



LOUGHBOROUGH
High School

Sixth Form OPTION CHOICES 2019-2021

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INTRODUCTION TO THE SIXTH FORM FROM THE HEAD

We hope that the two years you will spend in the Sixth Form will be stimulating, challenging and rewarding. Much greater independence is offered to, and expected from you, both in terms of academic study and within daily life at school. Also there are many opportunities for you to assume positions of responsibility either within your year group, house or extra-curricular activities. Whether it is organising events such as balls, helping with Year 7 induction days, co-ordinating Amnesty International or the Voluntary Service Unit (VSU), directing house events or simply devising and delivering new initiatives we expect that you will all be busy, stretched and fulfilled. You will notice significant changes in the style of teaching and learning compared to your previous experiences. These changes, allied with the collaboration with The Grammar School and The Amherst School will prepare you for the challenges of moving to life beyond school.

The examination landscape has changed recently, and you, as students who begin the Sixth Form in 2019, are affected by this change. All A Level subjects are now linear with grades depending only on exams taken at the end of the two year course. AS is a totally standalone qualification.

At this stage, with reforms complete, we will expect you to decide in the spring of Year 12 which of your four subjects you intend to discontinue in Year 13. This will, in most cases, be the only AS Level you will take. This does not preclude some flexibility of choice after this point as taking the AS Level qualification does not prevent you continuing with a subject. However, by moving to this model now that all subjects have reformed we place you on the same footing as other students in not having to declare a full suite of AS results on your university applications. In addition, we gain valuable teaching time previously lost in Year 12 to an extended period of study leave.

We expect the vast majority of our students to opt to study four subjects in Year 12 with enrichment lessons which augment these in preparation for university study. Year 12 courses are taught with an allocation of nine periods per subject. We recommend that the subjects chosen should complement each other and should not be too narrowly focused.

In Year 13 most students opt to take three subjects forward to A Level. A few students every year opt to continue four A Level subjects, but only after consultation with the head of Sixth Form and subject staff.

All subjects currently offered at GCSE are available at AS and A Level. Additionally, Applied Science, Business, Computing, Economics, History of Art, Music Technology, Politics, Psychology and Sociology are offered providing there is sufficient demand (that is at least seven LHS students or seven students within the Foundation and it can be accommodated into the timetable of the schools - a group of fewer than five students wishing to take a subject would not be deemed economically or educationally viable). Note that subjects taught entirely at Amherst are not offered as AS qualifications.

Discussion with relevant staff may make it be possible for certain humanities subjects **not** taken at GCSE to be studied at AS and then A Level, such as History, Classical Civilisation and Religious Studies. This depends on individual circumstances.

The cost of the exam entry fee for each subject taken will be added to the relevant term's fee bill, as with GCSE exams.

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

Admission to the Sixth Form depends on a sound performance in GCSE; we expect our students to gain at least five grade 6s (or grade B for those IGCSEs using the old system) overall which should include Maths, English and a science (regardless of the subjects to be taken at A Level) and to achieve good grades (i.e. 7-9 or A/A*) in the subjects chosen for AS/A Level where applicable.

Life in the Sixth Form demands a commitment to work, self-discipline, good time management, energy and a sincere interest in the subjects you have decided to study. There will be time every week when you are expected to use the library or a quiet study room to work independently, to research topics outside the taught specification. This more independent style of study is a preparation for life at university. For example, those who study Modern Languages will be expected to take time to listen and watch videos and TV in the target languages as well as attending an oral lesson with the language assistant. All sixth formers taking French or Spanish have the opportunity to take part in a home stay visit which is very valuable if you intend to study Modern Languages at university.

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

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

We are looking forward to you entering the Sixth Form and hope that you truly enjoy and make the most of it. We know that you are going to thrive in the Sixth Form at Loughborough High School and will be prepared for university life and beyond.



Mrs G M Byrom BSc MA Ed

INTRODUCTION TO THE SIXTH FORM BY THE HEAD OF YEAR

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

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

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

During the two years you spend here, you will be thinking about your plans for life after LHS. You will be encouraged to attend taster courses, careers talks and university open days and to undertake relevant work experience where appropriate. Most of you will apply for admission to university in Year 13 and you will be guided through the UCAS application procedure step by step. No matter what your aspirations are after school, we believe that the Sixth Form experience at LHS has something to offer everyone.

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



Dr C Burnett
Head of Sixth Form

LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM – THE STUDENTS’ PERSPECTIVE

As members of the current Sixth Form, we wanted to let you know about the important aspects of Sixth Form life here. First of all, most of you will probably study four subjects. Although that may seem to be a lot less trouble than the mountain of GCSEs you are tackling now, this year certainly won't be a breeze; you'll need to be organised with your work from the start. But not to worry! You will have loads of support from your subject teachers, form tutor and anyone else you might need, so you never feel as though you're all on your own. As long as you keep on top of the homework, including language logging and some extra reading, there's no reason to panic at all. Although computers are available, you will find your iPad really useful for getting information and doing work on. The Sixth Form study area provides a quiet space for independent study.

The common room...it's amazing just how wonderful one relatively small room can be, but we can genuinely no longer remember how we lived without it. Thanks to having one space that everyone can spend time in, the whole year tends to become closer in the Sixth Form. Everyone talks to each other in the common room, which means you really don't need to worry about making new friends. Furthermore, if any of you are caffeine addicts then one of your new best friends will be the common room kettle. If you only take one piece of advice from this letter, let it be this: on your first day bring a mug and a box of your favourite hot drink (oh, and hide it sneakily if you don't want people to help themselves!). The Year 13 common room contains the Shopatron, an amazing vending machine, which serves not only snacks but entire meals in the form of potatoes, cuppa soup, bagels - basically, a student's dream come true.

Whilst on the subject of Sixth Form perks, an important thing to mention has to be our study periods. These allow you time to work independently in school and if you are very organised it is possible to set aside the occasional period for relaxing in the common room.

When you enter Year 12, you will be placed in a form, which, for the next two years of team building, planning charity events and form periods, you will grow to appreciate and thrive with. Your form tutor is much more than just a supervisor; literally nothing gets past them. He or she helps you to settle in, keep on track with your grades and generally keep your life organised, as well as being there to help if things don't quite go according to plan.

The easiest way to meet people is to become involved in some of the extra-curricular activities, such as playing netball, singing and debating. There is literally a club or society for everyone, so you can find people with similar interests to you. Et voila: ready made friends served on a plate. Even if you've never tried calligraphy, badminton, politics or knitting before, you may find you have hitherto unknown talents, which may prove useful someday!

You will also be a leader in your house, one of Fearon, Hastings, Burton or Storer. House rivalry burns strongly, and we expect you to dress up and support your house, come the big events. There is always something to look forward to at the High School: - the famous Christmas Tableaux, the SnowBall, teachers' pantomime, and House Music, all in the autumn term.

Life at LHS does sometimes feel like a bit of a whirlwind, and you do often forget the meaning of the word bored. In the Sixth Form, you're given more freedom and responsibility and you really start to feel that you're growing up. These are the two most important years of your life

and all of the opportunities here will make working hard for the duration of Sixth Form so worthwhile. We hope you have as good a time as we have had!

The Senior Prefect Team 2018-2019

MAIN SUBJECTS

APPLIED SCIENCE

AQA Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Science

This course is ideal if you who want a chance to concentrate on some of the vocational aspects of science. This could lead to the study of a science-based course in higher education, particularly when studied alongside academic science qualifications. There are a number of courses you can consider by studying Applied Science such as nursing, forensic science, biomedical science or sports science. It can also lead to employment in applied science.

The Level 3 extended certificate qualification consists of:

- Unit 1 - Key concepts in science (written exam)
- Unit 2 - Applied experimental techniques (portfolio)
- Unit 3 - Science in the modern world (written exam plus pre-released material)
- Unit 4 - The human body (written exam)
- Unit 5 - Investigating science (portfolio)
- Unit 6 – one of three options:
 - Unit 6a - Microbiology (portfolio)
 - Unit 6b - Medical physics (portfolio)
 - Unit 6c - Organic chemistry (portfolio)

The units are graded as pass, merit, distinction or distinction*.

Overall half the assessment is based on external examinations and half is internally assessed by portfolio evidence.

The level 3 extended certificate in Applied Science contains a broad balance of Chemistry, Physics and Biology with a wide range of practical activities.

Applied Science is offered at LAS. AS is not available, this is two year course only.

ART

Fine Art A Level is an exciting and challenging area of study. The course is predominately about making art but art theory and criticism are central to this. The qualification teaches you how the creative process works from a wide range of theoretical and practical approaches. Whilst this is a predominately hands on subject, intellect is important. You will need to be resilient and open minded. You also need the determination to develop your draftsmanship skills. A good standard of written English is required for the two year course which includes a 3000 word critical and contextual essay. At A Level you choose your own area of study to pursue and have dedicated Sixth Form studio spaces you can visit at any time. You will work with your teacher and artist in residence closely and have the opportunity to attend cross Foundation workshops and trips to London Galleries.

OCR AS Level Fine Art: 100% exam

The one-year stand-alone AS level qualification is structured to help students develop skills in a range of media; form an understanding of historical and contemporary artists practice and engage in creative exploration and development. Emphasis is placed on drawing and critical analysis as a foundation for all further study. Students will be taught how to articulate using specialist vocabulary and advanced practical skills.

OCR A Level Fine Art: 60% coursework, 40% exam

The two-year A Level course provides students with the opportunity to concentrate on developing a specialist and sophisticated portfolio of work that demonstrates high order visual language skills. Students will investigate conceptual ways of working and expand their understanding of the theories of Art. The two-year course enables students to develop an understanding of good creative practice, to be ambitious and adventurous and to pursue individual areas of interest in a medium which suits their strengths.

What is expected?

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

Why study Art?

There will always be limits to how creative computers can be. A Level Art teaches adaptability and is excellent preparation for fast paced changes in industry. It can be a complementary addition to many other subjects and may ensure you stand out from the crowd. The creative industries are some of the largest growth areas of the economy, but you do not need to pursue a career in the arts to wish to take AS or A Level qualifications. If you do, possible careers include architect, curator, lecturer, auctioneer, photographer, and many more. Art foundation courses can provide a stepping stone to other courses or act as gap years. Budding surgeons, vets, dentists and engineers may also benefit from the manual dexterity the subject develops. For further information on how the study of the arts is now being increasingly welcomed by science and engineering firms as a way to foster innovation in employees visit www.stemtosteam.org

BIOLOGY

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

Skills needed

Enthusiasm and commitment

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

Each group is taught by two teachers. The lessons involve both theory and practical work and you will use different study skills including making notes, preparing information for presentations, planning, executing and writing up experiments. You will be expected to revise for tests at the end of each topic and be able to apply your knowledge in short structured questions as well as longer essay-type questions. In order to further your knowledge you should be prepared to read around the subject. You will develop your microscope skills by observing specimens and drawing diagrams. Practical skills are assessed throughout the course and reported at the end but the result will not count towards your A Level grade. Instead the written papers include practical content. At the end of Year 12 you will be expected to attend a residential field trip, the cost of which is around £280.

University courses and careers

If you wish to pursue a biological subject at university, Chemistry is also usually a requirement. Geography is useful for environmental and ecology-related courses. Physics, Maths, Computing, Psychology and Food are also complementary. None of these subjects is essential however and some students choose Biology as their only science subject, although this can limit the number of scientific degree courses open to you.

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

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

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

BUSINESS

What is Business about?

The course provides an opportunity to study in depth how businesses operate in the modern world on a local, national and global basis. All aspects of business behaviour and the relationships between businesses and consumers are covered. The course places great emphasis on how leaders and managers in business make decisions to succeed in an ever-changing environment. Areas studied include marketing, finance, operations and human resources. The teaching is based on current events placing a premium on up-to-date issues which are accessible to students.

Key skills required

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

There is a strong emphasis on personal research and the ability to undertake independent investigations using periodicals, the internet and books is essential. The research is used in assignments and classroom discussions. Assessment is through two exams at the end of Year 12 for AS and three exams at the end of Year 13 for A Level. The exams will require you to interpret and evaluate selected current news items using your knowledge of how businesses work.

Using A Level Business beyond school

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

CHEMISTRY

Is Chemistry for me?

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

If your answers to many of these questions are “yes”, you might like to consider AS or A Level Chemistry in the Sixth Form.

What does it go with?

The simple answer is anything you like!

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

The teaching at AS and A Level is very similar to GCSE, except that each set is taught by two teachers and the pace of lessons is faster. The lessons involve both theory and practical work and you will use different study skills including making notes, preparing information for presentations, revising for tests at the end of each topic, executing and writing up experiments. Once we have taught you the basic theory it is necessary to practise applying it in many different situations. Most of the questions require short answers but some more extended writing is required in parts of the examinations. You will extend your practical skills, again building on your experience at GCSE, with practical work being an integral part of the course which is assessed and the result reported but does not count towards the final A Level grade.

Where will it take me?

The Royal Society of Chemistry’s posters say “Not all chemists wear white coats”. Sixth Form Chemistry can lead to a degree in Chemistry which opens up an enormous range of career possibilities, both in and out of science. For details and ideas go to <http://www.chemsoc.org/careers> An exciting career in chemical research is available to those who really excel at the subject. Some sixth formers find Chemistry an asset in applying for courses in another scientific field, e.g. biochemistry, medicine, physiotherapy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, chemical engineering, materials science, accountancy, sports science, food technology and pharmacy to name a few. Chemistry can be an asset for degree courses requiring analytical skills, such as languages, management and law.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Classical Civilisation involves the study of the literature, material culture, thought, ideas, and history of the Greek and Roman worlds. You don't need to have studied Latin or Greek, as all the texts are studied in translation, and no prior knowledge of the classical world is presumed; all you need is an interest in the ancient world, an enjoyment of classical mythology, and a willingness to read and discuss literature. Grade B/6 or above in English Literature is advisable.

An A Level in Classical Civilisation will help you acquire important transferable skills such as analysing sources, developing independent, critical and evaluative approaches, improving your ability to formulate an effective line of argument and developing a valuable understanding of cultures very different from your own. You will be required to examine both literary and material/visual sources and students studying Classical Civilisation will be expected to enhance their understanding by participating in study days, museum trips and theatre trips. These are planned jointly with Loughborough Grammar School. There are also regular trips abroad for those interested.

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

AS Level

The World of the Hero, studying selected books of either the Iliad or the Odyssey. The component provides students with the opportunity to appreciate the lasting legacy of the Homeric world and to explore its attitudes and values. The epics of Homer, with their heroes, gods and exciting narratives, have inspired generations of readers and their influence can be seen in works such as Virgil's Aeneid, James Joyce's Ulysses, films such as Brother, Where Art Thou? and even Game of Thrones.

Greek Theatre, studying the physical theatre space, the production and purpose of Greek drama, and three key plays: Sophocles' Oedipus the King, cited by Aristotle as the perfect Greek tragedy; Euripides' Bacchae and Aristophanes' satirical and highly amusing Frogs.

A Level

Selected books of Virgil's Aeneid are added plus **one** topic from Greek religion, love and relationships, or politics of the late republic.

Classical Civilisation is usually taught jointly with LGS.

CLASSICAL GREEK

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

During Year 12 we will help you to consolidate your knowledge of Greek grammar and its linguistic structures, and develop an awareness of the influence of Greek on the English language. You will gain further practice in translating from Greek to English, meeting sentences of greater length and complexity as well as learning two new verb tenses - the perfect and the pluperfect. Additionally, you will gain some experience of translating from English into Greek, a discipline which will not only prove intellectually stimulating but which will also serve to secure your knowledge and recall of the essential accidence and syntax.

You will also start reading a selection of Greek literature which will help you develop your skills of literary analysis and your appreciation of both prose and verse literature. You will be expected to read, understand and make an informed personal response to the texts. During the full A Level course you should expect to experience a range of genres, such as epic (Homer), tragedy, history, philosophy (Plato), comedy and rhetoric.

By the end of the A Level course, our students can demonstrate:

- the ability to translate Classical Greek, prose or verse, into appropriate, idiomatic English
- a sophisticated and perceptive appreciation of a variety of Classical Greek literature, including an understanding of the context in which the literature was produced and an appreciation of the literary features used by Classical Greek authors in various genres
- the ability to respond sensitively and intelligently to classical Greek literature in essays that are coherent, well-structured and show evidence of personal engagement with the prescribed texts

Classical Greek is obviously an advantage for anyone wishing to read classics at university but is also a subject valued in its own right and goes well with both arts and science subjects.

Students build their knowledge of vocabulary and linguistic structures through reading and studying prose texts in Greek to become familiar with the vocabulary in the Defined Vocabulary List and prescribed syntax and accidence for the language paper at AS Level. The literature papers require study in depth of **two** prose set text selections (which may be by the same author and/or from the same work) and **two** verse set text selections.

Classical Greek is taught jointly with LGS.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

A Level Computer Science is a course as much about problem solving and automating solutions as it is about computers, although we use computers as tools and the course will give an understanding of how computers work. The algorithms that underpin our daily lives, whether that is finding our way with GPS satellite navigation, messaging our friends across the globe or even putting on our washing machine or TV, computers are running the processes that allow all these things and more to take place.

We study the AQA syllabus (7516 and 7517). The course assessment consists of two exams at AS and two at A Level one of which, in each case, is taken on screen and one being a traditional paper based exam. At A Level there is a project worth 20% of the marks.

Topics include programming, which you will learn to code in visual basic, data structures, representing data, computer architecture, and communications and networking as well as new areas of study such as big data, which attempts to answer the questions “What can we do with very large data sets?” and “How much data should be kept on individuals?”.

You do not have to hold GCSE Computing to start Computer Science at A Level but a willingness to read around your subject, a keen interest in technology and an aptitude for problem solving would really help.

Many great challenges lie in the future for computer scientists to solve; could we use robots to solve world hunger? How far can/should artificial intelligence develop? This course, with its emphasis on abstract thinking, general problem solving, algorithmic and mathematical reasoning, scientific and engineering-based thinking, is a good foundation for understanding these future challenges and indeed a good base for further study in computing, engineering or any mathematical science.

Computer Science is offered at LGS. AS is not available, this is two year course only.

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

The AS and A Level Drama and Theatre Studies offers you a balance of learning experiences associated with drama and the theatre. It is important that you are interested in gaining a greater understanding of how theatre and plays work and that you are keen to be involved with performances. You need to be curious about issues and ideas and have a creative instinct for communicating your views through drama. You may be keen on acting, writing or on the visual and technical side of theatre and wish to develop your skills in some or all of these areas. The qualification is designed to enable you to acquire a knowledge and understanding of the language of drama and theatre as well as to develop your performing and analytical skills. You have to be prepared to talk and write articulately about historical and political ideas. You will then test your own ideas in a practical, physical setting, often involving some difficult decisions, made in a group and under an immense amount of pressure.

During the course you will be exposed to the following aspects of theatre: the exploration of play texts, the creation of theatre, the performing of plays, the analysis of theatre and the critical evaluation of all of these elements.

Component 1 (Devising and monologue)

In this component you will develop your creative and exploratory skills to devise an original performance. The starting point will be a performance text and an influential theatre practitioner. In your creative explorations, you will learn how text can be manipulated to communicate meaning to audiences and begin the process of interpretation. You will gain an understanding of how a new performance can be developed through the practical exploration of the theatrical style and use of conventions of the chosen practitioner.

Component 2 (Text in performance)

By undertaking a role within a production of a play text and therefore being directed by your tutor, you will gain insight into the skills needed to direct. This unit allows you to acquire the techniques required of an actor when preparing for a production: for example, interpreting the text, building the character/s and developing the performance skills to give a fully rounded and sustained performance (externally assessed by a visiting examiner who will assess your performance skills only.) You will develop and demonstrate theatre-making skills, appropriate to your role as a performer or designer. You will explore how you realise artistic intentions in performance.

Component 3 (Theatre makers in practice)

Theatre is a collaborative art form and it is important that you have a clear understanding of how different creative ideas are put into practice. This component requires you to consider, analyse and evaluate how different theatre makers create impact. You will consider how production ideas and dramatic elements are communicated to an audience from the perspective of a director, a performer and a designer. As an informed member of the audience at a live performance you will deconstruct theatrical elements which inform your own production choices and develop your own ideas. This unit is a written examination which requires you to study in detail two set play texts and one prescribed historical period of theatrical development.

Drama and Theatre Studies is taught jointly with LGS and LAS

ECONOMICS

What is Economics?

Economics is a social science concerned with how the resources of the world (natural, manufactured and human) are allocated. The range of study embraces UK industries, the national economy and globalisation. Topics considered include how markets work, why banking is important, the psychology of consumer behaviour and global priorities to reduce poverty. Theories and diagrams are used to illustrate given outcomes and there is often a range of possible alternative solutions to questions posed. Credit is given to well-argued analysis based on effective use of evidence from real-life situations. Because the study of Economics concerns current affairs, it is extremely dynamic in nature with the methods used in the course changing every year. Assessment for AS is by two exams at the end of Year 12 and for A Level three exams at the end of Year 13. The exams require candidates to interpret data and evaluate case studies using their knowledge of economic concepts.

Key skills required

You should be comfortable expressing yourself both in short essay form and in diagrams using mathematical analysis. You need to enjoy mathematics and following current affairs to consider the course. There is a strong emphasis on personal research and the ability to undertake independent investigations concerning economic events is essential. The research is used in assignments and classroom discussions.

Using A Level Economics beyond school

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

ENGLISH LITERATURE

English Literature at AS and A Level has always been a dynamic and forward-looking subject. It is literature-based and includes the study of an exciting range of poetry, prose and drama from the 15th century to the present day. You should expect to read texts from the usual suspects, such as Shakespeare, to the bang up-to-date.

We follow the OCR specification at AS and at A Level. In Year 12, you will prepare for the AS Level, which now exists as a separate, stand-alone qualification. Assessment takes the form of two examinations: Shakespeare and poetry pre-1900 and poetry and drama post-1900. Text choices are varied and stimulating; you might find yourself considering Shakespeare's construction of the charismatic anti-hero in Richard III, or pursuing a feminist reading of *The Bloody Chamber*. If you decide to study A Level English Literature in Year 13, you will be examined both on new texts and those already studied in Year 12. Here, you can expect to explore texts and genres in more depth, picking up additional prose and drama texts to complement those studied in Year 12. The coursework module will enable you to pursue your own literary interests with greater freedom.

All tasks undertaken relate to close literary analysis: understanding the relationship between the writer's purpose and methods of achieving that purpose which means building on the skills gained at GCSE. You will begin to examine the wider themes and concepts which arise in texts in more detail, developing an understanding of some of the ways in which literature is written and interpreted and your own ability to analyse, evaluate and make connections across texts. You should also be prepared to develop your own judgements and independence in responding to texts. In terms of workload, expect an essay about once a week, independent note taking and wider reading, especially in relation to coursework. Thorough preparation for lessons will be vital, as will be the enthusiasm to communicate your ideas in discussion and debate.

English is a subject which will complement other arts subjects such as History, RS and Classics, but is extremely popular with linguists and scientists who enjoy a different method of study. With respect to higher education, the subject is highly popular in its own right and well respected for its academic rigour, but is also useful for any arts-related courses such as journalism, law, philosophy and PPE.

Why study English?

- because you enjoyed GCSE and want to explore literature more deeply
- because you like to think independently and are self-motivated
- because you enjoy expressing your ideas both in discussion and on paper
- because you have a passion for reading and discovery and a genuine interest in the way writers express their ideas.

FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION

WJEC level 3 Food Science and Nutrition diploma

Each unit within this qualification has an applied purpose which acts as a focus for the learning in the unit. It is assessed through a combination of a written exam, an external assignment set and marked by the exam board, and two centre-marked assignments. The units are:

Meeting the nutritional needs of specific groups – this involves a practical food showcase and an externally marked written examination. You will demonstrate an understanding of the science of nutrition and nutritional needs in a wide range of contexts. You will experience on-going practical sessions, to gain a wide range of high-level skills to produce quality food items to meet the needs of individuals.

Ensuring food is safe to eat – this is externally marked and involves experimentation and written research. This unit allows you to develop your understanding of the science of food safety and hygiene, essential knowledge for anyone involved in food production in the home or wishing to work in the food industry. Again practical sessions will support the gaining of theoretical knowledge and ensure learning is a tactile experience.

Experimenting to solve food production or current issues in Food Science and Nutrition - studying one of the two optional units allows you the opportunity to study subjects of particular interest or relevance to you, building on previous learning and experiences.

Awards are from Distinction* to Pass and are recognised in UCAS points for university applications.

Why study Food Science and Nutrition?

- because you enjoyed GCSE and want to broaden your understanding of current food and nutrition issues
- because you are creative and would like to learn complex practical skills
- because you enjoy a mixture of theoretical and practical lessons
- because you have a genuine passion for food and would like to join the food or nutrition industries

Beyond school

An understanding of Food Science and Nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Care providers and nutritionists in hospitals use this knowledge, as do sports coaches and fitness instructors. Hotels and restaurants, food manufacturers and government agencies also use this understanding to develop menus, food products and policies that support healthy eating initiatives. Possible university courses in this area include food and nutrition, human nutrition, public health nutrition and food science and technology.

GEOGRAPHY

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

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

The skills you will learn are wide and varied. If you study Geography you will:

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

You can combine Geography with a range of other subjects - sciences, Maths, Economics, Computer Science, languages, Art, Food, English, History. Careers areas include surveying or meteorology, banking, planning, tourism, accountancy, architecture, cartography, graphic design publishing, law, journalism management, environmental sciences and many, many more.

This course is a CIE international A Level and the marks from the AS units **do** count towards the final A Level, so they will be taken in the summer of Year 12.

At AS there are 2 core modules with 6 topics.

Core Physical Geography

Hydrology and fluvial geomorphology

Atmosphere and weather

Rocks and weathering

Core Human Geography

Population

Migration

Settlement dynamics

At A2 the following modules are studied:

Advanced Physical Geography Options

Coastal environments

Hazardous environments

And two from:

Advanced Human Geography Options

Environmental management

Global interdependence

Economic Transition

If you take A Level Geography you will be expected to attend a three-day residential field course which takes place in Year 12.

HISTORY

To study History you should be:

- well motivated and capable of working independently
- articulate with sound literacy skills
- interested in and willing to debate ideas and interpretations

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

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

We will follow the AQA AS/A Level syllabus. There are two examined units:

- Russia 1856 – 1964 Tsarism – Revolution – Communism
- The Wars of the Roses 1450 - 1499

Candidates also submit a coursework essay on Europe 1789 – 1871: Revolution and Nationalism

History complements most other subjects:

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

The skills of assimilating and analysing information and formulating and communicating arguments which you will develop studying History will equip you for higher education and employment, including in areas such as business, law, journalism and the civil service. Your particular expertise might also take you into areas like research, museums, the arts and teaching.

HISTORY OF ART

To study History of Art you should be:

- highly self-motivated and open minded
- a perceptive and analytical thinker
- have passion and interest in art and humanities
- be interested and inquisitive about the world and people

Why study History of Art?

Art is a way of responding to the world around you, it reflects your beliefs and ideas and is a way of communicating this to others. By studying History of Art you will be able to understand the reasons why art continues to be such an important aspect of human life. You will also develop transferable skills such as critical thinking and the ability to form arguments and opinions both orally and in essay form. These are particularly useful in careers allied to law, advertising, business, publishing, media, and film. Careers in galleries, museums, buying and selling art are also possible. The subject also complements degrees in art, architecture, humanities and marketing.

What will you do?

You will learn how to analyse and describe works of art, architecture and sculpture from the western world and beyond in order to understand the times, people and cultures who created them. You will gain in-depth knowledge and understanding which will be a lifelong asset and will inform your everyday decision-making, opening your eyes to new ideas and new ways of looking at the world.

Topics include:

- Themes in art: war, identity, nature
- Key artists and architects in western and non-western traditions
- Movements in art history such as the renaissance, modernism in Europe and contemporary art and architecture in Britain and the USA.

The Edexcel course has two written papers, the first covering visual analysis and themes and the second movements in art.

We encourage students to see and experience art works at first hand through visiting exhibitions and galleries in the UK and internationally.

History of Art is offered at LAS. AS is not available, this is two year course only.

LATIN

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

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

Latin AS and A Level require you to prepare texts for lessons, and to discuss in class the author's intention, analysing content and language. Literature is examined by questions on extracts from the set texts and extended written analysis. You will extend your vocabulary and understanding of grammar and idiom. Language work, be it translation from the Latin, comprehension or prose composition, is an essential part of this qualification.

Latin goes well with all arts subjects and, in particular, History, English, RS, Modern Languages and, of course, Classical Civilisation. Scientists also derive much benefit from the precision of Latin and our students successfully combine it with science and mathematical subjects. The subject obviously leads to further study in classics or archaeology at university, but it is also a discipline much respected for its logic and for the knowledge that students can bring to their study of later civilisations and societies.

Students build their knowledge of vocabulary and linguistic structures through reading and studying prose and verse texts in Latin to become familiar with the vocabulary in the Defined Vocabulary List and prescribed syntax and accidence for Latin language exams.

You will study in depth **one** prose set text and **one** verse set text in Year 12. The current choice of texts includes extracts from Cicero, Philippic II; Tacitus, Annals I; Virgil, Aeneid XI and Horace Satires. An awareness of the immediate literary context from which the set texts have been taken is also required

Assessment at A Level also includes an unseen translation written paper and a choice of prose composition or comprehension. Two further literature selections are also studied; the current choice of texts includes extracts from Cicero, Philippic II; Tacitus Annals I; Apuleius Metamorphoses V and Virgil, Aeneid XI, Horace, Odes and Ovid, Amores Book II.

You will have the opportunity to join the regular trips abroad and are expected to participate in study days, and museum and theatre trips.

Latin is taught jointly with LGS

MATHEMATICS AND FURTHER MATHEMATICS

A Level Maths is for those who have enjoyed and excelled in the subject at GCSE level.

To study A Level Maths your algebraic skills need to be sound as the course relies heavily upon algebra.

During lessons there will be regular use of interactive whiteboards, appropriate software, spreadsheets, revision DVDs/materials and websites. You will need to have good independent study skills.

Mathematics, apart from its own inherent values, supports a wide range of subjects and can be studied to complement most other subjects.

Entry Requirements

To study Mathematics, you need to have achieved a grade 7 at GCSE.

To study Further Mathematics, you need to have achieved a grade 8 or 9 at GCSE.

Mathematics Course

The A Level course is linear and consists of two thirds pure maths and one third applied maths. The applied section is split evenly between mechanics topics and statistics topics. The pure maths covers algebraic techniques, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, series and elementary calculus. The topics covered in statistics are probability, distributions and hypothesis testing. Mechanics covers kinematics and Newton's laws of motion.

Further Mathematics Course

The course is also linear and split into 50% further pure maths, 25% further statistics and 25% decision maths.

The pure maths covers complex numbers, matrices and further vectors, hyperbolic functions and differential equations. The topics covered in statistics are different distributions, chi squared tests, hypothesis testing and errors. The decision topics are algorithms, critical path analysis and linear programming.

Higher education choices with mathematics

Maths and Further Maths are obviously needed if choosing to study Maths at university. However, the content studied in Maths and Further Maths is applicable to many fields of academic study such as geography, psychology, sports science, engineering, economics, medicine, scientific research, actuarial work, statistical services and teaching.

Mathematics students become better at thinking logically and analytically. Through solving problems you develop resilience and are able to think creatively and strategically. The writing of structured solutions, proof and justification of results help you to formulate reasoned arguments and importantly you will have excellent numeracy skills and the ability to process and interpret data. All of this will be of value to you in higher education and beyond.

MODERN LANGUAGES (FRENCH, GERMAN, SPANISH)

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

A Level languages are not only more of what you are used to from GCSE: there is much more emphasis on the way the countries in which the languages are spoken actually work and think. Languages do not get more difficult the further you take them: you just learn more of them, spread your wings, and enjoy being able to cope in a bigger and bigger range of situations. You will be using the latest textbooks, with a wealth of on-line and interactive material. Plus, you get a whole period every week with a native speaker to concentrate on conversation.

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

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

Doing a language at A Level does not for a minute mean you have to carry it on at university. Some do, but many use it as part of their bundle for a huge range of courses. It is difficult to think of any course for which a modern language, at least at AS, is not seen as a plus. As with university courses, so with careers: the possible range is huge, and only a minority make their languages their career, though very many use their languages as a tool in their working life.

MUSIC

Why study Music?

Music A Level is an incredibly diverse course, encompassing a variety of practical and academic approaches to the study of music. The varied nature of the course enables students to develop highly desirable skills in areas such as independent learning, self-management, teamwork, problem solving, communication and creativity. Music A Level can be a pathway to almost any degree course. Taught in mixed classes across all three senior schools in our state-of-the-art facilities, the additional support for any musician at the Loughborough Schools Foundation is unrivalled. In addition to the timetabled allocation (10 periods a week) most students will be entitled to a repertoire session (half an hour a week) supporting performance skills. There are also numerous ensembles and choirs available for students to access, which all play a big part in developing any musician, and should be seen as a must for an A Level musician.

Music A Level is structured around the same 3 components that have been studied at GCSE: performance, composition, listening and appraising.

We follow the AQA course www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music which is an interesting and exciting course, with an element of choice to the topics that you learn.

Listening, analysis and contextual understanding

This covers 2 (AS) or 3 (A Level) areas taken from: Western Classical Tradition (compulsory), Pop, Music for Media, Music for Theatre, Jazz, Contemporary Traditional Music or Art Music since 1910 (A Level only). This is assessed by exam with listening and written questions.

Music performance

Solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist and/or vocalist and/or music production

Composition

This consists of two pieces: composition to a brief and free composition.

Music is taught centrally in the joint Music Department across the Foundation

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

What is Music Technology A Level about?

The Music Technology A Level course provides students with a grounding in both the theory and history of Music Technology and its practical application through a range of coursework-based tasks. Pupils will learn to sequence, record and arrange using modern, professional-standard technology. This course has an emphasis on practical projects making use of our new recording studio.

Why should I choose Music Technology A Level?

If you have an interest in becoming a sound engineer, record producer or working in the visual and sound media then this course is for you. However, if you are also interested in learning how the music you listen to every day is created and recorded then you will find this course relevant and interesting.

What will you need to do?

Recording Students will produce one recording, chosen from a list of 10 songs, consisting of a minimum of 5 instruments. They will record each instrument and then edit, process and mix them using appropriate sequencing software.

Technology-based composition Using a combination of sampled, recorded and MIDI tracks in imaginative and creative ways, students will create, edit and structure an entirely technology-based composition.

Listening and analysing A theory based unit with a listening paper at the end. Students will develop their listening and analysing skill through the study of a range of production techniques and the development of Music Technology in the last century. They will cover such genres as jazz, blues, rock 'n' roll, rock, punk, metal, soul, disco and funk, reggae, acoustic and folk, commercial pop, urban, electronic and dance, computer games and film.

Producing and analysing A techniques based unit with a practical paper at the end. Students will combine their learning from the other units to work with unedited audio and MIDI materials to process and correct them using the skills they have learnt, culminating in a series of audio bounces and a final mix.

What can I do with an A Level in Music Technology?

There are many career and higher education options open to anyone who achieves this qualification. These range from entry level jobs at many theatres around the country in their sound departments to the highly prestigious Tonmeister degree at Surrey university which has produced many sound engineers and music producers. The A Level also provides you with many transferrable skills that will prepare you for the demands of higher education and the world of work.

Music Technology is taught centrally in the joint Music Department across the Foundation

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

What is A Level Physical Education?

Physical Education is an interesting and diverse course that will challenge you in a variety of areas. Whether you enjoy practical work, are scientifically minded, or like the social and theoretical approach, there is something for everyone. You can find out more details about the course at www.ocr.org.uk.

Why study A Level Physical Education?

A Level PE is an opportunity to do something different! It combines an enjoyment of sport with an understanding of how the body and mind adapt as you enhance and progress both your skills and your fitness levels. It also looks at how sport in society has evolved, and the challenges and issues facing all athletes, both on and off the field. Current sporting issues in the media are discussed and linked to the relevant topic areas.

What type of student chooses A Level Physical Education?

Students who choose A Level Physical Education are those who have an interest in the world of sport both academically and practically. Students who have a thirst for knowledge and wish to understand about all aspects of the sporting world, from anatomy and physiology (how the body works) to acquiring movement skills (how we learn and develop) and contemporary issues in sport (referencing articles in the newspaper such as drugs and violence in sport).

What are the career/higher education prospects?

This is an exciting and challenging course with lots of career opportunities. It can open the door to many different degree courses. Students gaining an A Level in Physical Education can step onto many career pathways such as PE teaching or lecturing, sport psychology, nutrition and diet, sports training and coaching, sports massage, sport and exercise science but there are many more than this! Please come and see us to discuss more. More information on sports courses and avenues can be found at <http://www.careers-in-sport.co.uk/>.

What extra-curricular opportunities are there within this subject?

Students taking this subject tend to already be involved in the sporting extra-curricular life of the school. They are encouraged to help support the coaching of junior age groups as well as potentially developing their officiating skills. Students who have chosen A Level PE are expected to attend at least one extra-curricular practice per week, if their main sport is delivered by the school, in order to develop their practical skills and knowledge.

PE is taught jointly with LAS. AS is not available, this is two year course only.

PHYSICS

Physics helps us to understand how our world works, from the smallest particles through to the huge galaxies that make up the universe. Physics provides a broad training in skills for employment; an ability to grasp concepts quickly, a determination to find coherent answers, along with problem solving, analytical, mathematical and IT skills.

Even if you decide that you do not want to work in a physics-related industry, the skills and knowledge that you develop by studying Physics will help you in whichever area you go into.

If you have enjoyed Physics so far and want to know more, then consider joining us in the Sixth Form. The course will be varied and challenging and each group will be taught by two teachers to give you the benefit of their particular expertise and to add variety.

Profile of a physicist

- has an enquiring mind and asks how things work, enjoys a challenge and likes problem solving
- has mathematical skills (You need to be mathematically confident. If you do not take Maths at AS an extra support lesson is provided.)
- has practical skills and can relate theory to real experiments
- can write logically, expressing complex ideas clearly and concisely

The nature of the course

You will study a number of exciting and interesting topics including kinematics and dynamics, energy and momentum, Newton's laws of motion, mechanical properties of matter, electric circuits, waves, matter, quantum and nuclear physics, fields, Einstein's equations and astrophysics.

Assessment is by examination, although there are plenty of practical activities incorporated into the course, and some of these will be assessed and reported separately from your overall grade.

Complementary subjects

Maths is essential for anyone thinking of taking physics or engineering past school and Chemistry helps to develop similar skills. Biology, Geography, Economics or languages often feature in the package but then so do most other subjects from Art for architects to English for science journalists. Apart from the obvious degrees in physics/engineering/maths, Physics is relevant to courses such as dentistry, medicine, meteorology, physiotherapy, sports science and architecture to name but a few. Many physicists turn to accountancy and business since they have the necessary analytical and numerical skills. See the Institute of Physics website <http://careers.iop.org> for more ideas.

POLITICS

What is Politics?

Politics is an exciting subject. It can be of no surprise therefore to read that we, the teachers that teach it, are biased in thinking it offers students very special attractions. It is a subject that has significance for all our lives. Each morning its complex canvas unfolds with daily papers and broadcast news; by evening new details are painted in and the scene is subtly, sometimes dramatically changed. Politics is unpredictable, dynamic, it affects us, it is about us. In one sense the canvas is us; a projection of ourselves and our aspirations, a measure of our ability to live together. Politics is arguably the most important focus of study on the human condition.

Politics at A Level

There are no preconditions for studying Politics at A Level, but students need to be aware that they will be expected to read widely and have an interest in current affairs. Methodologically Politics is akin to subjects like History, therefore good analytical and prose-based skills are necessary for what is a challenging but ultimately very rewarding course. A strong performance in humanities-based subjects at GCSE is an advantage.

The focus for your first year study will include topics such as democracy in the UK; voting behaviour, political parties, the institutions of government (parliament, supreme court and prime minister). In addition to topics on UK government and governance, this year topics focusing upon the EU and devolution of power within the UK have been added to the specification, which is timely post-Brexit.

In the second year the focus shifts to a study of the American political system. We live in an era that the political historian Walter Lafeber correctly describes as the American age, consequently an understanding of US government and politics is increasingly relevant given the links between domestic US policies, UK politics and current world events. A fascinating new addition to the course will be the study of political ideology, which will include exploration of key underlying theories to the discipline, for example conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

Where can Politics take me?

Politics is useful for students who plan to study anything from history to medicine - or indeed the good number of our students go on to study Politics itself. An A Level, or even degree, in Politics is incredibly versatile. It develops analytical and practical skills which are valued for researchers, broadcasters, journalists, local government officers, civil servants, pollsters, lobbyists, teachers, lawyers, financiers and bankers, the health service, public relations, the police and military, management training, advertising and a wide range of business opportunities.

Subject Enrichment

The Politics society meets fortnightly and is run by students. It has organised a series of debates reflecting current affairs, alternative elections and visits by MPs and a US congressman. The department organises a number of trips including a Politics students' conference and a bi-annual trip to the USA.

Politics is normally offered at LGS

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is the scientific study of people, the mind, behaviour and experience. It is a thriving academic discipline with the opportunity to explore key features of everyday life that are of direct relevance. Psychologists and psychological research have a big impact on all aspects of public life, particularly in areas such as education, health, the economy, industry, and the criminal justice system. Students studying psychology will learn to assess and analyse research evidence for its credibility and to consider how usefully the research and results can be applied to change behaviour in a practical way

Skills required

- A genuine interest in human behaviour
- An ability to learn and critically evaluate theories and studies
- Confidence in using maths – statistics is an important part of the course

Teaching and learning methods

Each group is taught by two members of staff. The lessons will involve elements of theory and practical work. Psychology is taught using a variety of enjoyable active learning techniques including mini experiments and observations. You will be expected to revise for tests at the end of each topic and be able to apply your knowledge in short structured questions as well as longer essay style questions. You should be prepared to read around the subjects in order to develop your knowledge further.

University courses and careers

Psychology offers an ideal introduction for those interested in studying psychology at degree level. It also supports applications for almost any science based degree course and an equally wide range of humanities courses. Studying Psychology develops transferable and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide range of career opportunities in many areas including health and caring professions, management, education, criminology, marketing and advertising.

Essential course information

Specification: AQA Psychology

AS Paper 1 - Introductory topics in psychology

Social influence (conformity and obedience), memory (types, forgetting and eyewitness testimony), attachment (child development)

AS Paper 2- Psychology in context

Psychological concepts, theory and research, biopsychology, psychopathology (abnormality – phobias, depression and OCD),

A Level will include the compulsory content above plus unit 3 which includes relationships, schizophrenia and forensic psychology.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Do you enjoy:

- Thinking about important issues and big questions, supporting your views and arguing your case with others?
- Considering how decisions are made and trying to find solutions to the ethical problems of the 21st century?
- Pondering on philosophical questions and issues?
- Evaluating the reliability of certain texts and documents?
- Understanding the opinions of well-known scholars?
- Understanding the role and significance of Christianity as a world religion?

If the answer to some of these questions is yes, then you will enjoy Religious Studies.

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

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

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

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

Essential information

- We follow the AQA course
- There is no coursework content
- You will not study any world religion other than Christianity.
- There are two components: philosophy and religion, and ethics, religion and society.

GCSE Religious Studies contains Christianity and ethics content which provides a solid foundation for the A Level course. Students without GCSE in the subject may still be able to take A Level in some circumstances.

SOCIOLOGY

In Sociology you will consider a range of topics such as the current education system, the changing nature of families, whether religious beliefs are still significant in today's society, as well as crime and deviant behaviour. This is an interesting and enjoyable subject which will open your eyes and may even lead you to question the way you think. The study of Sociology allows you to gain transferable written and oral communication skills, the ability to understand complex ideas and apply these to practical situations, extensive research and analytical skills, confidence to conduct interviews and surveys plus interpret and challenge numerical data and statistics. All of these are useful for employment and higher education.

Complementary courses

Psychology, Business, English, History, Geography.

University and career choices

Career choices can be varied, including criminology, social work, human resources, teaching, the police, but really any occupation where you work with others.

Essential course information

Specification: AQA Sociology

Assessment at the end of the two-year course involves three exams lasting two hours each covering:

- Education, families and households,
- Crime and deviance,
- Beliefs, and research methods.

Sociology is offered at LAS. AS is not available, this is two year course only.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

The aim of our enrichment programme is to extend students' education and personal growth beyond their academic courses. It comprises a wide range of choices designed to give students the opportunity to develop new interests, learn new skills, gain new experiences and broaden their knowledge. Hugely varied and demanding, the programme calls on students to develop self-reliance, promotes citizenship and prepares them to meet the world of work or further study with confidence and commitment.

All students will have a weekly timetabled lesson for PSHCE. This session aims to address the challenges ahead both academically and socially and embrace an ever changing society by exploring issues relevant to the age group, for example stress management, university and careers choices in Year 12, personal safety, finance and health awareness in Year 13. The programme draws upon outside agencies when required, giving students the opportunity to hear a variety of speakers throughout the year.

All Sixth Form students also take part in the recreational activities programme on a Wednesday afternoon. There is a choice of sporting and fitness activities both in school and in outside facilities, which provide the opportunity to enjoy traditional games or develop new interests. Current opportunities include swimming, circuit training, gym, pilates, indoor rock climbing, badminton, fitness boot camp, golf, rounders, squash, and tennis. There is also the opportunity for those who wish to take the sports' leadership level 2 and level 3 qualifications.

On a Thursday afternoon our programme supplements the extensive extra-curricular enrichment opportunities available to Sixth Form students and, together with their examination subjects, plays a valuable part in their development as confident, well rounded adults. Certain options such as CCF, the extended project qualification, financial capability and Young Enterprise are guaranteed to run annually. Other options run depending on staff availability.

COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)

The combined cadet force is a Ministry of Defence sponsored youth organisation whose aim is for students to develop powers of leadership by means of training to promote the qualities of responsibility, self-reliance, resourcefulness, endurance and perseverance: it is most certainly not intended to be a recruiting organisation though the cadet experience may be valuable to those considering a career in the armed services.

Year 12 students who wish to become cadets may join the Army or RAF Section and they will be expected to serve in the contingent for at least one academic year. They will be shown how to wear uniform correctly and be taught sufficient drill skills to enable them to appear with confidence in public as members of the contingent on Remembrance Sunday in November and on our annual inspection day in April or May. In addition to these basic skills they will be instructed how to use the cadet rifle safely and how to navigate with map and compass and, of course, those in the RAF will be given the opportunity to fly in RAF aircraft as often as possible. Many students choose to continue with CCF in Year 13.

The Ministry of Defence provides for most of the costs of running the CCF, but there are some costs that are not covered, for instance, the service requirement for a contribution towards rations and transport, so these are taken care of via an initial joining fee of £100 and a further annual subscription of £35 for those who wish to continue in year 13. The cost of going to a camp is calculated at about £10 per day and, although every other item of uniform is issued free of charge by MoD, cadets normally buy their own boots as these are very personal items. Other expenditure requirements are rare and no one should miss the opportunity to join because of financial difficulty. The contingent commander is Captain Murphy, who is based at LGS.

CORE MATHS

Core Maths is a relatively new level 3 qualification for students who have achieved a grade 4 (formerly grade C) or above at GCSE Maths and wish to develop their practical maths skills for the real world, be it in work, study or everyday life. It is equivalent to an AS Level and will also help with other A Level subjects – in particular with science, Geography, Business Studies, Psychology and Economics.

This course develops students' ability to apply mathematical analysis to real life contexts. You will be given sets of data and other information to which you will need to apply a range of mathematical techniques in order to compare, analyse and draw conclusions from the data.

Much of the mathematics involved will be familiar from IGCSE/GCSE and can be split into 4 areas:

- Applications of statistics
- Probability
- Linear programming
- Sequences and growth

The exam consists of two papers. You will be provided with several sets of data which you have to analyse in order to answer questions on comprehension and application.

The mathematical techniques will be learned/revised using worksheets and then applied to the contexts in the Edexcel Level 3 Maths in Context text book. For new mathematical techniques, not included in the IGCSE/GCSE, such as Spearman's rank, it might be necessary to set some homework in order to get through the content within a year.

CREATIVE WRITING

Creative Writing is open to anyone interested in writing. Studying English is not a requirement and many students have pursued the course alongside a range of A level subjects. The sessions are spent learning about writing in different forms: fiction, non-fiction, script and poetry, eventually building the confidence to share work and to develop skills in critiquing writing and exploring various models of writing in the four forms. Visiting writers are often invited to talk to the class about their work and there are optional opportunities both for a residential writing course and other writing days during the year. Past students have gone on to study creative writing at university but for many this course is simply a refreshing and creative weekly session which allows for independent learning and reflection. Students who have completed the Year 12 course may continue the subject in to Year 13.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Are you interested in the world around you but feel as though you could know, and understand, more? Then this could be the course for you. You will learn more about topics such as North and South Korea, propaganda, radicalisation, genocide and medical ethics (including the beginning and end of life debate). The topic focus will change each half term and you will have a chance to learn the basics before researching more in depth matters and sharing your findings with the group.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

The EPQ offers the opportunity to study a topic in depth and produce a final project. It is a free-standing qualification and its purpose is to add a further dimension to Sixth Form study and to stretch the more ambitious scholar.

Students will be required to:

- Choose an area of interest
- Draft a project title
- Draft aims of the project
- Plan, research and carry out the project
- Provide evidence of all stages of project production
- Deliver a presentation to a specified audience.

Students who wish to attempt the EPQ will attend an introductory set of lessons that prepare them to choose a topic and to carry out research. For much of the course they will work independently, although their progress will be monitored by a supervisor who will offer guidance and support. During the course there will be further lessons to develop the analytical skills of the students and to prepare them to write the project. Assessment of the EPQ is based on the quality of the project log which is marked internally and externally moderated.

The finished project can be a dissertation (of approximately 5,000 words), a performance, a piece of art, a community project, a CD or DVD, or even computer software.

The EPQ represents a significant additional undertaking for any student, so good time-management will be essential.

FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

The London Institute of Banking and Finance provides qualifications in financial capability. **These are self-study courses using online materials with no teaching involved.** Students acquire a comprehensive view of the scope of the UK financial industry and the ability to make judgements on financial products. It is therefore an excellent opportunity to develop some important life skills and can be a significant addition to a UCAS application. For those interested in a career in banking or financial services, it is invaluable. Both courses, detailed below, include assessment by an online test and a written paper for each of two units; these are sat in January and May.

Certificate in Financial Services (CeFS)

This AS equivalent course, with UCAS points, is designed to provide students with the core disciplines of financial capability. The content covers borrowing, saving and planning using financial products. Students acquire a comprehensive view of the scope of the UK financial industry and the ability to make judgements on financial products. It is therefore an excellent opportunity to develop some important life skills and a significant addition to a UCAS application. For those interested in a career in financial services including banking, it is invaluable.

Diploma in Financial Services (DipFS)

This A level equivalent course, with UCAS points, extends the CeFS learning to cover all aspects of the wider financial environment in the UK. It is an ideal precursor to a career in financial services and banking.

GOLD CREST AWARD

This option will allow you to work on a project of your own design to gain a Gold CREST award. We will help pair you with a mentor and you will be entered for the National Science and Engineering Competition. Ideally you should be doing at least one science subject but this is not essential; you just need to have a keen interest in science, engineering or technology! You can work individually or in teams of up to 4. There are lots of ideas for projects on the CREST website and we have lots of resources in school such as raspberry pi boards, LEGO mindstorm kits and other scientific materials. There is a cost of £50 for the CREST registration and entry into the National Competition.

LIFE AFTER LHS

This course, for Year 13 students, will run in the Autumn and Spring Terms. Sessions will change each half term and will include topics such as:

- Cooking on a budget
- Finance (Student finance, loans, mortgages, credit cards etc.)
- Religious cults and radicalisation
- Surviving the move to university (freshers' week, societies, staying safe on and off campus, work life balance)
- Philosophy – answering the “big” questions

VOLUNTARY SERVICE (VSU)

VSU offers the following placement options on a Thursday afternoon. The placements and visits will start in the Autumn Term and finish at the end of the Spring Term. You will be required to sign a consent form to state that you will commit to the placement for two terms.

Fairfield - you will act as a class room helper and assist the class teacher with class room activities.

Ashmount School – this school provides education for pupils with special educational needs. You will be a class room helper and assist the class teacher with class room activities. Please note that you will need to leave LHS at 13:15 and travel by taxi to Ashmount School based at Thorpe Hill Loughborough. You will return to LHS by taxi for 15:30.

Please note that Thursday afternoon VSU placements CANNOT be used for the voluntary section of any of the Duke of Edinburgh's awards.

Additional opportunities with VSU

Places are available for pairs of students to visit a resident at Connaught House, a local care home for the elderly, during lunchtimes.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Young Enterprise offers Year 12 students the opportunity to run their own business. Working in a team, they develop an original business idea and bring it to market, ultimately selling to the general public. They have designated roles within their business dependent on their individual skill and interest with responsibility for functions such as finance, production and marketing. The team operates as an independent trading company dealing with all the problems a real business would face in their quest to gain sales and profit. This is a challenging, practical activity which enables students to develop their entrepreneurial skills and discover if the commercial environment appeals to them. It is also excellent for improving their teamwork and communication skills. Young Enterprise can be a very useful addition to a UCAS application.

CAREERS

Once in the Sixth Form, students are encouraged to begin thinking about what they might want to do in the future. The careers department can offer them a huge amount of up-to-date, reliable information about the vast range of higher education courses and occupations available to them, enabling students to make informed decisions at every stage. Traditionally the majority of our students go on to university, completing their UCAS applications in Year 13. For this reason, we run a number of whole cohort events and support sessions which focus on making informed choices and navigating the UCAS process. Individual careers guidance is available, however, to all students throughout their time in the Sixth Form irrespective of their future aspirations; working closely with form tutors and subject teachers we are here to help students achieve their ambitions and to take the next steps towards what we hope will be a happy and successful future.

Practice interviews, often with outside partners and contacts, are available on request. Information about higher education open days and the enormous range of gap year opportunities at home and overseas is also provided. Close contacts with the LSF Development Office enable us to keep in touch with former students and invite them back to advise current Year 12 and 13 students.

All students who completed their GCSE studies at Loughborough High School were given the opportunity to enrol in the Inspiring Futures Futurewise scheme, a comprehensive careers service designed to assist young people in recognising their talents and developing them into valuable, marketable skills. Membership guarantees access to high-quality online and personal support from enrolment right up to the age of twenty-three. Our Inspiring Futures adviser visits regularly to provide support and advice to individuals and the organisation keeps us informed of new developments in higher education and the world of work. New entrants to the Sixth Form may complete the Futurewise profiling by arrangement if they have not already done so in their previous school.

The careers department also holds a biennial careers convention where pupils and their parents have the opportunity to obtain information on a variety of careers, to put their questions to our visiting speakers and gain networking contacts. During the 2018 event nearly forty speakers, many of them alumni of the Loughborough Schools Foundation, took part in careers speed dating and gave presentations about their careers to date. The next careers convention will take place during National Careers Week in March 2020.