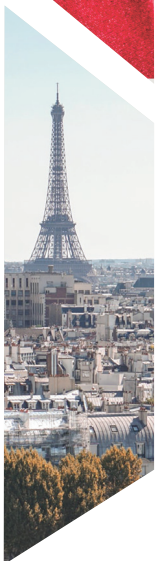
Want to live 'la bella vita' in Italy, considering working in Italy or simply a fan of language learning?

A conversational course so you can speak with confidence about free time, home life, holidays, family and friends, technology and more.

FRENCH BEYOND GCSE

Want to build on your GCSE French and become a more confident French speaker? Want to be able to use your French for travel, fun, living and working abroad?

A fun and innovative course to encourage you to use your language skills for career enhancement and as a life skill. Option to work towards a DELF (Diplôme d'études en langue française) qualification or a Professional Diploma.



TEXTILES

Want to pursue a career in Arts, Theatre or Design, or just have fun?

Research textile artists and designers, and create your own garment or accessory. You will learn dyeing, printing, embroidery and constructed textile techniques. Then see your creation modelled on the catwalk at the annual Fashion Show.

CREATIVE ARTS

Do you want to develop your creativity and learn how to produce a creative project from initial idea to realisation?

Develop skills in a range of Drawing and Painting techniques. Starting with a foundation course of ideas, taking you back-to-basics on how to use materials and the power of the camera that sits in your pocket. You will be taught how to develop your ideas to produce a final piece. You will be working towards a final exhibition in the Summer Term of the L6.

CULINARY ARTS - STREET FOOD

A fun course, with many delicious dishes you will want to make again and again.

Our main focus is cooking Street Food dishes, which includes several elements of baking techniques with various doughs and preparing delicious dishes such as Shumai and Thai sweetcorn fritters.

MANAGING MONEY

Money essentials to develop practical life skills, set you up for a degree in Economics or Business and act as a springboard for a career in Finance.

A practical course, including understanding saving and borrowing, banking, fund management, FOREX, equities, bonds, markets, and ethics and integrity in Financial Services. This course culminates in the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI) Level 2 qualification (a 1-hour multiple choice examination).

MUSIC

Can't live without music? Interested in all forms of music from film scores to jazz?

Analyse music from an array of genres, including vocal, jazz, popular and contemporary, hone your taste and develop your aural and composition skills.



SCOPE

- readying you for life beyond School

There's more to a Sixth Form education than A Levels; that is why we run SCOPE – the **St Catherine's Ongoing Programme of Enrichment**. For one hour a week you will enjoy hearing visiting lecturers and specialist speakers on a range of subjects designed to help you approach the challenges of adult life. Topics have included:

- Transition to University study
- Support services at Universities
- Staying well at University
- Student Finance
- CV writing
- Succeeding in the job application process
- Work experience opportunities
- Interview techniques
- Personal Safety
- Current Affairs
- Safe Driving
- Healthy Relationships, sexual consent, safe sex
- Self-defence
- Mental Health
- Digital Skills
- Alcohol and Drug Awareness
- Resilience for Life
- Budgeting

UNIVERSITY CHOICES

With over 65,000 courses to choose from in the UK alone, not to mention the numerous specialist colleges or conservatoires for Art, Drama and Music, and the increasing number of enticing Degree Apprenticeships, the process of researching and choosing a degree course can feel overwhelming. Careful preparation is needed, and our experienced careers and tutor team are there to guide girls through the process, outlined on the next page, supporting you at every stage. In 2024 89% of our applicants gained places at their first choice of university. Please see p.42-43.

Your team includes:



Kate Hawtin
Head of Sixth Form



Dr Elodie Nevin
Director of Studies



Catherine Taylor
Director of Careers

Oxbridge Coordinators



Catherine Peel
(Arts & Humanities)



Claerwen Patterson
(Sciences)

Oxbridge Visits



Dr Guy Brindley

THE UCAS PROCESS

SPRING OF L6

FUTURE PATHWAYS WEBINAR – FOR PARENTS

- An overview of higher education
- Considering non-university options, gap years, overseas applications
- Degree Apprenticeships

HOW TO CHOOSE A UNIVERSITY

Delivered by the University of Surrey.
Exploring league tables, financial support, facilities, study abroad options, distance from home, graduate employability

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

How to research courses session, with introduction to online investigative tools that are widely available to help you explore courses such as the UCAS website and BridgeU

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

STUDYING ABROAD

ALUMNAE INSIGHTS

GAP YEAR INFORMATION

1:2:1 CONSULTATIONS

Available with Senior Sixth Form staff and the Director of Careers plus regular meetings with your Sixth Form tutor

SUMMER OF L6

UNIVERSITY VISITS

UCAS GRADES GIVEN TO GIRLS

BEGIN YOUR UCAS LOG

Recording progress

COURSE RESEARCH

HOW TO WRITE YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

Delivered by a University Admissions Tutor

PERSONAL STATEMENT WORKSHOPS

To develop first drafts

OXBRIDGE WORKSHOP

SUPPORT WITH MEDICAL APPLICATIONS

AUTUMN OF U6

UCAS EVENING

Individual appointments for parents and girls with your daughter's tutor, confirmation of choices, challenge and check

1:2:1 UCAS SUPPORT with Senior Sixth Form staff

SUPPORT IN FINALISING PERSONAL STATEMENTS

UCAS APPLICATION REVIEW

OCTOBER - UCAS FORMS & PERSONAL STATEMENTS SUBMITTED

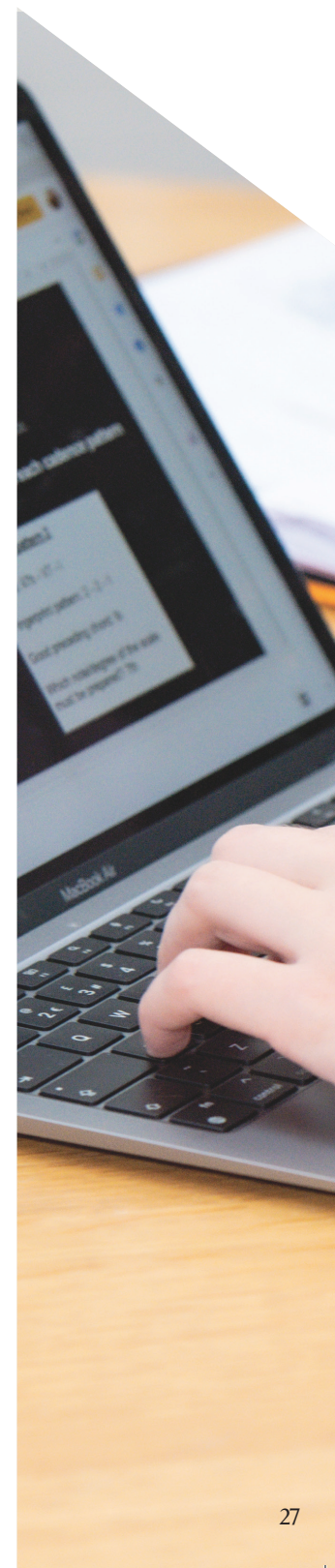
INTERVIEW PREPARATION AND PRACTICE (as needed)

SUMMER OF U6

JUNE - UCAS DECISIONS REQUIRED

AUGUST - EXAM RESULTS

- Confirm acceptance or enter clearing
- Post results guidance (as needed)





INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS

The Sixth Form Tutor Team has experience of supporting girls in applications to the US, Canada, Hong Kong, Australia and Europe, for example Biological Sciences at Harvard, Political Sciences at the University of Toronto and Media and Communications at the University of Sydney. For the US we advise on SATs and personal essays, entry requirements, funding and visas and support girls fully with the administrative side of the process, which can be complex.



POST QUALIFICATION APPLICATION AND SUPPORT

For those girls who have chosen to have a Gap year we will provide the same level of support to them on the application process but with known A Level results.



OXBRIDGE APPLICATIONS AND MEDICINE, VETERINARY MEDICINE, DENTISTRY OR LAW

Girls considering Oxbridge and specialist subjects need to demonstrate interest in the 'super-curriculum', in other words research that is undertaken independently, for example through attendance at local or virtual evening lectures, participation in external essay competitions and their own focused, independent reading. We run an Oxbridge Day in Activities Week and applicants will have an Oxbridge Mentor to help prepare them for interviews, review their academic work, develop their knowledge and source work experience. For Medics there is a Medical Reading Club and MedSoc. We are adept at managing the need to meet earlier application deadlines and support girls with Admissions Tests such as UCAT, as well as helping them to make appropriate choices of medical school.



ART, DRAMA, MUSIC

Recent alumnae have chosen to continue their studies at BIMM Music Institute, Central Saint Martins, LAMDA, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the Royal Academy of Music, Fine Art at UAL and Trinity Laban. Our team can guide you through preparing portfolios, mock interviews, auditions, repertoire and more. For organ scholarship applications, the Head of Organ Studies and the Director of Music provide guidance with preparation for auditions and the very early application process demanded.



DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

Lasting for 4 or 5 years a degree apprenticeship allows you to study for a degree while working. You gain work experience, earn a salary and can graduate debt-free, giving a different 'university' experience. We will help you consider this route with the ever increasing number of highly reputable companies offering this option, including Dentons LLP, Dyson, IBM, PWC, Unilever and the Bank of England. Alumna Ellie Speight (2018) has been a visiting speaker on her Business Degree Apprenticeship with Ernst & Young (EY), as has Antonia Cook (2021) who has spoken about her Degree Apprenticeship with Mercedes Benz.



Antonia Cook (2021),
shared her experience
of a Business Degree
Apprenticeship with
Mercedes Benz



CAREERS IDEAS

Future careers are impossible to anticipate precisely therefore we equip girls to develop the personal attributes and skills which will enable them to embrace new possibilities as they emerge.

The whole St Catherine's experience contributes to the 'employability' of girls, recognising what employers are looking for: teamwork, leadership skills, creative thinking, adaptability, communication skills, decision making, commitment, time management and problem-solving. These invaluable attributes are developed through the girls' Prefect roles, the creation of their Sixth Form Musical, their coaching of younger girls in sports and academics, and many public speaking opportunities. With these strengths, our girls leave School and higher education or training able to learn and adapt to the latest trends and technical developments within their chosen sector and workplace.

Our comprehensive careers education programme is designed to equip girls to take ownership of their own decision-making regarding future pathways and careers. Girls develop self-awareness and the skills to research areas of personal interest, culminating in aspirational and exciting choices.

Sixth Form girls are invited to attend a variety of careers events at School as well as external events. The breadth of careers support is enhanced by active involvement of members of the St Catherine's Association Community.

On the next page are some of our most recent careers events and resources to illustrate the access you will have to ideas, inspiration, knowledge and networks to support you as you plan your future.



Anna Gibbs (1997),
Publicity Director (UK &
EMEA) for Disney Studios/
Disney+



Frankie Mitchell (2010),
Barrister, Wilberforce
Chambers, discussing
careers in law at the
Careers Forum



Lucy Johnstone (2006)
Head of Entertainment and
Partner Marketing for Sky



BIENNIAL CAREERS FORUM

Our Forum gives you the opportunity to network with alumnae and parents from a wide variety of career sectors. These have included a Consultant in Palliative Medicine, a Senior Consultant in Sustainability and Innovation for Expedition Engineering, a senior solicitor at Macfarlanes, the Head of Customer Growth for Just Eat, the Financial Manager of the Bank of England and News Editor for *The Times*, among other notable speakers. You can hear our visitors' career experiences and they provide valuable advice to enable you to appreciate better the challenges and rewards of a wide variety of career paths.



SPECIALIST SECTOR TALKS

These are organised for you, featuring alumnae and parents, with a focus on different subjects and sectors.

Recent seminars include:

Careers in the World of Finance with:

- **Hannah Johnson (2013)**
Vice President, Credit Sales
Barclays
- **Jane Kenyon (Parent)**
Director, JTFM Investment
- **Caroline Langley (Parent)**
Investment Director, Climate
Assets Funds & Sustainable
Investments, Quilter Cheviot
- **Georgina Newey (2016)**
Senior Associate, Corporate
Tax Technology, PwC
- **Megan O'Hanlon (2014)**
FP&A Manager, Pernod Ricard
- **James Richards (Parent)**
Senior Industry Analyst,
Fidelity International

Careers in the World of the Written Word with:

- **Emily Cornell (2018)**
Audience Insight Executive,
Penguin Random House
- **Isabel Hardman (2004)**
Assistant Editor,
The Spectator; *Telegraph*
Columnist; News Reporter,
BBC Radio
- **Seren Hughes (2016)**
Reporter, *The Times*



GOLDMAN SACHS PRE-UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S EVENT

This London based event gives you the chance to explore investment banking careers and take part in interactive workshops, putting your negotiation skills to the test on the trading floor and sharing your views on 'breaking the bias' in the finance industry.'



FOUNDERS FORUM

As part of the SCOPE programme we have previously had Founders Forum CEO Carolyn Dawson share with girls what employers are looking for and how to correlate their School experience - be it in leadership, teamwork, Sports or Debating - to skill sets they have learnt that they can bring to an employer. Strategic career planning is considered, from building a professional digital profile to finding and using mentors, creating networks and securing training.



CAREERS BLOG

You will be emailed with details of relevant careers events, lectures, competitions, work experience and apprenticeship opportunities. This information is also published on the Careers Blog for all parents and girls to access. Items recently included:

- Weekend Workshops for Digital & Tech
- One Day Courses for Medicine & Midwifery
- Virtual Medical Society
- Lower Sixth STEM virtual summer work experience
- Jaguar Land Rover Digital and Engineering Degree Apprenticeships
- FT Political Essay Competition: 'How to make parliament representative'
- Royal Economic Society Competition: 'Young Economist of the Year' Essay
- The prestigious Dukes Essay Competition
- Royal Geographical Society Essay Competition
- Law Mentor 'Getting into Law' Conference
- Gap Year 360 guidance video



YOUR ST CATHERINE'S ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY

By joining St Catherine's you will automatically become a member of the St Catherine's Association Community of over 8,500 members, and benefit from a community committed to supporting each other in the world of work. The community is active, with alumnae and parents helping current girls to research universities, explore career opportunities, secure internships or find work experience and refine their networking skills.



A NETWORK THAT WORKS FOR YOU!

During your Sixth Form years, you can expect to hear talks from several alumnae sharing their career pathway with the opportunity to ask questions of them. You will be able to ask advice on work experience, the skill sets they found beneficial in their careers, global opportunities etc.

Recent talks have included alumnae now working as a Zoologist at the BBC, Senior Associate at PWC, a PHD student at UCL researching cancer drugs, an HSBC Asset Manager, a Miro Gallery Curator and an Alexander McQueen embroiderer. The breadth and depth of our Association Community is an incredible asset at your fingertips and will be with you for life when you leave School.

“All of the women were so inspirational and very informative whilst also being very entertaining and fun. They were candid about the ups and downs of their jobs and answered all questions very honestly.”

Alice

Your Association Community will help you with:

■ UNIVERSITY PREPARATION

Most girls in **The 6** take advantage of our 'UniBuddies' Scheme. We connect girls with alumnae currently at university so they can ask questions about colleges, halls, courses and university life. This can really help with making your UCAS application eg. Grace was interested in studying Geography at Exeter and we linked her with Sophie (2018) who gave her a personal tour. Bella wanted to know about Dentistry so we linked her to Anni (2011) who is a qualified BUPA Dentist and a specialist in Sports Dentistry.

■ ONE-TO-ONE PARENT & ALUMNAE CONTACT IN CAREER SPECIFIC AREAS

Practical and helpful! For example, Emma was interested in a career in film and we connected her to four alumnae so she could research options, while Isabella was interested in a career in the Civil Service so we linked her to Flora (2014) a Policy Advisor at HM Treasury to discuss the Fast Track graduate scheme.

■ NETWORKING SKILLS

We run a special group called **The London Network** targeting alumnae aged 25 -35 with Sixth Form girls able to apply to attend these events. The purpose of the London Network is to broaden career options and aspirations by allowing parents and alumnae to network and share industry experience. Sixth Form attendees have the chance to grow in self-confidence and make links for future benefit amongst the parents and alumnae that attend. Upcoming London Network events include:

- Starting your own business / Entrepreneurship
- Confidence in the workplace
- Presentation Skills

The Association Community is there for you during the Sixth Form and throughout your early career and all of your life.



“ The London Network event helped me make some useful connections with those in industry and was a great opportunity for me to practise my networking skills. ”

Anna

“ Leaders have successfully created opportunities for girls to connect with a network of over 8,500 former and current parents, staff and alumnae. This network is a powerful tool that is actively utilised to benefit the current girls with access of 'Uni Buddies' and extensive career connections, mentoring and guidance. ”

Independent Schools Inspectorate, 2023

THE BENEFITS OF AN ALL-GIRLS SIXTH FORM EXPERIENCE

The world may be mixed gender but is a long way from being gender-equal. An all-girls environment gives girls the freedom in School to define themselves, free from societal stereotypes, expectations and pressures. This 'world as it should be' instils self-belief, confidence and purpose within each girl. Our girls expect to be respected and to be heard. And they are, in School and then in life.

“I value the wonderful relationships I have with my friends and the empowering nature of an all-girls school.”
Carys

Proven benefits of an all-girls education include:

- **Stronger academic performance** – resulting from girls feeling more confident in the classroom to be more assertive, take risks and ask questions. Achievement is lauded and ability celebrated.
- **Increased confidence and self-belief** – girls are able to focus on themselves and their potential, free from the constraints of societal or cultural norms. They are encouraged to understand their strengths and be proud of their achievements as their self-esteem is nurtured and reinforced by their academic results.
- **Tailored teaching** – girls work more collaboratively, thrive in discussion-led learning environments and as such we can make group debate, team-work and co-operation integral to the teaching and in doing so enhance girls' learning.
- **Freedom from gender stereotypes** – girls make their subject choices based on their interests, bucking the national trend with **83% studying STEM subjects**.
- **Opportunities for leadership** – *all* our girls are given leadership positions, learn to assert themselves and to value the quality of their insights and opinions. They are the catalyst for change, modelling a more equitable world.
- **Inspirational role-models** – alumnae across all sectors generously share their time, providing insights and encouragement as the girls consider their own academic and professional aspirations.



AS/A LEVEL SUBJECT GRADE BREAKDOWN & ANALYSIS

2024

10 YEARS IN REVIEW
Results for 2014-2024 here



A Level Grade Breakdown	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Totals
Art	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
Biology	4	5	7	4	1	0	0	21
Business	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	4
Chemistry	4	10	6	2	1	0	0	23
Chinese	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Classical Civilisation	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Computer Science	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Drama and Theatre Studies	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	5
D&T Product Design	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Economics	7	9	5	3	0	0	0	24
English Literature	1	10	1	0	0	0	0	12
French	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Further Mathematics	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	9
Geography	4	6	7	0	0	0	0	17
German	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
History	2	4	3	0	0	0	0	9
History of Art	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Latin	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	4
Mathematics	17	11	10	4	2	0	0	44
Music	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Photography	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Physical Education	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
Physics	5	10	3	2	0	0	0	20
Politics	0	2	5	2	1	0	0	10
Psychology	1	6	7	3	1	0	0	18
Religious Studies	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
Spanish	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	5
Textiles	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

A Level % Breakdown	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art	67	17	17	0	0	0	0
Biology	19	24	33	19	5	0	0
Business	0	50	0	25	25	0	0
Chemistry	17	43	26	9	4	0	0
Chinese	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Classical Civilisation	0	0	0	100	0	0	0
Computer Science	0	50	0	0	50	0	0
Drama and Theatre Studies	0	20	60	20	0	0	0
D&T Product Design	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Economics	29	38	21	13	0	0	0
English Literature	8	83	8	0	0	0	0
French	50	0	0	50	0	0	0
Further Mathematics	33	67	0	0	0	0	0
Geography	24	35	41	0	0	0	0
German	50	50	0	0	0	0	0
History	22	44	33	0	0	0	0
History of Art	0	0	100	0	0	0	0
Latin	50	25	25	0	0	0	0
Mathematics	39	25	23	9	5	0	0
Music	0	0	50	50	0	0	0
Photography	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical Education	33	0	67	0	0	0	0
Physics	25	50	15	10	0	0	0
Politics	0	20	50	20	10	0	0
Psychology	6	33	39	17	6	0	0
Religious Studies	33	0	33	33	0	0	0
Spanish	20	60	20	0	0	0	0
Textiles	100	0	0	0	0	0	0

Grade Analysis	
A*	65
A	90
B	65
C	26
D	8
E	0
U	0
Total	254
% Analysis	
A*	25.6
A	35.4
B	25.6
C	10.2
D	3.1
E	0
U	0
Cumulative	
A*	25.6
A	61
B	86.6
C	96.9
D	100
E	100
U	100

AS Grade Breakdown	A	B	C	D	E	U
Biology	14	5	4	0	2	0
English Literature	11	1	0	0	0	0
Physical Education	1	1	1	0	0	0

AS % Grade Breakdown	A	B	C	D	E	U
Biology	56	20	16	0	8	0
English Literature	92	8	0	0	0	0
Physical Education	33	33	33	0	0	0



BELIEVE.
ACHIEVE.
SUCCEED.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

St Catherine's offers an outstanding extra-curricular experience. Our large site provides excellent sports facilities: three full size lacrosse pitches, floodlit netball/tennis courts, a 400 metre running track in the Summer, and immediately adjacent countryside/ pathways for cross country running all year round. Indoors in the 125th Anniversary Halls, sportswomen have all weather access to the full size, bright and light netball/basketball court, a gymnastics hall, squash court, indoor pool and fitness suite. Girls who love the Performing Arts, will find a professional dance studio, music practice rooms, the Senior Drama Studio and a recording studio. At the centre stands the 360 seat auditorium, in daily use by all for assemblies and lectures, complete with orchestra pit and technical galleries enabling girls both to perform in drama productions or concerts, or hone technical theatre skills supporting all performing arts events.



SPORTS

St Catherine's has an outstanding reputation for its involvement in competitive sports. We have a record of success at a national level in sports such as lacrosse, swimming, netball, cross country, and athletics and girls regularly gain national representative honours in different sports. We have fabulous sporting facilities such as a fully equipped fitness suite, 5 lane swimming pool, sports hall, trampolines, a squash court, 6 netball courts, 4 lacrosse pitches and a 400m grass athletics track.

Every Tuesday offers an afternoon of senior sport for the Sixth Form; an opportunity for you to enjoy a break from academics and to maintain your personal fitness. You will have the chance to enjoy netball, lacrosse, swimming, tennis, yoga, squash, badminton, trampolining, football, and fitness sessions. You can also pursue your own individual interests or try something new. Alongside Senior Games afternoons all pupils have the opportunity to take part in a variety of sports through the House System.

We are proud to field 5 senior lacrosse teams and 4 senior netball teams performing at the highest levels. Playing team sports helps you make friends, learn teamwork, show leadership, shape ambitions and form a competitive edge! If you would like to find out more about what is on offer contact sport@stcatherines.info



MUSIC

In the Sixth Form there is a vast range of opportunities to continue singing or playing your instrument, or to try something new. You can use skills already learned and take part in a number of musical ensembles such as Symphony Orchestra, Concert Band, Jazz Band and Camerata (our senior string ensemble). However, if you prefer to be part of a small group, there are chamber groups and smaller ensembles that you can join. There are four choirs open to the Sixth Form: Senior Choir (non-auditioned), Chapel Choir (for boarders, non-auditioned), Senior Chamber Choir (auditioned) and Cantores (auditioned), with Cantores being made up of a small number of the best choral singers from L5 to U6. There really is something for everyone at all levels, and you will quickly make a lot of good friends in the Music Department!

We have around 40 music staff and offer individual lessons in a wide range of instruments and singing. Some students decide to take up a new instrument in the Sixth Form; many continue with instrumental lessons that they have been taking for years and some even work towards higher level exams such as diplomas. We are happy to teach at all levels, and there is no obligation to take exams if you do not want to. This may be your moment to take up a new instrument.

There are also lots of performance opportunities, with many informal and sectional concerts for all styles, including our much-loved Jazz and Rock Concert each year just before May half term. The Gala Concert on St Catherine's Day in November sees our choirs and large ensembles showcase their talents, and we enjoy other large concerts such as the Association Concert in the Spring Term, and our Summer Concerts towards the end of the academic year. In the Sixth Form, you may have the opportunity to lead a choir, orchestra or ensemble, and Music Scholars perform a concerto movement accompanied by

Symphony Orchestra or another of our large ensembles. There are also opportunities to perform in a Pit Orchestra for School productions, including the L6 Musical.

To see the full Music Calendar for 2024-25 please scan this QR code



If you would like to find out more about what is on offer in the Music Department, whether that might be opportunities to perform as a soloist or in choirs and ensembles, our range of concerts, or individual music lessons, please contact Matthew Greenfield, Director of Music.

music@stcatherines.info



JENNIFER BATE MEMORIAL ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

This is an exciting and valuable opportunity for a girl who plays the organ and would like to develop her all-round performance expertise. The late Dr Jennifer Bate was an internationally acclaimed organist and a world authority on organ music, as well as a great friend of St Catherine's. Throughout her life she was committed to helping and encouraging young women organists and gladly gave her name to our Scholarship which is open to any student who meets our academic standards for Sixth Form entry and who can show she has the potential to maximise her talents through this Scholarship which is awarded in conjunction with Guildford Cathedral. For further details please contact Matthew Greenfield, Director of Music. music@stcatherines.info

A full bursary place may be available to support the Scholarship. Attendance at the annual Jennifer Bate Organ Academy, a residential course for young women organists hosted at St Catherine's each April, may help you explore this option. Please see the website for further details stcatherines.info/JBOA



SIXTH FORM MUSICAL

One of the real highlights of the Sixth Form year is The Sixth Form Musical. This is directed, musically directed, produced and choreographed as well as performed by members of the L6 after their summer examinations. The production in 2024 was *The Little Mermaid*. Past productions have included *Annie*, *High School Musical*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Legally Blonde*, *Joseph*, *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying* and *The Producers*. Each successive year group takes lasting memories away from these performances which are entirely student-led.



BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

Lower Sixth students have the opportunity to set up and run their own company through the St Catherine's Business Enterprise Programme.

Students elect their own management team and allocate roles and responsibilities; design and produce a product of their own; raise start-up finance and, finally, wind up the business, producing an end of year balance sheet and profit and loss account. They then donate their profit to a charity of their choosing. The programme is designed to be run over a School year and, in this time, students improve their understanding of enterprise and business whilst learning to work collaboratively. Typically, students meet once a week and there are regular sessions from teachers and experienced business and marketing professionals on the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to excel in the competitive, entrepreneurial world of today.



CULINARY ARTS

If you are interested in cooking, you might like to sign up for the Culinary Arts cookery course. The course which runs most Monday evenings in term-time from January in Lower Sixth to the end of October in Upper Sixth. This takes place in our new Culinary Arts Studio, opened in September 2022, which offers facilities that you would expect to see in a professional kitchen; think 'MasterChef'! The course is charged as an extra, and is run by Mr Philip Friend, Head of Food and Nutrition and a finalist on BBC1's *Best Home Cook* (2018). The course focuses on higher-end cooking and covers a variety of cuisines and skills. You will make many exciting dishes, learn many new skills and have a lot of fun in the process. Please note that this is a different course from the Culinary Arts subsidiary, which takes place during lessons and focuses mainly on Street Food.



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award is a well-respected and recognised achievement and you will enjoy an unforgettable experience as you pursue it. An impressive number of St Catherine's girls complete this prestigious award which also stands out on your CV and university application, while being very rewarding for its own sake.



CHARITY INVOLVEMENT

Raising money for good causes is a very important aspect of life at St Catherine's, especially in the Sixth Form. There are three fundraising groups: the Charities Board, Community Board and the Philanthropy Board. You may apply to become a member of these Boards which agree upon and organise a number of major events every year. The Charities Board is instrumental in organising events to raise money. The Sixth Form Christmas Ball and the Talent and Fashion Show are the major events which are run and organised by the committee members in the L6 and U6. The charities are nominated by the committee and you learn how to plan major events and allocate the jobs - from advertising to seating plans. The Philanthropy Board has organised The Father-Daughter Dinner and the younger years School disco. The Boards routinely raise several thousand pounds for good causes each year.



DISCUSSION & DEBATE

There are many occasions throughout your Sixth Form years to get involved in talking about all sorts of issues. In Debating Club, there are plenty of opportunities for internal and external combative British Parliamentary style debates, whilst maintaining regular 'friendly' debates with other schools. Our modern linguists also debate in French, German and Spanish. There is also an active Model United Nations Club.

Eminent speakers address the Sixth Form on important issues as a means of curricular enrichment, with plenty of time for challenging questions!



CHAPEL

The Chapel at St Catherine's offers a quiet place for reflection and contemplation in an otherwise busy environment and is always open for the staff and students. All Sixth Formers attend a short weekly morning Chapel Service conducted by our very popular Chaplain, the Rev'd Dr McNair Scott. The girls are able to take an active part in the service - such as giving the reading, leading prayers, playing music and on occasion giving an address. Baptism and Confirmation are also offered every year.



TRIPS

You will be offered the opportunity to take part in trips both close to home and further afield. Some are curriculum focused, and will enable you to deepen your understanding and bring to life a topic which you may only have been able to study from a book. Other trips will take you out of your comfort zone, where you tap hidden depths in your own personality. Here is a flavour of what we have offered recently:

Art & Photography	Regular trips to London and Regional Galleries and Theatres, Paris
Biology	Field trips e.g. Juniper Hall, Dorking
Business	BMW Mini Factory, Cowley
Classics	Sicily, Rome
Drama	New York
Duke of Edinburgh's Award	Gold Expeditions
Geography	Field Study trips to Dorset
History of Art	Amsterdam
Music	Prague, Dublin, Malta
Psychology	Psychology in Action Conference, London
Politics	Houses of Parliament
Sport	USA and Barbados Lacrosse and Netball Tour
Theatre Studies	Edinburgh Fringe, London theatres, New York Broadway
Sixth Form Expedition	Recent destinations include Borneo, Costa Rica, Vietnam, Cambodia and Tanzania

Sixth Form students may also apply for three types of travel/project bursaries, worth in total over £3,500, to assist with financing Gap Years or Summer holiday projects.





Helen Whateley (2006),
Associate at IID
Architecture and Project
Architect on **The 6**



Cassa Jackson (2016),
singer/songwriter and
modern languages
graduate, in 2021
performing at the O2
and speaking at
St Catherine's in 2022.



Caroline Steel (2012),
Radio & Television
Presenter

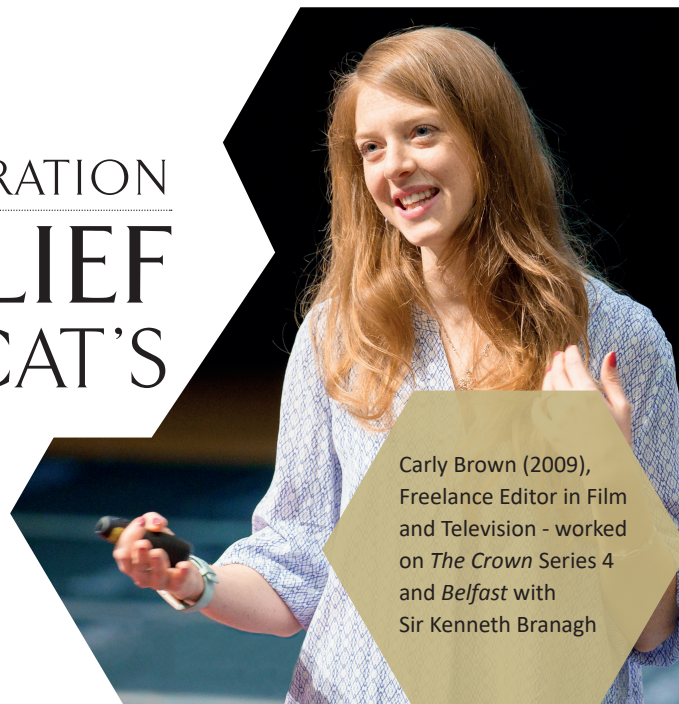
ALUMNAE INSPIRATION

SELF-BELIEF

FROM ST CAT'S



Ellie de la Bedoyere
(2011), speaking about
her work as Senior Policy
Advisor in The Cabinet
Office to Michael Gove



Carly Brown (2009),
Freelance Editor in Film
and Television - worked
on *The Crown* Series 4
and *Belfast* with
Sir Kenneth Branagh



Camilla Alonzo (2008)
International Human Rights
Lawyer at the Human
Rights Advocacy Centre
(EHRAC) as guest Speaker
– Speech Day 2023



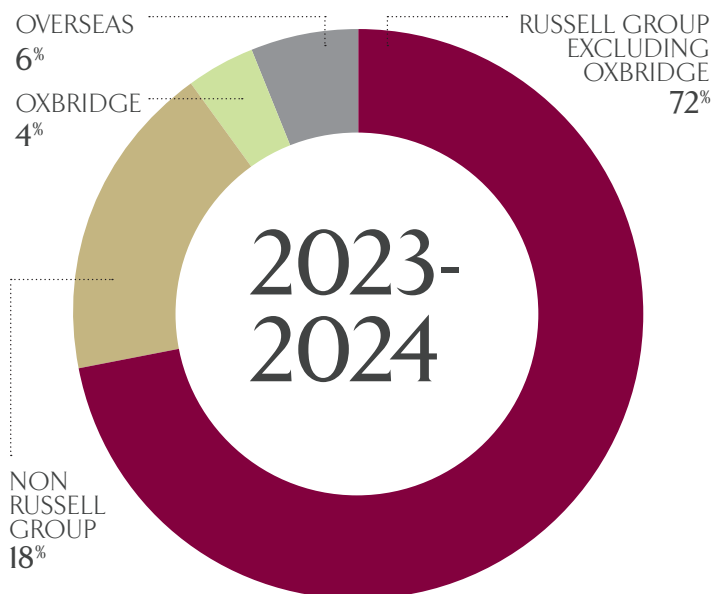
Scarlett Peterson
(2016) Print Designer
for *Sweaty Betty*

WHERE DO ST CATHERINE'S GIRLS GO NEXT?

We have an enviable reputation for girls gaining offers from top universities in the UK and further afield. You will be offered advice and encouragement every step of the way. Girls who choose to take a gap year come back to benefit from the support we offer or can be supported online from far-flung locations. In an increasingly competitive application process it is good to know you are going to be taken very seriously. Take a look at the Destination of Leavers data which can be found on the following two pages to see where our Sixth Formers go. **No editing. The full story!**

“ The Association Community is a valuable resource for St Catherine's students during their time at School and afterwards. The team is able to connect students to alumnae who are enrolled at, or are graduates of, universities that they may be interested in, and who provide them with guidance and interview preparation if needed. Additionally, the Association Community assists former students in finding internships through the network of St Catherine's alumnae. I have found this network to be of much help when seeking out work experience opportunities in the field of politics and social justice. ”

Noor, Alumna, Year of 2022



UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS

- Russell Group (excluding Oxbridge)
- Non Russell Group and Conservatoires
- Oxbridge
- Overseas Universities

The Russell Group represents 24 world-class, research-intensive universities which include Oxford and Cambridge, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Imperial College London, King's College London, Leeds, Liverpool, London School of Economics, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Queen Mary's London, Queen's Belfast, Sheffield, Southampton, University College London, Warwick and York.

Other leading universities include Bath, Lancaster, Southampton, St Andrews and Swansea, along with the major conservatoires.

Please contact the Director of Careers Education on careers@stcatherines.info if you would like further information.

UNIVERSITY	COURSE
Aston	Medicine
Bath	Chemistry
Bath	Pharmacy
Birmingham	Business Management with Marketing
Birmingham	Medicine
Birmingham	Modern Languages and History of Art
Bournemouth	Marketing Communications with Digital Media
Bristol	Dentistry
Bristol	English and Classical Studies
Cambridge	Geography
Cardiff	Biological Sciences
Chichester	Musical Theatre Performance
Durham	Engineering
Durham	Geography
Durham	Modern Languages and Cultures
Durham	Natural Sciences
Durham	Natural Sciences
Durham	Social Sciences
Erasmus University, Netherlands	Economics and Business Economics
Exeter	Geography
Exeter	Accounting and Business
Exeter	Anthropology
Exeter	Businesss
Exeter	Business and Management
Exeter	Communications and Modern Languages
Exeter	Economics
Exeter	Economics and Politics
Exeter	English and Creative Writing
Exeter	Geography
Exeter	Law
Exeter	Mathematics with Finance
Exeter	Physics
Exeter	Politics and International Relations
Exeter	Politics and International Relations
Exeter	Politics and Sociology
Exeter	Psychology
George Washington University, USA	International Development with Economics
Glasgow	Medicine
Hull York Medical School	Medicine
Kent	Economics
Lancaster	Zoology

UNIVERSITY	COURSE
Liverpool	Criminology
Loughborough	Management
Loughborough	Natural Sciences
Manchester	Economics
Manchester	Economics and Finance
Newcastle	Biomedical Sciences
Nottingham	Architecture
Nottingham	Criminology and Sociology
Nottingham	Geography
Nottingham	History and Politics
Nottingham	Medicine
Nottingham	Politics and International Relations
Nottingham	Politics and International Relations
Nottingham	Politics and International Relations
Nottingham	Psychology
Oxford	Classics
Oxford	English Language and Literature
Oxford	History and Economics
Oxford Brookes	Business and Management
Oxford Brookes	Communications, Media, Culture and Sociology
Oxford Brookes	Interior Architecture
Oxford Brookes	Real Estate
Reading	Animal Science
Reading	German and Business
Southampton	Medicine
St Andrews	Evolutionary Biology
St Andrews	Medicine
Surrey	International Relations
The College of William & Mary, USA	Politics and Sociology
The Royal Academy of Music	Music
University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong	Economics and Management
University College, London	History and Politics of the Americas
University College, London	Pharmacology
University College, London	Psychology
University of British Columbia, Canada	Management
Warwick	Theatre and Performance Studies
York	Economics, Econometrics and Finance

The Class of 2023 refers to all 2023 leavers, including those who deferred their university entrance to 2024.

UNIVERSITY	COURSE
Bath	Architecture
Bath	Business
Bath	Mathematics
Bath	Natural Sciences
Bath	Psychology
Birmingham	English Literature
Birmingham	History and Politics
Birmingham	Music
Bristol	Environmental Geoscience
Bristol	Physics
Bristol	Physics
Bristol	Psychology
Bristol	Veterinary Science
Brunel, London	Engineering
Cambridge	Modern and Medieval Languages
Cardiff	Economics
Durham	Natural Sciences
Durham	Natural Sciences
Edinburgh	Chemical Engineering
Edinburgh	Russian Studies and History
Exeter	Accounting and Finance
Exeter	Biological Sciences
Exeter	Economics
Exeter	Exercise and Sport Sciences
Exeter	Geography
Exeter	Law
Exeter	Liberal Arts
Exeter	Politics and Modern Languages
Guildhall School of Music and Drama	Production Arts - Technical Theatre
Hong Kong Metropolitan University	Physiotherapy
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Global Business
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Global Business
Imperial College, London	Materials Science and Engineering
King's College, London	Biomedical Sciences
King's College, London	English
King's College, London	English with Film Studies
King's College, London	Philosophy
Leeds	Economics
Leeds	Graphic and Communication Design
Leeds	Natural Sciences

UNIVERSITY	COURSE
Leeds	Politics
London School of Economics	Mathematics and Economics
Loughborough	Sport Science, Coaching and Physical Education
Manchester	Chemical Engineering
Manchester	Chemical Engineering
Nottingham	Architecture
Nottingham	Biology
Nottingham	History
Nottingham	International Media and Communications Studies
Nottingham	Law
Nottingham	Mechanical Engineering
Nottingham	Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Nottingham	Politics and Economics
Nottingham	Politics and Economics
Oxford	Chemistry
Oxford	English and German
Oxford Brookes	Art & Design
Royal Holloway, London	Drama with Film
Sheffield	Mechanical Engineering
Southampton	Mechanical Engineering - Sustainable Energy Systems
Southampton	Nursing (Pediatric)
Surrey	Law
University College, London	Anthropology
University College, London	Applied Medical Sciences
University College, London	Biomedical Sciences
University College, London	Psychology with Education
University of East Anglia	Computing Science
University of the Arts, London	Fine Art: Drawing
University of Western Australia	Finance
Warwick	Data Science
Warwick	Physics with Astrophysics

The Class of 2024 for now includes 7 girls who have secured places to start their degrees in 2025. It excludes 12 girls who have chosen to apply to university during a gap year of structured work/internships/travel. They continue to be supported by St Catherine’s staff as they make these applications and will be listed next year.



THE ST CATHERINE'S DIFFERENCE



CONFIDENCE, CAPABILITY AND COMPASSION

In the 21st century, self-esteem and self-belief are critical if you are going to maximise your potential, not only as an individual but in how you make an impact on the world around you. In and outside the classroom, we offer you the experiences, leadership opportunities and support to build your confidence and capabilities. With a deep sense of self-belief and your feet firmly on the ground, you can excel academically and in life. An ethos of believing 'there is nothing a woman cannot do' is our constant lodestar.

“I value the compassion and friendliness of the community, girls, and teachers alike, offering me academic and pastoral support. ”

Helena

“Sixth Form is the culmination of all the great things about St Cat's! There are so many more exciting opportunities, such as leadership positions. ”

Libby

“Thank you so much for organising and leading the Cambridge University visit for the girls interested in Oxbridge applications. My daughter came home buzzing. ”

Mrs Salford, Former Parent

“I love the smaller class sizes and the more focused attention we get in our A Level lessons to help support us. ”

Emily

“Our daughter is loving Sixth Form – and absolutely loving boarding. She has four University offers and is waiting to hear from Edinburgh. ”

Former Parents, 2024

A LEVEL SUBJECTS

Please note, although we do everything we can to ensure that all our students are able to study the subjects they wish, the School reserves the right to withdraw a subject from the list offered. This may occur if the demand for a particular subject is insufficient to make the subject viable to teach at A Level.

BIOLOGY



Head of Department: Mrs Claerwen Patterson BA, MA Oxon, PGCE
Examination Board: AQA

WHY STUDY BIOLOGY?

“Overpopulation, the destruction of the environment, and the malaise of the inner cities cannot be solved by technological advances, nor by literature or history, but by measures that are based on an understanding of the biological roots of these problems.” Ernst Mayer

Biology not only unlocks some of the mysteries of living things but also inspires young people to want to know more about themselves. We need this knowledge to inform our actions for the future to ensure the survival of all species, including our own.

COURSE CONTENT

A level Biology builds upon the topics you will have studied at GCSE. It enables you to delve into the details of those topics and develop more connections between them.

The first year of A Level:

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Second year of A Level:

5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. How organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

ASSESSMENT

There are three exams at the end of the two years for A Level, all of which are two hours long.

At least 15% of the marks for A Level Biology are based on what you learned in your practicals.

Paper 1 (35%): Topics 1-4, plus associated practical skills

Paper 2 (35%): Topics 5-8, plus associated practical skills

Paper 3 (30%): Topics 1-8, plus associated practical skills

BUSINESS



Head of Department: Mrs Cathy Williams BA Cantab
Examination Board: Edexcel

WHY STUDY BUSINESS?

Have you ever wondered how Urban Outfitters has managed to increase prices whilst maintaining busy shops and cash tills? Or what has driven Apple's phenomenal growth and brand loyalty? Or why Elon Musk is one of the richest people in the world and SpaceX and Tesla are valued so highly despite having low profits? From here, how will the current economic environment shape business strategy, plans and finance?

A Level Business is a useful and pragmatic subject that gives a thorough understanding of the way in which businesses in the world today are run. You will gain an understanding of business in a range of contexts and will develop a critical understanding of organisations and their ability to meet society's needs and wants. You will build a range of skills including decision-making, problem-solving and critical analysis and you will be exposed to some of the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities faced by organisations and individuals. Business and management is rapidly growing in popularity at A Level, undergraduate and post graduate levels. In today's globalised business environment, A Level Business is definitely an option worth considering.

COURSE CONTENT

The course has four themes:

THEME 1 MARKETING & PEOPLE

- Customer needs
- The market
- Marketing
- Managing people
- Entrepreneurs & leaders

THEME 2 MANAGING BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

- Raising finance
- Financial planning
- Managing finance
- Resource management
- External influences

THEME 3 BUSINESS DECISIONS & STRATEGY

- Objectives and strategy
- Growth
- Decision making
- Competitiveness
- Managing change

THEME 4 GLOBAL BUSINESS

- Globalisation
- Global markets and business expansion
- Global marketing
- Multi-national corporations

ASSESSMENT

A Level:

3 x 2 hour examinations taken at the end of the U6 consisting of data response short and long essays.

Paper 1: Marketing, people and global business

Paper 2: Business activities, decisions and strategy

Paper 3: Investigating businesses in a competitive environment – a synoptic paper based on a pre-released theme.

CHEMISTRY



Head of Department: Mrs Nicola Austin MChem Oxon, QTS
Examination Board: Edexcel

WHY STUDY CHEMISTRY?

One of the first things that you will notice as you progress through to A Level is that some of the ideas that you took for granted at GCSE have more to them than you thought. As you gain a deeper understanding of the underlying principles involved, you will start to see how all the many and varied aspects of the subject are held together. The ability to apply your mind in this way is highly valued in the wider world, hence why Chemistry students rarely find difficulty in obtaining employment. Studying A Level Chemistry will allow you to discover more about the fascinating world we live in and the science behind major technological developments.

COURSE CONTENT

In the L6 you will study many topics covered at GCSE in more depth. These include atomic structure, energetics, rates and amounts of substance. You will also study the foundations of Organic Chemistry and analytical techniques.

In the U6 you will learn a wider selection of reactions in Organic Chemistry and how they can be used to synthesise everything from pharmaceuticals to fabrics. You will study analytical techniques with a wide range of applications including forensics, medicine and in industry. Physical Chemistry topics are developed and mathematical techniques are applied to predicting whether reactions occur, interpreting pH and analysing rates information. The colourful world of transition metals and their applications to modern day life are also explored.

16 core practicals are integrated into the two year course and you will have ample opportunities to develop your understanding of experimental methods and practical skills.

ASSESSMENT

A Level:

2 x 1 hour 45 mins papers
1 x 2 hours 30 mins paper

At A Level there is also a teacher assessed practical competency. This will be reported separately to your A Level grade.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION



Head of Department: Mrs Jessica Ashby MA Cantab, PGCE
Examination Board: OCR

WHY STUDY CLASSICAL CIVILISATION?

Classical Civilisation is a rewarding, stimulating and enjoyable subject – brilliant for lovers of Literature, Drama, History and Art. You will revisit many of the myths that might have inspired you as a child, examine works of art that you will have seen in books and on posters, and study the history and culture that shaped Western Civilisation. Through your studies you will learn how the ideas and institutions, the artefacts and achievements of the Greeks and Romans continue to have an enormous impact on our modern lives. No prior knowledge of Latin or Greek is required.

COURSE CONTENT

You will study two modules in the L6 - The World of the Hero, and Culture and the Arts.

The World of the Hero Paper involves the study (in translation) of one of Homer's incredible epics, the *Odyssey*, charting the Greek hero Odysseus' adventure-packed journey home to Ithaca. Among the many themes this story presents, you will explore the concept, values and behaviour of a hero, including the ideas of honour and reputation.

The Culture and Arts Paper explores different aspects of Greek Theatre. You will look not only at three plays from both the comic and tragic genres - texts which continue to be performed today and which have had a profound and wide-reaching influence on modern culture – but also at the physical and cultural context in which theatrical performances developed: for example, looking at evidence for costumes, masks and the theatres themselves.

In U6, you will supplement your L6 study of Homer's *Odyssey* with study of Virgil's Roman epic, the *Aeneid*. You will also develop your awareness of the culture of Greece and Rome by exploring in more detail some of the religious, political and social beliefs which underpinned these societies.

ASSESSMENT (no coursework)

A Level:

The World of the Hero paper: 2 hours 20 mins (40% of A Level mark)
Culture and Arts paper: 1 hour 45 mins (30% of A Level mark)
Beliefs and Ideas paper: 1 hour 45 mins (30% of A Level mark)

CLASSICAL GREEK



Head of Department: Mrs Jessica Ashby MA Cantab, PGCE
Examination Board: OCR

WHY STUDY CLASSICAL GREEK?

If you have studied Greek GCSE, A Level should be well within your grasp as we have plenty of time to cover the syllabus and revise grammar. The girls currently studying the subject in the Sixth Form love the small groups and informal nature of the lessons. Discussions range from the sublime to the ridiculous, taking in all sorts of aspects of the Greek World – from the status of women in Athenian society to why Persians got drunk when making decisions.

COURSE CONTENT

The key elements of the course are still Language and Literature. The course in the L6 involves unseen translation from Greek into English and a choice of further unseen translation or English - Greek sentences. These are very straightforward and even enjoyable! Translating into Greek can be very satisfying and excellent for your knowledge of those tricky principal parts.

Your L6 prose text will be either Herodotus, Book 7, about the staggering victory of the Athenians and Spartans, on sea and land, against the huge invading forces of the Persians; or extracts from Plato's *Crito*, which presents a discussion between Socrates and Crito, in prison, while Socrates is awaiting his execution. Crito tries to convince Socrates to escape from prison but Socrates refuses, arguing that doing so would be unjust. You will also read parts of either Homer's *Odyssey* 16, or Sophocles' *Electra*, which tells of a bitter struggle for justice by Electra and her brother Orestes after their father has been murdered by their mother: do they owe it to their father to avenge his murder, even if that means committing matricide themselves? You will extend these linguistic and literary studies in the U6 by studying further prose and verse set texts, which can be tailored to suit the interests of the typically small but stimulating teaching groups.

ASSESSMENT (no coursework)

A Level:

Unseen Translation: 1 hour 45 mins, 33% of A Level
Prose Composition or Comprehension: 1 hour 15 mins, 17% of A Level
Prose Literature: 2 hours, 25% of A Level
Verse Literature: 2 hours, 25% of A Level

COMPUTER SCIENCE



Head of Department: Miss Sandra Morris BSc Surrey, PGCE
Examination Board: OCR H446

WHY STUDY COMPUTER SCIENCE?

If creating the next software application interests you, or if you want to find out how to develop systems to solve real-world problems, then consider Computer Science. This course is all about both the academic and the practical. You kick off by understanding how computers are actually built, which feeds into techniques of how to develop software. Lots of practice in writing algorithms and working with data structures gives you the tools you need to build systems. In the second year you start your Programming Project, which is completely your own; you seek out what you want to build, then develop a system for other people to use. Throughout the course, you will use environments and techniques used in industry.

Computer Science sits well alongside other Science subjects, including Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Economics. To be successful in this subject you need precision, careful reasoning and a large dose of creativity.

COURSE CONTENT

In the first year you will explore and absorb core principles, acquired through both theory and practical activities. In the second year this all starts to knit together as you develop your skills through working on your project, which is a perfect springboard for moving up to higher education and the workplace.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Computer Science.

ASSESSMENT

A Level:

Component 01 (40%): Computer Systems 2 hours 30 mins
Component 02 (40%): Algorithms and Programming 2 hours 30 mins
Component 03 (20%): Programming Project

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES



Director of Drama: Mrs Laura Grizzelle-Lang BA London, PGCE
Examination Board: AQA

WHY STUDY DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES?

Drama and Theatre Studies is a fascinating subject for anyone with a genuine interest in theatre and is not just for students who want to take up the Performing Arts as a career. The course involves practical performance and/or design work, the study of set texts and practitioners, and the analysis of contemporary productions. Going to the theatre is therefore, an essential part of the course and that is a definite plus! It is also a highly respected academic subject (past students have gone on to study at Oxbridge and other reputable universities) and it combines well with a wide range of other subjects at A Level.

COURSE CONTENT

A Level: You will rehearse and perform sections of text from three different plays, one of which will be performed to an audience, whilst keeping a portfolio of your research and performance development. You will also study two set plays and see a minimum of four productions at the theatre, learning how to analyse the production and performance techniques employed on stage. Finally, you will create a devised performance, influenced by the work of your chosen practitioner, and produce an accompanying notebook to reflect upon the process. The written exam at the end of the two years will comprise of Live Theatre analysis and questions on your two set texts.

ASSESSMENT

A Level:

3 hour written paper on two set plays and their potential for performance as well as a question on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production - 40%

A practical group project (Devised group piece) + working notebook (coursework) and the performance of three scripted pieces + working notebook (coursework) - 60%

ECONOMICS



Head of Department: Mrs Cathy Williams BA Cantab
Examination Board: Edexcel

WHY STUDY ECONOMICS?

In today's world a decent knowledge of Economics is essential. It is a fascinating subject that will enable you to learn more about how the world works. For example, what will be the longer-term impact of disrupted supply chains, heavy government borrowing and overstretched health care systems? Why did inflation rise so high and why has it proved so intractable in the UK in particular?

More generally you will understand why some people earn so much more than others and why water (essential to life) costs very little whereas a painting by Klimt sold for 86 million euros. You will understand why the government provides some services and leaves others to the private sector. Why are some countries rich and others poor and what can be done about it? Finally, you will understand why climate change has happened and what Economics can tell us about possible solutions.

Alongside, you will develop an enviable range of transferable skills such as problem-solving, communication, numeracy, commercial awareness, analysis and decision-making. All of this means Economists can and do make a difference to society.

COURSE CONTENT

L6 or Year 1: Microeconomics is the study of individual markets. A good example of a micro market that has rarely been out of the news in the last decade is housing. For many years house prices rose at a spectacular rate, will this continue? Sometimes, market forces can create unfavourable outcomes for society, for example, should the government allow firms to pollute the environment and to employ children? Macroeconomics concerns economy-wide issues such as the causes of economic growth, inflation and unemployment. You will also study the impacts of government economic policy on the economy.

U6 or Year 2: In the second year you will study micro and macroeconomics in more depth, applying your knowledge to specific markets and economies. For example, is road pricing the answer to congestion on UK roads? How, and should societies be made more equal? Does it matter if some businesses grow in size to be bigger than whole countries? A Level macroeconomic issues include: the economics of international trade, exchange rate determination, the balance of payments, and the fascinating subject of development economics. This part of the course covers topics as diverse as understanding why the global financial crisis occurred to what can be done about world poverty.

ASSESSMENT

A Level:

3 x 2 hour examinations. These examinations consist of a mixture of essays and extended data response questions.

ENGLISH



Head of Department: Mrs Hannah Simcock MA Oxon, PGCE
Examination Board: Edexcel

WHY STUDY ENGLISH?

A Level English Literature is a very popular academic subject, highly regarded by universities and employers in a variety of careers. Essential for an English degree, it also provides an excellent foundation for degrees in Law, the Liberal Arts, the Humanities and Languages. It complements A Levels in Maths and the Sciences. You will need to enjoy reading both extensively and with close attention to detail. We like you to think carefully and creatively, and to articulate your ideas aloud in the classroom. Tables and chairs are arranged in a horse-shoe shape to facilitate discussion and debate in lessons. The rewards lie in the enriching of your mind, in the sharpening of your ability to express yourself in speech and writing, and in the sheer pleasure that reading provides. By the end of the course, the books you have read, discussed and written about will ideally be part of an unfolding lifetime's enjoyment of literature.

COURSE CONTENT

You will study one key Shakespeare play (such as *Hamlet* or *Othello*) and one other drama (for example, Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*). You will read and consider a range of critical essays alongside the Shakespeare, with the aim of using the opinions of other writers to supplement and enhance your own ideas.

You will compare two prose texts linked by a common theme e.g. Childhood, or Women and Society, or Science. Examples of such text pairs include Ian McEwan's *Atonement* with Henry James's *What Maisie Knew*, Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway* and Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, and *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley with *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro.

Poetry study takes the form of analysing an anthology of post-2000 poetry alongside poems from either a particular period (e.g. Romantic, Victorian) or by a particular poet (e.g. Keats, Rosetti).

All examinations are Open Book i.e. a clean, non-annotated copy of each text is allowed.

The non-examined assessment consists of a 2500-3000 word essay comparing two texts.

All text choices are subject to individual English teachers.

ASSESSMENT

Component 1 | Drama | 2hrs 15 minutes | 30%

Component 2 | Prose | 1 hr 15 minutes | 20%

Component 3 | Poetry | 2 hrs 15 minutes | 30%

Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) | 20%

FINE ART



Head of Department: Mr Alex Perry-Adlam BA Liverpool
John Moores, Cert Ed., PGCE
Examination Board: AQA

WHY STUDY FINE ART?

Art is not only about making beautiful images and objects, it is also about creative problem-solving, developing personal opinions about art works, as well as responding to historical events, and becoming more in touch with the visual world that surrounds us.

We are in the middle of an artistic renaissance with Britain being at the forefront of creativity in all areas from fine art to graphics and fashion to film. Many of the leaders in this new wave of creativity took Art for A Level and credit the course with teaching them the foundation of how to work experimentally and creatively.

Most importantly, the course is about you. It's about finding your style of working and developing your personal interest in the subject.

COURSE CONTENT

The start of the course is more traditional where you will learn formal elements of Art such as colour theory, composition, oil painting techniques and how to develop your ideas through sustained investigations to record a number of outcomes.

The second coursework project is more self-guided and where you will investigate an area of Art that interests you. You will also write a 2,500 word extended essay on the theme of the project you have chosen.

The final exam is a topic given by the exam board in January of the final year.

ASSESSMENT

A Level:

60% Personal Investigation:

Practical work and a personal study; a written essay of 2,000- 3,000 words

40% Externally Set Assignment:

Assessed as an independent unit: 15 hour examination

FRENCH



Head of Department: Mrs Catherine Peel MA Oxon, PGCE
Examination Board: AQA

WHY STUDY FRENCH?

- French is the official language in 29 countries and is spoken by over 300 million people.
- It is more than a subject – it is a passport, from sipping espresso in Parisian cafés to landing international job opportunities.
- It is a cultural immersion as well as a linguistic pursuit, and provides a cultural enrichment experience, from exploring the intricacies of French art, cinema and literature to understanding the influence of French fashion on the global stage.
- Within international organisations such as the UN, EU, UNESCO, A Level French is a coveted qualification, and so offers you access to roles with real impact which shape global policies and initiatives. The cultural industries, including film, fashion and art are also exciting career opportunities if you have a deep understanding of Francophone language and culture.

Studying a foreign language and the people who speak it will:

- give you skills and experiences that will expand your horizons for the rest of your life;
- give you an advantage over others in an increasingly globalised labour market and open up career opportunities in Europe and beyond;
- help you to understand the motives, politics and culture of countries that are vital to the future of the UK, especially those still in the EU;
- teach you to look at the world through the eyes of others;
- develop important and highly transportable skills of analysis, debate and independent thought.

Just think how much more confident a communicator you would be – and how much more of an asset to your future employer- if you weren't tongue-tied every time you left Heathrow!

COURSE CONTENT

Year 1: Aspects of society and artistic culture and the study of a film (*La Heine*).

Year 2: Aspects of political life and current issues in society and the study of a book (*Un Sac de Billes*).

ASSESSMENT

AS Level:

Paper 1: Listening/Reading/
Writing 1hr 45mins

Paper 2: Writing 1hr 30mins

Paper 3: Oral 30 mins (teacher
examined)

A Level:

Paper 1: Listening/Reading/Writing
2hr 30mins

Paper 2: Writing 2 hrs

Paper 3: Oral 30 mins (teacher
examined)

GEOGRAPHY



Head of Department: Mrs Sophie Mackness BSc London, PGCE
Examination Board: Edexcel

WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

Geography's strength comes from its ability to unite knowledge from different disciplines and to interpret the bigger picture within a spatial context, dealing with issues of genuine contemporary significance. Geography is the only subject that combines scientific concepts with social and cultural understanding, making it an ideal subject to place alongside both Arts and Science subjects. Geography encompasses a vast array of transferable skills such as data collection and analysis, research, decision-making, IT and communication skills.

COURSE CONTENT

Dynamic Landscapes: Tectonic Hazards and Coastal Landscapes and Change

Dynamic Places: Globalisation: You will study shifting patterns of wealth and the cultural implications of globalisation.

Regenerating Places: You will study how places are economically dynamic and how regeneration affects people's lives.

Water Insecurity: You will investigate conflict over national and international water sources.

Carbon cycle and Energy Security: You will investigate how the carbon cycle maintains planetary health and the consequences of the increasing demand for energy.

Human systems and Geopolitics: Superpowers: The impact of superpowers on the world economy, global politics and the environment. Geopolitical conflict and new geopolitical relations.

Global development and Connections. Migration, Identity and Sovereignty: The study of contested borders, the consequences of disunity between nations.

ASSESSMENT

A Level:

Paper 1: Physical 2 hrs 15 mins

Paper 2: Human 2 hrs 15 mins

Paper 3: Synoptic 2 hrs 15 mins

Coursework:

Independent Investigation - 20% of A Level

A Level Independent Investigation of 3,000-4,000 words, marked by teachers and externally moderated.

GERMAN



Head of Department: Mrs Catherine Peel MA Oxon, PGCE
Examination Board: AQA

WHY STUDY GERMAN?

- German is the most widely spoken language in all of Europe.
- Germany has the third strongest economy in the world.
- German is the language of inventors and innovators, poets, philosophers and scientists.
- Because fewer students in the UK are studying German, choosing it at A Level will make you stand out.

Studying German will also:

- give you skills and experiences that will expand your horizons for the rest of your life;
- give you an advantage over others in an increasingly globalised labour market and open up career opportunities in Europe and beyond;
- help you to understand the motives, politics and culture of countries that are vital to the future of the UK, especially those still in the EU;
- teach you to look at the world through the eyes of others;
- develop important and highly transportable skills of analysis, debate and independent thought.

Just think how much more confident a communicator you would be – and how much more of an asset to your future employer – if you weren't tongue-tied every time you left Heathrow!

COURSE CONTENT

AS Level: Aspects of society and artistic culture and the study of a film (*Das Leben der Anderen*).

A Level: Aspects of political life and current issues in society and the study of a book (*Der Vorleser* by Bernhard Schlink).

ASSESSMENT (no coursework)

AS Level:

Paper 1: Listening/Reading/Writing 1hr 45mins
Paper 2: Writing 1hr 30mins
Paper 3: Oral 30 mins (teacher examined)

A Level:

Paper 1: Listening/Reading/Writing 2hr 30mins
Paper 2: Writing 2 hrs
Paper 3: Oral 30 mins (teacher examined)

HISTORY



Head of Department: Ms Gianella Negrotti BA Southampton, PGCE
Examination Board: AQA

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

History is a fascinating subject which provides you with a number of extremely transferable skills. You will learn to analyse, debate and argue; your knowledge and understanding of the world today will be further enhanced through studying past events and the great 'movers and shakers' who have left their mark. History sits extremely well with both arts and science subjects. Discussing events, personalities, causes and consequences in small classes develops vital communication and critical analysis skills. History teaches you how to write in a coherent and structured manner, considering multiple factors and then arrive at conclusions based on empirical evidence. Working on your independent study in the U6 allows you to put these skills into practice.

History is one of the A Levels most widely respected by university admissions officers and employers. A Level History - the subject that keeps on giving!

COURSE CONTENT

Breadth Study: A Level – The Tudors: England 1485-1603

You will study broad themes of government, foreign relations, social and economic developments, intellectual and religious changes and the role of key individuals across the Tudor period.

Depth Study: A Level – The American Dream: reality and illusion, 1945 – 1980

You will investigate the extent to which the post-war 'American dream' was a reality and the nature of democracy in a pluralist society.

Historical Investigation, 4,500 words (non-exam assessment). A piece of independent research using primary and secondary sources, which focuses on the fascinating history of Russia over the course of 100 years 1855-1955.

ASSESSMENT

A Level Breadth Study: exam 2 hours 30 mins, three questions 40% of A Level

A Level Depth Study: exam 2 hours 30 mins, three questions 40% of A Level

A Level: Independent Investigation 4,500 words, 20% of A Level, marked by teachers, moderated by AQA

HISTORY OF ART



Head of Department: Mr Alex Perry-Adlam BA Liverpool
John Moores, Cert Ed., PGCE
Examination Board: Edexcel

WHY STUDY HISTORY OF ART?

The commercial world of the 21st Century is highly visual; the development of visual literacy and an understanding of cultural history is a vital stepping stone to the multi-cultural, image-conscious world in which we live. A Level History of Art is the historical, theoretical and critical study of western art and architecture (with some examples taken from beyond the European tradition). Students learn to analyse and interpret works of art and architecture, and to acquire critical skills. The course is largely essay-based, with a written examination at the end of each unit studied. Emphasis is placed on an analytical approach in both written and oral work. It is not necessary for students to have practical artistic skills.

This is a genuinely fascinating A Level course which is inter-disciplinary by nature, combining aspects of history, art, politics, sociology, literature and languages.

COURSE CONTENT

In the L6, students study for Paper 1: Visual Analysis and Themes.

Visual Analysis requires knowledge and understanding of the formal characteristics, iconography and historical and social contexts for painting, sculpture and architecture. For Themes, students develop an understanding of artworks from across a wide timescale which are concerned with the themes of Nature and Identities.

In the U6 students will study for Paper 2: Periods

An in-depth study of two specified periods in the History of Art, *Invention and Illustration: the Renaissance in Italy* and *Brave New World: Modernism in Europe*

ASSESSMENT

A Level:

Paper 1: Visual Analysis and Themes (3 hours, 50%)

Paper 2: Periods (3 hours, 50%)

LATIN



Head of Department: Mrs Jessica Ashby MA Cantab, PGCE
Examination Board: OCR

WHY STUDY LATIN?

No translated text can ever express in full the nuanced and layered meanings which are exposed and explored when studying a text in the language in which it was originally written. By choosing Latin at A Level you will have the opportunity to read some of the world's greatest literature in the original language – a challenging, exhilarating and enlightening experience! Latin appeals to lots of different sorts of students; we regularly have scientists as well as arts students in the Department. To enjoy Latin at A Level, you should like one or more of the following: variety, challenges, logical analysis and problem solving, discussion, great literature, sarcasm and scandal!

COURSE CONTENT

The reformed Latin A Level retains the same key components of study: Language and Literature.

The Language course in the L6 involves unseen translation from Latin, and English to Latin sentences. Translating into Latin is enjoyable and satisfying and we teach it in bitesize chunks to build up your confidence and precision. Your L6 prose text will be extracts from *Nepos, Life of Hannibal*, recounting the upbringing and achievements of the most famous leader of Rome's great enemy, Carthage.

You will also read parts of Virgil's *Aeneid IV*, the tragic love-story at the heart of his epic, where Aeneas has to decide to abandon a life of passion and luxury with Dido, Queen of Carthage, and to accept instead his god-given mission to found a new city in Italy.

You will extend these linguistic and literary studies in the U6 by studying further prose and verse set texts, and by translating passages from a varied and stimulating range of authors.

ASSESSMENT

A Level:

Unseen Translation: 1 hour 45 mins, 33% of A Level

Prose Composition or Comprehension: 1 hour 15 mins, 17% of A Level

Prose Literature: 2 hours, 25% of A Level

Verse Literature: 2 hours, 25% of A Level

MATHEMATICS & FURTHER MATHEMATICS



Head of Department: Mr Alasdair Wright BSc Hertfordshire, PGCE
Examination Board: Edexcel

WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS & FURTHER MATHEMATICS?

Studying Mathematics enables you to think logically and reason effectively. You learn the importance of independent thought and what constitutes proof. Mathematics is a much respected academic subject, combining well with both science and arts A Levels, and valued by universities and employers alike.

COURSE CONTENT

Mathematics:

Year 1: The course consists of Pure Mathematics topics and includes algebra, co-ordinate geometry, trigonometry, calculus and numerical methods. Alongside this, you will study both Mechanics and Statistics.

Year 2: The balance of the course remains the same, and the topics become more challenging.

Further Mathematics:

Year 1: Students will follow the bulk of the A Level content in the first year, along with some of the more accessible content of the Further Mathematics topics including complex numbers and matrices.

Year 2: Students will continue with the Further Mathematics content along with either Further Statistics or Further Mechanics. You will sit both the Mathematics A Level and Further Mathematics A Level at the end of year two.

ASSESSMENT

Mathematics:

A Level: 3 x 2 hour papers
Coursework Requirements: None

Further Mathematics:

A Level: 4 x 1 hour 30 mins papers
Coursework Requirements: None

MUSIC



Head of Department: Mr Matthew Greenfield MEng Oxon, LTCL, QTS
Examination Board: Edexcel

WHY STUDY MUSIC?

Studying Music gives you the ability to express yourself through different media, as both an academic and creative musician. You will develop your performance and compositional skills as well as gaining a more informed understanding of how and why music was written and performed. It is a highly respected academic subject, combining well with other Arts and Humanity A Levels or with Sciences. Universities welcome musicians as they are self-motivated, inquisitive, cultured and inspiring people.

COURSE CONTENT

Students will have opportunities to practise performance skills in solo and/or ensemble work, to compose music in styles of their own choice, and to learn about the basics of Harmony through specific technical study. Aural and analytical skills will be cultivated by way of six Areas of Study: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions and New Directions. While not compulsory, we recommend that each student purchases their own copy of the set of scores for these set works. We can organise this through the School.

For students who want to take this course, the experience of interacting with music from a wide range of time and place will provide you with a broad and satisfying experience with valuable new insights into the world of music. This course also offers ideal opportunities for those who wish to progress further to degree level qualifications in music.

ASSESSMENT

A Level:

Performing (30%): 8 minute recital (approx. grade 7-8 standard).

Composing (30%): one free composition and one composition exercise with a combined length of at least 6 mins.

Appraising (40%): a 2 hour and 10 mins written paper focusing on set works and listening skills.

PHOTOGRAPHY



Head of Department: Mr Alex Perry-Adlam BA Liverpool
John Moores, Cert Ed., PGCE
Examination Board: Edexcel

WHY PHOTOGRAPHY?

Everyone has a camera on their phone but not many people know how to take a truly great photograph. It is not about taking a snapshot, but about capturing the atmosphere, feeling and essence of a moment and expressing your view to other people. You will learn how to use the latest camera equipment and studio lighting to start developing your eye for an image. You will then go on to learn how to create a narrative and use the formal elements of colour, composition, perspective and form to allow you to express your own personal interests or style.

You will also be learning how to use film as a medium and how time and image can be brought together to enhance the message you want to express. Most importantly the course is about you. It's about finding your style of working and developing your personal interest in the subject.

COURSE CONTENT

The start of the course is more traditional where you will learn formal elements of Photography such as composition, lighting, form, cropping and positioning, amongst many others. You will also learn how to use digital manipulation to enhance an image and develop your ideas through sustained investigations to a number of outcomes.

The second coursework project is more self-guided and where you will investigate an area of Photography that interests you. You will also write a 2,500 word extended essay on the theme of the project you have chosen.

The final exam is based on a topic given by the exam board in January of the final year.

ASSESSMENT

A Level:

60% Personal Investigation: Practical work and a personal study: a written essay of 2,000- 3,000 words.

40% Externally Set Assignment: assessed as an independent unit: 15 hour examination.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Head of Department: Mrs Nancy Moore BA Wales, PGCE
Examination Board: OCR

WHY STUDY PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

Studying Physical Education gives you an insight into all the theoretical concepts of the sport you play. It covers the physiology, psychology, biomechanics and sociology aspects of sport and provides an in-depth understanding of how to improve your own, and others', performance. It is a well-respected subject, combining positively with others Science and Arts A Levels.

COURSE CONTENT

AS Level: Focuses on the anatomy and physiology of the body, exercise physiology, diet and nutrition, biomechanics, including technology in sport, how the mind interprets and develops sports skills, the teaching and learning of skills, the social issues in sport such as drugs etc. and a look at other countries in comparison with the UK, in achieving excellence. The Practical looks at your skill in one sport and evaluating and assessing others' performance for improvement.

A Level: Extends knowledge within applied anatomy and physiology, exercise physiology, biomechanics, skill acquisition, sports psychology, sport and society, contemporary issues in physical activity and sport. The Practical focuses on performance or coaching, demonstrating skill and tactical awareness in competitive situations in one sport, as well as evaluating and assessing others performance for improvement.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level:

2 x 1 hour 15 min written paper (70%), practical (30%).

A Level:

1 x 2 hour written paper, 2 x 1 hour written paper (70%), practical (30%).

Coursework Requirements:

AS Level: Practical assessment in one sport + Evaluation of Analysis of Performance (EAP)

A Level: Practical assessment in one sport + Evaluation of Analysis of Performance (EAP)

PHYSICS



Head of Department: Dr Kathleen Puech BSc, PhD Dublin, PGCE
Examination Board: OCR A

WHY STUDY PHYSICS?

Physics is the most fundamental of the sciences. It forms the basis of our understanding of the Universe and provides an excellent general knowledge base for understanding the physical world.

Physics challenges our imaginations with concepts like quantum theory, and leads to great discoveries, like computers and lasers, that lead to technologies which change our lives. The World Economic Forum predicts that with artificial intelligence, robotics, nanotechnology and other socio-economic factors replacing the need for human workers, the professional clusters that will exhibit the highest growth rates over the next three years include Artificial Intelligence, Engineering and Cloud Computing. In other words, most new jobs will require a robust understanding of Maths and Physics.

Finally, studying Physics strengthens quantitative reasoning and problem-solving skills that are valuable in areas beyond Physics.

COURSE CONTENT

A Level: You will study all of the material you are familiar with from GCSE as well as more advanced topics such as Quantum Physics, Electric, Magnetic and Gravitational Fields, Simple Harmonic and Circular Motion, Astrophysics, Particle Physics and Medical Physics.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment at the end of U6 will be based on performance in 3 written papers:

2 x 2 hour 15 mins papers and 1 x 1 hour 30 mins synoptic paper.

These will test both theory and practical skills.

Practical work will be carried out throughout the year as a standard part of the course and will be assessed internally on a pass/fail basis.

There are internal exams at the end of L6, but no public examination.

POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Head of Department: Mr Carl Gladwell BA London, PGCE
Examination Board: Edexcel

WHY STUDY POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS?

The world is a complex place with problems that cross borders. Here in the UK we will analyse the consequences of the recent change of Government. Finding its new place in the world, outside the EU, continues to be a significant challenge for the UK, especially given global security issues such as Ukraine and Gaza. The course goes on to look at more global aspects of politics such as poverty, human rights, and relations between the major powers. We also consider how a range of political ideas offer differing solutions to the issues we face. Students at St Catherine's do extremely well in their Politics examinations and achieve excellent results.

COURSE CONTENT

In the L6 year we examine the UK political system to try to understand why there appears to be so much instability in current British politics and what we might do about it:

- How is Brexit affecting the future of Britain?
- How united is the United Kingdom? Is Britain really democratic?
- How secure are our rights and civil liberties in the UK?

The second year is split into two sections so feels very much like a university modular course. The first section focuses on political thought that gets to the essence of what politics is about – what sort of society do we want to live in? We look at four political philosophies in our search for answers. The second section addresses some of the significant global political issues of our time:

- What are the global implications of Russia's war against Ukraine?
- Is China overtaking the US as the world's greatest power?
- What can international bodies like the UN do to deal with challenges such as climate change, global justice and human rights, and the Ukraine crisis?
- Is the rise of nationalism threatening the internationalism of the last 50 years?

Both sections contain ideas and concepts which will challenge the way that you think about the world in which you live.

ASSESSMENT

A Level:

3 x 2 hours each paper

Coursework Requirements: None

PRODUCT DESIGN



Head of Department: Mr Alastair White BA Winchester, QTS
Examination Board: AQA

WHY STUDY DESIGN ENGINEERING?

Studying Design Engineering enables you to get to grips with social and environmental issues surrounding the use of the materials of our world in a way that is practical, thought provoking and intellectually challenging. DE is a rapidly growing subject; some students choose DE because it fits well with their Science courses, others because it gives them a valuable life experience in managing a truly personal project across long timescales.

COURSE CONTENT

The A Level course has two main elements, the theory preparation for the examination and a non-examined (coursework) assessment (NEA). This will be a substantial iterative project with a portfolio of supporting design work. You will be required to undertake a project based on a need or opportunity of your choice. The project will address some need for improvement in the world. Originality, spontaneity and a willingness to take risks (not too many!) are all really important. New technologies such as electronics will be incorporated into your project as required.

The content of the written paper is taught separately to your project work, but where possible you will study the theory work through practical activities.

Technical Principles covered include materials and their applications, performance characteristics of materials, digital design and manufacture, intellectual property rights, enterprise and marketing and industrial manufacture.

Design Principles elements of the course include design methodology, technology, critical analysis, responsible design and National and International standards.

ASSESSMENT

A Level:

Examination Paper: 2 Hours 30 mins - Technical Paper (25%)

Examination Paper: 1 hour 30 mins - Design Paper (25%)

Coursework: 1 Major Project (50%)

PSYCHOLOGY



Head of Department: Mr George Montagnon-Fox MA Cantab, MSc
London, PGDip
Examination Board: OCR

WHY STUDY PSYCHOLOGY?

The fundamental questions of Psychology are the questions that we all ask ourselves: why do I act as I do, think what I think and feel the way I feel?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour, and this course will introduce you to important psychological theories and concepts and to the research methods used in their development. You will have the opportunity to evaluate these theories and to consider how they can be applied in order for us to understand, predict and change behaviour.

A range of skills are employed in the subject, from data analysis to the creative application of theoretical concepts, and this means that the subject can be enjoyed by a wide range of students.

COURSE CONTENT

Introductory Topics: Students will study key theories and research in the areas of Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology, such as Milgram's research into obedience to authority and different explanations for phobias.

Optional Topics: Students will study further theories and research from three areas such as Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology and Developmental Psychology.

Students will also learn about the Research Methods used in Psychology and different broad approaches to psychological research such as Biopsychology and Psychodynamic Psychology, along with overarching issues & debates within the subject.

ASSESSMENT

A Level: 3 x 2 hours each paper

Question types range from multiple-choice and short answer questions to extended response questions. They assess students' ability to explain, evaluate and apply the concepts, theories, studies and methods that they have learned about in the course.

PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND ETHICS (PRE)



Head of Department: Miss Cecilia Scott BA, MA London
Examination Board: OCR

WHY STUDY PRE?

How do we decide between right and wrong? Should a person have complete autonomy over their own life and decisions made about it? Can human beings flourish in the context of capitalism and consumerism? What is our conscience and are we really free? Why is there evil and suffering in the world? Does God exist? What is the nature of reality? Is there a distinctive human nature? Are heaven and hell real places? Is faith sufficient reason to believe in God? Is the principle of love sufficient to live a good life? Can it ever be right to practise civil disobedience? Should Christians ever seek to convert people from other faiths? Have secular views of gender equality undermined Christian gender roles? Is God an illusion and the result of wish fulfilment? Should religion play any part in public life?

Studying Philosophy, Religion and Ethics helps you to think critically, analyse arguments and construct your own case logically and coherently; this subject will help you develop these essential skills. PRE combines well with a variety of other subjects. Obviously with other Humanities, but also with social sciences like Psychology and Economics, where you will find many cross curricular links. Philosophy also works well with Maths, because the same skills of logical reasoning and analysis can be applied to written arguments. Thinking philosophically about Ethics also links with other subject choices. Potential medics will particularly benefit from our module on Medical Ethics.

In addition, the world needs people who can think deeply about religion. For good or for ill – globally, nationally and locally – religion makes a difference to the world. Religion impacts on politics, families, education, culture, economics. Religion is too important and powerful to be left to the large number of people who don't think about it. PRE invites you to become one of the people who think deeply and intelligently about religion. PRE is an exciting and challenging A Level choice!

COURSE CONTENT

Philosophy of Religion: Arguments for the existence of God; challenges to God's existence and the problem of evil, the nature of God and Religious Language.

Ethics: A study of ethical theories, for example, Natural Law, Kant and Utilitarianism, and applied ethics, for example, medical ethics and sexual ethics and business ethics. The nature and role of conscience in ethics.

Developments in Christian Thought: Human nature, death and the afterlife, the nature of revelation, religious pluralism and society, feminist theology, liberation theology, religion and the challenge of secularism.

ASSESSMENT

A Level: 3 x 2 hours each paper
Coursework Requirements: None

SPANISH



Head of Department: Mrs Alicia Robinson BA Leeds, PGCE
Examination Board: AQA

WHY STUDY SPANISH?

If you have a talent for languages, you might want to join the 400 million Spanish speakers in the world as it is the second most widely spoken language. It is also one of the most spoken languages in Europe.

Studying a foreign language and the people who speak it will:

- give you skills and experiences that will expand your horizons for the rest of your life.
- give you an advantage over others in an increasingly globalised labour market and open up career opportunities in Europe and beyond.
- help you to understand the motives, politics and culture of Spain and the countries of Central and South America.
- teach you to look at the world through the eyes of others.
- develop important and highly transferrable skills of analysis debate and independent thought.

Studying a foreign language (or two!) is not just for those who want to teach or translate. There is a vast array of university courses, with languages as your main focus or combined with other subjects such as a social science, many of which include a year abroad studying or working. Career opportunities abound in diverse fields, particularly in business, marketing, tourism, events management and with NGOs.

A knowledge of Spanish and an understanding of Hispanic culture opens many doors. Just think how much more confident a communicator you would be as you head off for a holiday job in Tenerife, fly out for your gap year in Argentina or embark on your first job in Madrid.

COURSE CONTENT

Year 1: Aspects of Hispanic society, artistic culture and the study of a film *Volver* by Pedro Almodóvar.

Year 2: Aspects of political life and current issues in society and the study of a book *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* by Federico Garcia Lorca.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level:

Paper 1: Listening/Reading/Writing 1 hour 45 mins

Paper 2: Writing 1 hour 30 mins

Paper 3: Oral 30 mins (teacher examined)

A Level:

Paper 1: Listening/Reading/Writing 2 hours 30 mins

Paper 2: Writing 2 hours

Paper 3: Oral 30 mins (teacher examined)

TEXTILES



Head of Department: Mrs Margaret Maunder BEd Leeds
Examination Board: AS Level - Eduqas, A Level - Edexcel

WHY STUDY TEXTILES?

Textile Design is a dynamic and highly creative subject that encompasses many disciplines in Art and Design. The field of Textiles is a broad and exciting one that combines drawing and painting with print, felt making, fabric manipulation, machine embroidery, fashion and constructed textiles. During the course you are encouraged to develop and build on your creative strengths through an expressive and experimental approach. This allows for a high level of creative individuality. Final outcomes are a personal decision arrived at through rigorous investigation and can take any form.

Through the study of Textiles you have the opportunity to follow pathways into many areas of design.

COURSE CONTENT

AS Level: The course involves one personal practical project with contextual links made throughout. There is not a requirement for a separate written study at this level.

A Level: The start of the course involves the exploration of a theme using analysis and research to develop skills and knowledge in design, colour, dyeing and stitch techniques. Contextual studies in art and design are required as a written element and will support your practical investigations. You will research artists and designers related to your practical work.

You will have opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcomes. The full A Level is a linear course allowing students to develop their work over the two years. The written personal study will relate to the coursework element and has a separate mark awarded.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level: 100% Personal practical Investigation project.

A Level:

60% Personal Investigation

40% Externally Set Assignment:

Practical work and a personal study; a written essay of 2,000 - 3,000 words - assessed as an independent unit: 15 hour practical examination



LOCATION

“ Just 45 minutes from Heathrow and Gatwick, yet with a spacious, green campus. ”

Ms Chan, Parent





“ A unique community
where everyone’s individual
talents are valued equally. ”

Helena



St Catherine's School

Bramley, Guildford, Surrey GU5 0DF

t: 01483 893363 | f: 01483 899608 | e: schooloffice@stcatherines.info | www.stcatherines.info