

Colchester County High School for Girls

Sixth
Form
2020 Entry



A Centre of Excellence for Learning and Thinking

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“Welcome to CCHSG”



It is my great privilege as the Executive Principal of Colchester County High School for Girls to warmly welcome you to our unique and inspiring community. I hope that you find the Prospectus useful in helping you decide if this is the right Sixth Form for you and which A Levels you wish to study. The Sixth Form has an excellent academic reputation and we are extremely ambitious for our students. The standards of teaching and learning are outstanding and we expect Sixth Formers to work hard and take increasing responsibility for their learning. This is a vibrant, happy school providing an exceptional opportunity for students to develop their talents, enjoy themselves and flourish as individuals. The learning and wellbeing of our students is at the centre of all that we do.

We are proud of our pastoral system; our supportive, caring tutors and pastoral assistants will listen to any concerns. The school was founded in 1909 to provide an excellent education for girls and continues to combine both tradition and innovation to fulfil that aim in the 21st Century. The safe and secure environment fosters self belief and encourages our students to develop leadership skills, preparing them to be well rounded, active and capable citizens. Since September 2018 our students have benefitted from a stunning new Sixth Form centre, providing them with a high quality professional working and social environment, complete with lecture theatre, ICT suite and common room.

Our enthusiastic teachers work incredibly hard to support our Sixth Form students and are always willing to give up a great deal of their time outside the classroom. We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities including drama, music, arts and sports and enrich the curriculum with visits throughout the year to places of interest in Britain and abroad.

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

Gillian Marshall

Mrs Gillian Marshall
Executive Principal



A Message from the Student Leadership Team

As members of the CCHSG Student Leadership Team, we would like to warmly welcome you to our Sixth Form. We are delighted to represent a school with such a strong and diverse student community.

Our school makes the transition from GCSEs to A Levels a smooth and simple one, with constant support from teachers to help us surpass our academic expectations. As well as this, we are provided with many opportunities outside the classroom, such as Young Enterprise, European Youth Parliament, sporting events, musical performances and drama shows and productions - there is something for everybody no matter where your interests lie.

We are given the guidance and encouragement we need to help us choose our next steps, as well as the skills to get us there. Our time at CCHSG has helped us develop as young people and realise our potential not only academically but in many other areas of experience.

We wish you the best of luck in your examinations and hope to see you at CCHSG.

CCHSG Student Leadership Team

“The development of student’s leadership and team working skills is excellent”

Ofsted

“The school rightly regards Sixth Form students as excellent ambassadors and role models” *Ofsted*



Innovation, tradition and a bright future...

Examination Success

We use Alps (A Level Performance Systems) which is a nationally recognised system established over twenty years ago. Alps provides minimum target grades based on a student's average GCSE score and the benchmark used is the 75th percentile of A Level candidates. The "T" score provides us with the overall measure of grades achieved against their individual target grades of all examinations taken by our Year 13 students over the last 3 years and illustrates the excellent progress they made.

According to the Telegraph ranking, CCHSG students performed the joint best nationally in 2018. These figures are based on the percentage of pupils achieving five or more A*-C/9-4 grades, combined with the DfE's Progress 8 measure.



CCHSG is also top in Essex for student progress, with a Progress 8 score of 1.22 meaning that our students on average achieved almost a GCSE grade higher than their prior attainment would have predicted. This is particularly significant as our students join us already achieving at a high level.

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

- 58% of all grades were A* or A
- 82% of all grades were A* to B
- 18 students achieved 4 A*/A grades, including EPQ and a further 17 achieved 3 A*/A grades

Student Destinations

Each year over 95% of students apply to university. Many submit successful applications to Oxbridge and others are offered places at the UK's top ranked universities on highly competitive courses. A large number of students apply for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science as well as a range of other courses, depending on their interests and academic ability. In 2018:

- 95% of students progressed on to Higher Education
- 61% of students gained places at Russell Group Universities
- 100% of students progressed on to university, a work experience gap year, apprenticeship or employment in a field of their choice

CCHSG provides individualised support for student progression to ensure that students have the opportunity to pursue a variety of pathways. Recent student destinations have included:

- University for the Creative Arts to read Fashion Design
- RADA to study Technical Theatre
- Art Foundation Courses
- Internship at Bank of England
- Music Conservatoire
- University of London to read Journalism
- University of East Anglia to read Nursing

"The standards reached by the students during their time at the Sixth Form are exceptionally high" *Ofsted*

At least a third of our Sixth Form students joined us in Year 12 from other secondary schools. The foundation they received there and the supportive environment at CCHSG ensured that all our Sixth Form students achieved excellent results.

Life in the Sixth Form

Personalised Learning Programme

Students leave our Sixth Form not only with an excellent set of A Level results, but a broad range of experiences. We achieve this by offering wide ranging enrichment activities in addition to the A Level courses, allowing students to follow a highly personalised learning programme tailored to their individual strengths and interests.

Students will generally be taught by one or two members of staff for each subject area. As students progress from Year 12 into Year 13 we ensure that there is continuity of teaching staff as far as possible. All our staff have degrees or higher degrees in their academic disciplines. Many have supplemented their teaching skills through external marking experience with the major examination boards. Staff seek to engage and stretch students, often enhancing the learning experience with trips, visits and other additional activities.



The levels of care, guidance and support are outstanding.”

Pastoral Support

There are approximately 120 students per Year Group. Each year around 30% of our total intake is made up of external students from other local schools. Students comment on the intimate nature of the environment where they feel welcome, are known personally and are treated as adults. They also like the relatively informal atmosphere, positive relationships with staff and the college-type environment within a school setting.

Every student is guided through their two years of study by their Tutor who has daily contact via registrations, tutorials, one-to-one interviews and other formal meetings. Form Tutors monitor each student's progress, offering support and guidance as required. The Tutor also assists with the complex process of university, gap year or employment applications and is an integral part of the PSHCE, careers counselling and mock interview programmes. The Head of Sixth Form is available to discuss any individual issues of concern and to offer advice on academic and pastoral matters.

Provision for Students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)

CCHSG is an inclusive school, dedicated to ensuring that every student receives the individual support and care required to achieve their social and educational best. The staff and Governors are strongly committed to both inclusion and equal opportunities and will always look at what reasonable adjustments can be made in order to facilitate access for students with special educational needs, irrespective of race, class, ethnicity or social status. Our full SEND policy is available on our website www.cchsg.com.

The School Day

Bell at 08.43

08.45 Registration and
Form Time or Assembly

09.05 Movement Time

09.10 Period 1

10.10 Break

Bell at 10.27

10.30 Period 2

11.30 Movement Time

11.35 Period 3

12.35 Lunch

*Priority for Year 12/13 and
lunchtime activity participants
until 12.45*

Bell at 13.23

13.25 Registration

13.30 Period 4

14.30 Movement Time

14.35 Period 5

Bell at 15.35



Sixth Form Students as Leaders

The Sixth Form offers a range of opportunities for students to enjoy their time in post-16 education as well as to develop skills that will help equip them for life at university and the world of work. We broaden students' experiences by fostering an active attitude of caring for the community we live and work in. This can be through our school prefect systems, through charitable fundraising and or through other outreach schemes with our partner schools (primary, secondary and special needs).

Sixth Form Students as Form Prefects

The primary aim of the Form Prefect is to promote the ethos of the School and the Sixth Form whilst supporting and assisting the Form Tutor of a Year 7-10 Form Group on a weekly basis. Form Prefects work with the Form Tutor to co-ordinate an appropriate range of relevant Form activities such as charity fundraising events, assemblies, topical discussions and quizzes. Form Prefects can also offer peer support and advice on academic and social issues.

Sixth Form Students as Subject Prefects

Subject Prefects work with the departments to co-ordinate a range of activities such as assisting with the academic support of students in the specific subject area, offering advice on learning strategies and revision methods and supporting the teacher by working with younger students in subject lessons.

Student Leadership Team

Sixth Form students can apply for a position on the Student Leadership Team. The members of the team represent the school in the local community and the Sixth Form within the school community. The Head Students and Deputy Head Students are selected from the team and they work closely with members of the school's Senior Leadership Team.

Student Voice

Student Voice is a group elected by the students to work for the good of all students at CCHSG. Student Voice works alongside senior staff to represent students' views in many areas of school life and provide the student perspective in discussions on aspects of school policy. Student Voice also fulfils a vital role in the community and social life of the school by, for example formulating and promoting the school's anti-bullying policy and supporting the introduction of new healthy eating foods in the canteen.



The Sixth Form Centre



Since July 2018, students in the Sixth Form have had use of a stunning new facility which significantly extends the previous Sixth Form area. The provision has been designed, following consultation with students and staff, to meet the needs of aspirational young adults ensuring that they have the very best facilities to support their studies. Costing £1.25 million and taking over 11 months to build, the high quality professional environment incorporates a lecture theatre, a large computer suite, teaching rooms and a large common room. Students now also have a separate entrance atrium, giving the Sixth Form Centre a distinctive identity.

The lecture theatre, with its tiered seating can accommodate over 150 students and is fully equipped with the latest audio visual equipment. Students have a range of options for study space, with an entirely new computer suite, study booths and quiet areas.

The large common room provides spaces for informal group study and social areas alongside a well equipped kitchen. In warmer weather there are two pleasant, furnished patio areas exclusively for Sixth Form use.

Students like the college-type environment within a school setting.



“The new building gives us twice as many computers and I love the lecture theatre with the huge TV”

“It’s great having a whole area of the school that is just for the Sixth Formers to use.”

Sixth Form Activities

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

Interact
Amnesty International
English Oxbridge Club
MED SOC
VET SOC
Debating Society/Juniors
Christian Union
Psychology Society
Islamic Society
European Youth Parliament
Young Enterprise
Chess Club
Creative Writing Club
Law Society
History Club
Drama Club and productions
DofE
Charity Fundraising
History and Politics Society

Music

Senior Choir and Auditioned Chamber Choir
Rock and Pop Choir
Chamber Music Groups
Wind Band
Guitar Ensemble
Flute Ensemble
Junior Orchestra (below grade 5)
Senior Orchestra (grade 5 and above)
Gospel Choir

Sports

Football
Netball
Dance
Fitness classes including:
yoga, zumba and aerobics
Tennis
Swimming
Running club
Trampolining

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



“Involvement in extra-curricular activities is high with many run by the Sixth Form students themselves, including clubs for younger students” *Ofsted*

UK Young Enterprise at CCHSG

Young Enterprise is a national education charity that encourages young people to get involved in business from an early age. The programme allows 15-19 year olds to set up and run their own company for a year, create and market their product, and gain invaluable experience of the business world, while competing in the Young Enterprise competition. The scheme is run for Year 12 students at CCHSG and we have had a great deal of success in the Young Enterprise competition to date, including runners up in Europe and reaching National Finals.



European Youth Parliament Regional and National Finalists

The European Youth Parliament (EYP) is a non-partisan and independent educational programme. It supports the development of young people into politically aware and responsible citizens by involving them in European political thinking and promoting intercultural understanding. The EYP encourages independent thinking and initiative in young people and facilitates the learning of crucial social and professional skills.

A team of nine students is chosen each year to participate in the East Anglia Regional Forum at the University of Cambridge. Judged on their respectful attitude, ability to work in a team and grasp core issues, CCHSG have been selected to represent the region at the National Session for four years running.

For the duration of the Session, the participants are divided into international working groups that draft resolutions on their respective topics. The results are then presented and debated in a parliamentary assembly at the end of the Session. Previous teams have won the National Session and have represented the UK at the International Forum. Many have also worked with the EYP as officials.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The school has a very well established DofE programme and is officially accredited to run the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, with over 120 students taking part each year. Completion rates are excellent, with a 95% completion of the Bronze Award last year. The participants volunteer with many local and national charities, undertake a range of physical activities, gain new experiences and master a new skill or hone their abilities in an existing one. At each level they also undertake overnight camping expeditions, which get progressively more challenging as they move from Bronze to Gold.



Extended Project Qualification

We also offer the opportunity for students to undertake the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This course is equivalent to about half the size of an A Level study programme. It involves an independent research project, which enables students to demonstrate their capacity to study beyond the confines of the A Level syllabus. See the *subject outlines section of the prospectus for a full description of the course.*

Art and Design

Whether you have an inborn talent, natural creativity or simply a desire to make things and learn how to do this better, this is your subject. Art and Design meets the needs of students who wish to take up a wide range of careers - practical or academic. Art both reflects and helps us to create a culture of vision. Take a look around you and you will see that Art and Design surrounds us. Studying Art helps us to build a deeper understanding of the world we live in. Art provides a means by which we can understand our past and its relationship to our present, because the act of making art is one of humanities most ubiquitous activities.

There are many industries that could not exist without people trained in Art and Design. The A Level course educates the looking and seeing functions of the mind. It will train you to mentally analyse, physically express and communicate what you see. Five reasons to study Art:

1. Arts make self starters and develop emotional intelligence.
2. Arts are stretching and build strong organisational skills.
3. Art students are highly sought after by employers.
4. Arts develop the broader dimensions of the human being - mind, body and soul.
5. Arts reach students in a different manner to traditional subjects and can release other pressures.

What do you study?

The course involves students in both practical and theoretical investigations and the use of a broad range of media is encouraged including: painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, sculpture and digital media. Students are encouraged to think deeply and creatively using experimental expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and judgments. This course develops intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive powers and provides an understanding of the relationships between Art and Design and the contexts in which they operate. Students will regularly work in the local environment and visit artists and exhibitions.

Beyond A Level

Many students are preparing for a career in Art and go on to prestigious Art Colleges and Foundation Courses but many others combine Art with A Levels in English Literature, Humanities or even Sciences. Students can

pursue courses and careers in Advertising, Architecture, Art History, Animation, Interior Design, Product Design, Fashion Design, Public Art, Jewellery Making, Silversmithing, Ceramics, Graphic Design, Textile Design, Surface Design, Architecture, Photography, Advertising and Animation. The creative industries have moved into first place to be the fastest growing economic sector in the UK, responsible for 5.6% of jobs, and worth £76.9 billion to the UK economy. Art A Level can provide a gateway into a structured commercial career. The natural progression route is to the one-year Foundation Course in Art and Design, but many of our students are accepted at leading Universities onto BA Degree Courses.

Examinations

Examination board: OCR

Specification code: H600

The early release paper is issued on 1 February in the year of the examination and provides students with preparatory time before their timed task.

Assessment Overview

01: Personal Investigation

60% of the total A Level marks

02: Externally Set Task

40% of the total A Level marks



Student comments: “A highly enjoyable course that enables you to express yourself in your own specific way.”

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

Biology

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

What do you study?

The course encompasses the whole biological spectrum from cell structure to molecular biology, with topics such as biochemistry, genetics, excretion, endocrine and nervous systems, health and disease and many more. The new specification is challenging, thought provoking and up-to-date. Practical skills in the new specification are assessed in written papers, based on a set of core practicals specified by the examination board, which will be undertaken as part of each module studied. You will also undertake many more practical tasks beyond the core to supplement the theory in our well equipped laboratories, including modern molecular biology practical work.

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

Beyond A Level

Biology is a very important A Level STEM subject highly regarded by universities as it develops a wide range of skills, such as analysing, evaluating, independent research and thought. It is acceptable for many courses in higher education leading to degrees in Biological Sciences, Biochemistry, Molecular Genetics, Psychology, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and many other subjects. It is a preferred subject for many including Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine Courses and students without Biology find themselves at a disadvantage in the early stages of these university courses. There are many Biological Science degree courses available, which



are not only stimulating in their own right but provide entry to other careers including Law, Marketing, Accountancy, the Civil Service and Industry. Above all the Biology Department is keen to produce successful biologists with a love of the subject that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Examinations

Examination board: OCR
Specification code: H420

A Level Biology is a two year course which is assessed in three written papers at the end of the two years. Topics covered will include cell biology, biological molecules, exchange and transport, biodiversity, evolution, disease, homeostasis, the nervous system, respiration, photosynthesis, genetics, ecosystems and biotechnology. A wide range of practical skills will be developed over the two years to count towards a free-standing Practical Endorsement.

Extension activities

Students also have the opportunity to attend extension classes and enter national competitions, including the British Biology Olympiad. Many students choose to subscribe to Biological Sciences Review magazine and all have the opportunity to be a Biology mentor to younger students.

Student comments: "A Level Biology has given me the best possible foundations to study Medicine. Fantastic teaching meant that we covered content over and above the syllabus. The range of practical experiments has given me the confidence to understand and interpret complex data which has proved invaluable."

"I found that studying Biology at CCHSG put me in an advanced position studying Biology to Masters level at York University in terms of theory and practical skills. I am going on to a PhD."

Chemistry

Chemistry is important. Chemists design new drugs which save lives. They develop the materials from which every product is made. They help farmers produce enough food to feed the world's increasing population. They are playing a key role in finding ways to minimise global warming. Chemists have played a major role in improving life expectancy and quality of life. Chemists are at the forefront of scientific research, medicine and industry. Chemistry is a great basis for almost any career. A Level Chemistry is a popular choice at CCHSG being chosen by 60-70 students each year.

What do you study?

Inorganic Chemistry is the study of the periodic table. It is similar to GCSE but also looks at how and why things happen. Physical Chemistry explains the properties of substances and how far and fast reactions go. Organic Chemistry is the study of carbon compounds and links with Biology. We place a big emphasis on practical work such as analysing aspirin, making dyes & indicators, making TCP, extracting orange oil and making fruity esters. As a result students develop a wide range of practical techniques. Mathematical skills are developed during activities such as data analysis and interpretation (moles calculations) pH calculations and rates experiments. Sustainability and environmental implications are considered throughout and the role of the chemist in developing sustainable processes is addressed.

Beyond A Level

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



Examinations

Examination board: OCR
Specification code: H432

The modules covered are Foundations in Chemistry, Periodic Table and Energy, Core Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, Transition Elements, and Organic Chemistry and Analysis. Practical skills are developed on a weekly basis throughout the two years allowing our students to become highly competent practical chemists.

Paper 1 – Periodic Table, Elements, Physical Chemistry
2 hours 15 minutes. 37% of the total A Level marks
Paper 2 – Synthesis and Analytical Techniques
2 hours 15 minutes. 37% of the total A Level marks
Paper 3 – Unified Chemistry
1 hours 30 minutes. 26% of the total A Level marks

Extension Activities

Students have the opportunity to attend extension lessons and take part in competitions such as the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and the Chemistry Olympiad. Each year we take a team of chemists to compete in the RSC Analysts Competition, and send a delegation to the Royal Society of Chemistry's "Chemistry at Work" exhibition. All students have the chance to make excellent use of their knowledge by becoming Chemistry mentors to younger students.



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

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

Classical Civilisation

Classical Civilisation is a truly broad multidisciplinary subject, involving elements of English, History, Art, Mathematics, Sciences, Philosophy etc. The purpose of the course is to introduce candidates to a time and culture which is so different, and yet so similar to our own, and in so doing develop an awareness of the progress and nature of humans and their interaction within an organised society. No prior knowledge or GCSE is required.

What do you study?

There are three areas of study:

- The world of the hero. Study of epic Greek and Latin literature.
- Culture and the arts. An opportunity to consider the visual material and the culture of Greece and Rome.
- Beliefs and ideas. This component will involve the study of an area of classical thought e.g. the religions and political ideas and beliefs of the Greeks and Romans.

Beyond A Level

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

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

Examinations

Examination board: OCR

Specification code: H408

All modules will be taken in May/June of Year 13

Paper 1 – The World of the Hero

The works of Homer and Virgil

2 hour 20 minutes. 40% of the total A Level marks

Paper 2 – Greek Art

Greek vases, freestanding and architectural sculpture

1 hour 45 minutes. 30% of the total A Level marks

Paper 3 - Greek Religion

1 hour 45 minutes. 30% of the total A Level marks

Extension Activities :

Students may have the opportunity of a residential trip to Greece to see, at first hand, the majority of the Greek sculpture covered in the Greek Art course and to visit the sanctuaries of the Acropolis, Delphi and Olympia. Students are also encouraged to visit the British Museum to view classical sculpture such as the Elgin Marbles.



Student comments: *"I thrived on the creativity of the subject"*

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

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

Computer Science

At CCHSG we believe in preparing our students to become lifelong learners and strive to equip them with the skills to compete in the workplace of today and the workplace of the future. Studying Computer Science at A Level presents a huge number of options for higher education and employment. The course is challenging yet enjoyable and is unique in both content and delivery. Choosing to study A Level Computer Science is an exciting option for any student who has a genuine interest in technology and for those who wish to futureproof their career options.

What do you study?

Students study an engaging combination of computational thinking skills and computer system design concepts. We expect our students to become skilled programmers learning the fundamentals of programming in various languages. In addition to the theoretical science of computation students will study in depth the practical application of the science in learning how computer systems work and how we get them to work for us. In learning a systematic approach to problem solving and developing functional programming skills students will be expected to tackle a practical computing project that builds on many of the skills delivered during the course.

Beyond A Level

The skills and concepts taught in this course will be helpful in many areas of higher education and employment. They will be indirectly applicable to a variety of professions such as medicine, law, engineering and design but the course is designed to be directly applicable to higher education courses and employment sectors that involve the use of ICT and Computing.

There are few careers these days that do not involve the use of computers and technology at some stage; this will grow in the future as technology continues to advance rapidly. Choosing a career that specifically makes use of and provides you with the opportunity to continually grow and develop these skills could prove to be a very wise move for the future. This industry is currently very undersubscribed especially amongst females so there are excellent employment prospects.

Examinations

Examination board: OCR
Specification code: H446

Paper 1 – Computer Systems
2 hours 30 minutes On-screen Examination
40% of the total A Level marks
Paper 2 – Algorithms and programming
2 hours 30 minutes Written Examination
40% of the total A Level marks

Non-examined assessment
Practical computing project, 70 marks, 20% of the total A Level marks

Extension Activities

There will be many opportunities to support and extend learning beyond the A Level curriculum. As well as the opportunity to support and take leadership roles in the computing department's successful extra-curricular programme students will be encouraged to spearhead Computer Science Society and AI Society which will involve working with and organising talks with industry professionals amongst other activities. There will be trips and visits to support the curriculum and opportunities to extend the relationship between the school and the Computer Science Department at the University of Essex.



We expect our students to become skilled programmers learning the fundamentals of programming in various languages.

In addition to the theoretical science of computation students will study in depth the practical application of the science in learning how computer systems work and how we get them to work for us.

Economics

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

What do you study?

Economics will help you to understand what is happening in the world. It explains such concepts as inflation, recessions, inequality and economic growth. It answers familiar questions such as why the exchange rate is different at the start of your holiday from the end, why do interest rates go up and down, why some people seem to earn far more than others and what exactly are stocks, shares and bonds.

Beyond A Level

If you are looking to a career in business, finance, perhaps starting your own business venture, are keen to understand what is going on in the world, are passionate about the environment or have an interest in Politics or History studying Economics is a great place to start. Economics is a practical subject to study so, while theory is involved, students are encouraged to apply ideas to the real world. Even if you do not continue with Economics beyond A Level, it will forever allow you to understand what they are talking about when you watch the news!

Examinations

Examination board: AQA
Specification code: 7136

The specification is set into two main sections, Micro and Macro Economics. Students will be assessed through three examination papers. There is no coursework element.

Paper 1 – Microeconomics
2 hour paper. 33.3% of the total A Level marks



Paper 2 – Macroeconomics
2 hour paper. 33.3% of the total A Level marks
Paper 3 – Economic Principles and Issues
Includes topics from both Micro and Macroeconomics
2 hour paper. 33.3% of the total A Level marks

Previous knowledge of the subject is not necessary as the course is self-contained. With increased emphasis in the new specification on helping students to develop an understanding of the role and impact of the financial sector on the real economy as well as current economic issues such as rising inequality globally, this subject is set to continue to interest and intrigue students for many years to come.

Extension Activities

Students have the opportunity to join the Economics Society and attend lunchtime lectures by guest speakers. Students are encouraged to take part in competitions such as the Institute of Economic Affairs Budget Challenge and the Financial Times Essay Competition as well as the Bank of England Blog Challenge. There is access to "The Economist" and "The Financial Times" through a school subscription programme. Students also attend an annual A Level Economics Conference in London.

Student comments: *"Economics has given me a much better insight into how the world works. The subject is so relevant. The topics we studied are issues you see in the news every day."*

English Language

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

What do you study?

You will study a range of texts, both spoken and written. These tend not to be literary texts but could range from an advertisement to a comedy sketch. You will explore the way language is used in society, particularly looking at how technology, occupations and gender influence language use. The course requires students to undertake an independent investigation of language and complete a piece of original writing with a commentary.

Beyond A Level

What does the future hold for a linguist? English Language is a subject well regarded by higher education institutions, and because you are studying your own language, it easily complements any education course you might follow. English related courses range from Creative Writing to Speech Therapy and your A Level studies will share ground with subjects such as Psychology and Law and of course English Literature.

Examinations

Examination board: AQA
Specification code: 7702

Paper 1

Language, the Individual and Society (exploration of Language variation in two texts; children's language development)

2 hours 30 minutes. 40% of the total A Level marks



Paper 2

Language Diversity and Change (a choice of discursive essay questions on language diversity and change; textual analysis; directed writing task on language discourses)

2 hours 30 mins – 40% of the total A Level marks

During year two, students also produce two pieces of coursework: a Language Investigation and a piece of Original Writing with a Commentary. This non-examination assessment comprises 20% of the total A Level.

Extension Activities

The English Department also offer extra-curricular clubs and courses to support students in broadening their literary experience. These have included: Shakespeare Club and the Victorian poets. We also offer extensive support and guidance to those students applying to read English at degree level, including Oxbridge entry.

Sixth Form students also form the editorial team for the student newspaper "The Kilt" which is published half termly and was runner up in the First News School Newspaper of the Year Awards 2019.



Student comments: "English Language at A Level offers a lot of freedom. It encourages independence through research and self-study and is altogether extremely enjoyable!"

"I enjoyed finding out about how men and women use language differently in conversations. I became much more aware of how advertising seeks to influence us in subtle ways."

English Literature

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

The first requirement for studying English Literature at A Level is that you love reading and enjoy discussing and analysing what you have read. Texts range from Chaucer and Shakespeare to Ibsen’s ‘A Doll’s House’ to Alan Bennett’s ‘The History Boys’.

What do you study?

You will have the opportunity to study at least eight texts that cover the genres of prose, poetry and drama. You will explore the historical and social background of the texts as well as honing your techniques of literary analysis.

The course requires students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the following:

- the ways in which texts are interpreted by different readers, including over time
- ways in which texts relate to one another and to literary traditions movements and genres
- the significance of cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers



Student comments: “A Level made me fall in love with English.”

“I really enjoyed was being introduced to new authors, periods and styles that I didn’t know much about, some of which have become favourites...there was a real sense of passion and interest that always made the sessions something I looked forward to. The teaching was brilliant and I got extra help where needed.”

Beyond A Level

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

Examinations

Examination board: OCR
Specification code: H472

Paper 1

Section A – Shakespeare – ‘Twelfth Night’
Section B – Comparative question – Chaucer’s ‘The Merchant’s Prologue and Tale’ with Ibsen’s ‘A Doll’s House’

2 hours 30 minutes. 40% of the total A Level marks

Paper 2

Comparative and contextual study – Women in Literature – 2 core texts are ‘Sense and Sensibility’ and ‘Mrs Dalloway’.

2 hours 30 minutes. 40% of the total A Level marks

During year two, you will also produce a coursework portfolio consisting of two pieces of coursework: a close textual analysis and a comparative essay. This non-examination assessment comprises 20% of the total A Level marks.

Extension Activities

As well as the course itself, the English department also offer extra-curricular courses to support students in broadening their literary experience. These have included: Shakespeare Club and the Victorian poets.

We also offer extensive support and guidance to those students applying to read English at degree level, including Oxbridge entry.

Extended Project Qualification

What is the EPQ?

It is a qualification that comprises a single piece of work, of your choosing, that shows evidence of planning and research and involves the delivery of a presentation. It is equivalent to about half the size of an A Level study programme and will be graded on a six point scale of A* to E. The work submitted may include: a design; a report; a dissertation; an artefact or a performance.

Some examples of previous CCHSG student EPQ titles are:

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

What are the benefits?

The course enables students to extend their planning, research, critical thinking, presentation,

synthesis and evaluation skills. Students have autonomy in the choice and design of an extended piece of work. The knowledge and skills gained provide valuable additional evidence for higher education applications, UCAS personal statements and at interview.

Students who complete the EPQ are better prepared for tackling similar projects such as dissertations at University.

Examinations

Examination board: AQA
Specification code: 7993

For more information see:

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

EPQ Supervisors

Each student will be allocated a Supervisor once they have identified their chosen topic.



Student comments: "I am pleased that I decided to do the Extended Project because it has been useful and interesting."

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

French

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

What do you study?

The main aim of the course is to develop the use of the language and an informed understanding of the culture and people of France, and other francophone countries. Oral communication in French is seen as being of tremendous importance and 1:1 conversation with the French Assistant is available every week. Topics covered will include the family, the multi-cultural society, French contemporary music and cinema, and aspects of political life in the French-speaking world, as well as two cultural topics which will be the work of a French film director and a work of French literature. The French exchange with a school near Lyon will be open to Year 12 students, enabling them to experience total immersion in a French family for a week.

Beyond A Level

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

Examinations

Examination board: AQA

Specification code: 7652

All modules will be taken in May/June of Year 13.



Paper 1 Listening, Reading and Writing

This paper includes translation from English into French and French into English
2 hours 30 mins. 50% of the total A Level marks

Paper 2 Writing

Two essays in French on either two works of literature or one work of literature and one film.
2 hours. 20% of the total A Level marks

Paper 3 Speaking

Discussion of a sub-theme plus presentation and discussion of an individual research project
About 20 minutes plus 5 minutes preparation time
30% of the total A Level marks

Extension Activities

A Level French students are encouraged to take an active role in the activities of the Languages Department across the school. This supports students to develop their confidence in speaking skills as well as teamwork. Annual activities include the Languages Week and the MFL's Got Talent Show. Year 12 students have the opportunity to take part in a French Exchange with the Notre-Dame de Bellegarde, an independent Catholic school in Neuville sur Saône (Lyons).

Student comments: "The French department here at CCHSG is brilliant – they are so supportive and encouraging, and have made the jump from GCSE to A Level a lot less difficult! "

"It is amazing how quickly you progress due to the extra speaking practice and small classes. Learning about contemporary subjects such as the environment and immigration makes it really interesting. Taking French has enabled me take apply for a university course where I can study in Paris in the third year."

Further Mathematics

Further Mathematics is designed for students with an enthusiasm for Mathematics, many of whom will go on to degrees in Mathematics, engineering, the sciences or economics. The qualification is both deeper and broader than A Level Mathematics. A Level Further Mathematics builds from GCSE level and A Level Mathematics. As well as building on the algebra and calculus introduced in A Level Mathematics, the A Level Further Mathematics core content introduces complex numbers and matrices fundamental mathematical ideas with wide applications in mathematics, engineering, physical sciences and computing. The non-core content includes different options that can enable students to specialise in areas of mathematics that are particularly relevant to their interests and future aspirations. A Level Further Mathematics prepares students for further study and employment in highly mathematical disciplines that require knowledge and understanding of sophisticated mathematical ideas and techniques.

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

What do you study?

50% core (all Pure Mathematics: e.g. proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra/functions, further calculus and vectors, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations.)

50% optional and can include:

- Further Pure Mathematics
- Further Mechanics (builds on A Level mechanics)
- Further Statistics (builds on A Level statistics)
- Decision Mathematics (e.g. algorithms, graph theory, critical path analysis, linear programming)



Beyond A Level

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

Examinations

Examination board: Edexcel

Specification code: 9FM0

Paper 1 – Core Pure Mathematics

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

Paper 2 – Core Pure Mathematics

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

Paper 3 – Further Mathematics Option 1

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

Paper 4 – Further Mathematics Option 2

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

Option 1 at CCHSG is Decision Mathematics and Option 2 is Further Statistics or Further Mechanics (there is some flexibility depending on student requirements and staff expertise).



Student comments: “I found doing Further Mathematics at A Level to be extremely beneficial when studying Physics at university, which requires you to have a strong knowledge and understanding of mathematics. Further Mathematics A Level really helps to prepare you for this.”

“You have to be willing to accept that it is a challenging subject, and you need to be prepared to work quite hard. I found that the teachers explained the material well and were able to help me with any problems I had.”

Geography

Michael Palin recently said, “Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future” and, if you study A Level Geography, you will certainly be better prepared to understand the issues currently affecting our planet such as climate change, and sea level rise geopolitics, resource security and hazard management. In addition to knowing about our planet and its people, those who choose to study A Level Geography will learn many life skills including an ability to research, think critically, research and communicate effectively their thoughts through writing and other means. You will also learn the importance of team work and independent enquiry. This course will particularly appeal to those students who:

- have an interest in and concern for the environment
- are interested in current affairs
- enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences
- enjoy finding out their own answers – not just being taught
- want to broaden their A Level studies to cover both ‘sciences’ and ‘humanities’, and want to keep their options open

Beyond A Level

Geography A Level is an appropriate qualification for a very wide range of higher education or career



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

Examinations

Examination board: AQA

Specification code: 7037

A Level Geography consists of the following components:

Physical Geography

Section A: Water and carbon cycles

Section B: Systems and landscapes

Section C: Hazards

2 hours 30 minutes. 40% of the total A Level marks

Human Geography

Section A: Global systems and global governance

Section B: Changing places

Section C: Contemporary urban environments

2 hours 30 minutes. 40% of the total A Level marks

Geography investigation

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content. Approximately 4,000 words. 20% of the total A Level marks, marked by teachers, moderated by AQA.

Field trips support the non examined assessment and taught content of the A Level Geography course.

Extension Activities

Students have the opportunity to attend extension lessons and masterclasses. Students are also encouraged to take part in competitions such as the Royal Geographical Society essay competition and the Geographical Association photographic completion. GeogSoc runs at lunchtimes and focuses on geographical debate, current global issues as well as leading the EcoSchools project. Many students choose to subscribe to Geography Review magazine and all students have the chance to make excellent use of their knowledge by becoming Geography mentors to younger students.

Student comments: “The Field trip was amazing and made up my mind about studying Geography at University.”

“I didn’t realise just how much Geography overlapped with my other A Level subjects. Studying Geography at A Level has been awesome and I now look at the World in a different way.”

German

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

What do you study?

The aim of the course is to develop the use of the language and acquire a sympathetic and informed understanding of the culture and people of Germany. Communicating effectively in spoken German as well as writing is essential and the course includes a 30 minute conversation lesson per week with the German Assistant. The German exchange is open to Year 12 students, enabling them to practise speaking German and develop their knowledge of German society by staying with a family in Giessen. It is also possible for students to do a week's work experience as an alternative to the traditional exchange.

Topics covered will include family, multi-cultural society, youth culture, the digital world and aspects of political life in the German-speaking world, as well as two cultural topics which will be the work of a German film director and a work of German literature.

Beyond A Level

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

Examinations

Examination board: AQA

Specification code: 7662

All modules will be taken in May/June of Year 13.



Paper 1 Listening, Reading and Writing

This paper includes translation from English into German and German into English

2 hours 30 minutes. 40% of the total A Level marks

Paper 2 Writing

2 essays in German on either two works of literature or one work of literature and one film

2 hours. 30% of the total A Level marks

Paper 3 Speaking

Discussion of a sub-theme plus presentation and discussion of an individual research project

About 20 minutes plus 5 minutes preparation time
30% of the total A Level marks

Extension Activities

Students have the opportunity to take part in the German exchange with the option of doing work experience for a week in a German primary school. They are encouraged to follow their own interests in German outside the curriculum. A range of German literature texts and films is available for students to enjoy in their own time. They have the chance to consolidate and share their knowledge by becoming German mentors to younger students.

History

History is not just a fascinating study in itself, it is a valuable way to increase our understanding of the world in which we live. Learning how things came to be as they are enhances our appreciation of the political, economic, social and cultural organisation of our own and other countries. It teaches us who we are and gives insights into the principles and values on which this is based. It explains age old conflicts, demonstrates the power of ideas and gives us the big picture of how change has proved possible in the past and may be possible in the future. History students gain valuable skills of organisation and analysis. Their critical abilities are sharpened and they learn to write stylishly and to argue effectively.

What do you study?

History students at CCHSG study a stimulating combination of early modern and modern historical themes, which significantly enrich our appreciation of the world today. The components chosen will develop students understanding of political conflict and instability whilst considering the role played by individuals groups and nations. Students will develop a sophisticated understanding of significant historical developments and associated historical interpretations through completing a breadth study in “The Tudors: England 1485-1603”. They will refine their levels of analysis and ability to interpret primary sources through the depth study of major changes and developments in “International Relations and Global Conflicts, c1890-1941”. Alongside these components students will complete a historical investigation from a topic area. They will evaluate the historiographical interpretations of a key area of debate about the past and experience the research methods of an academic historian.

Beyond A Level

The wide range of skills developed by History students are highly valued and create opportunities for many careers. The critical analysis of evidence and the ability to argue are an excellent preparation for business, administration and politics. The skills of the historian are particularly suited to studying Law. History can be used directly in teaching, museum and heritage work and the tourist industry. It is a popular theme in film and television. Several past students work as historians in the media,

researching information, costume and period effects, or in journalism. History enables the budding journalist to write well and equips her with a wealth of good examples.

Examinations

Examination board: AQA

Specification code: 7042

70421c The Tudors: England 1485-1603

2 hour 30 minutes written paper. 40% of A Level

70422k International Relations and Global Conflict, c1890-1941

2 hour 30 minutes written paper. 40% of A Level

Historical Investigation - 3,500-4,500 words. 20% of A Level

Extension Activities

Students have the opportunity to attend extension lessons to develop their essay writing and source analysis skills as well as participating in the History and Politics Society. Each year students attend A Level conferences to hear the debates of historians. Many students apply to take part in the “Lessons from Auschwitz” course and become a Holocaust Ambassador. In addition, students have the chance to make excellent use of their knowledge by becoming History mentors to younger students.



Student comments: “Studying History at CCHSG has been such an enjoyable and rewarding experience. It has enabled me to develop skills when forming arguments, which will be beneficial when I read Law next year.”

“I love taking History at A-Level because it helps me develop my critical thinking and analysis skills, and provides a deeper understanding of the present.”

Latin

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

What do you study?

The course continues to develop the knowledge of language and the skills gained at GCSE Level, but concentrates progressively on authentic Latin texts. You will read extracts from the works of several Latin authors, both poetry and prose.

As well as using the texts as a vehicle to improve your knowledge of the language, emphasis will also be placed on the enjoyment of the texts as works of literature per se. You will also be expected to develop an understanding of the social and historical background against which the authors lived and wrote.

Beyond A Level

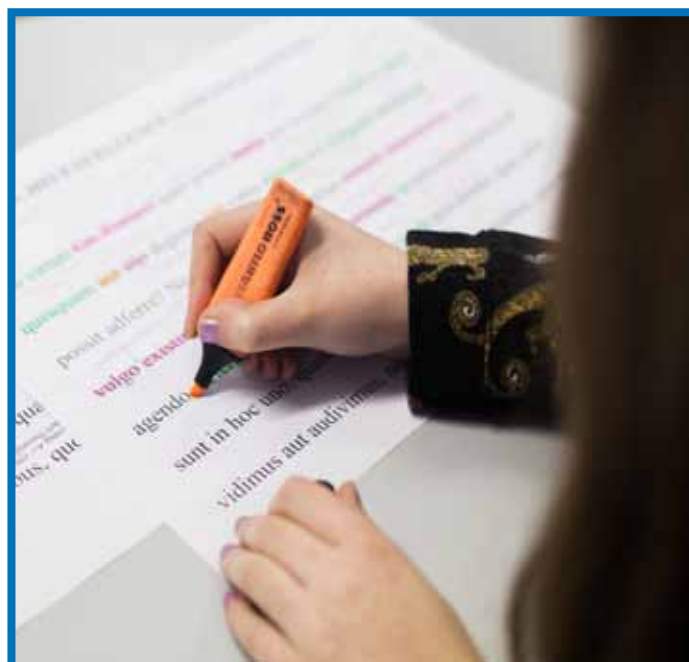
Latin is particularly useful for those interested in Modern Foreign Languages, English and History and is an asset for anyone intending to pursue a career in Law and Medicine.

There are many careers and courses for which no particular A Levels are required and in these cases Latin is as relevant as any other subject. Latin graduates find employment at least as easily as other Arts graduates. Popular career options range from accountancy and banking to computer software design and advertising.

Examinations

Examination board: OCR
Specification code: H443

All modules will be taken in May/June of Year 13.



Paper 1 - Unseen Translation

1 hour 45 minute paper. 33% of the total A Level marks

Paper 2 - Prose Comprehension

1 hour 15 minute paper. 17% of the total A Level marks.

Paper 3 - Prose Literature

2 hour paper. 25% of the total A Level marks.

Paper 4 - Verse Literature.

2 hour paper. 25% of the total A Level marks.

Extension activities

A Level Latin students will have the opportunity to mentor younger students and to run a Mythology and Latin club. They will also have access to various competitions run by Cambridge University and to take part in the Euroclassica award.



Student comments: "Latin was my favourite subject all through A Level. I looked forward to every lesson and loved learning both the language and the history behind the literature."

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

Law

Online Independent Learning
Distance learning provider:
Oxford Learning College www.oxfordcollege.ac

What do you study?

Unit 1 – The Nature of Law and the English Legal System

Section A: The Nature of Law

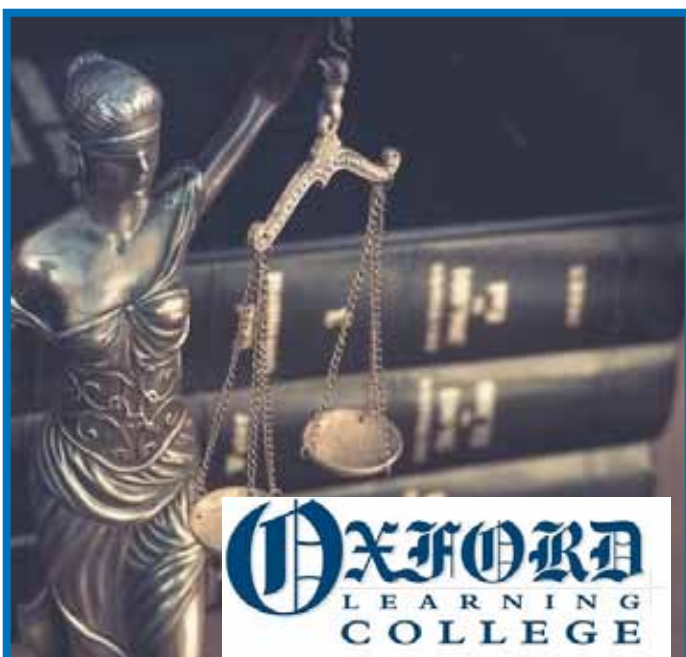
Law within an ethical and moral context. You will look at the historical context of law and engage with key contemporary debates.

Section B: Law-Making

You will learn about the law-making process within the United Kingdom and Parliamentary law-making process. You will look at the reasons for delegating legislation, the public bodies that manage delegated legislation and its advantages and disadvantages. You will learn about the role of the Courts in making law and how it compliments Legislation.

Section C: The Legal System

You will learn how the different branches of the court and legal system operate. The Civil courts and other Forms of Dispute Resolution, including negotiation, mediation, conciliation and arbitration, will be evaluated. This topic covers the varying roles within the legal professional, for example, barristers, solicitors, legal executives and judges.



Unit 2 – Criminal Law

You will study the principles of criminal liability including actus reus, mens rea, intention and strict liability. You will also learn about offences against the person, including fatal and non-fatal offences as well as property offences. The range of defences, such as insanity and duress, will be discussed.

Unit 3 – Tort

You will study the rules and principles concerning civil liability and fault with regards to negligence, occupier's liability, nuisance and vicarious liability, and associated defences and remedies.

Unit 4 – Contract Law

You will study how valid contracts are formed – offer acceptance, consideration: and how they can be lawfully terminated. Examine and evaluate the differences between express and implied terms; warranties and conditions. The growing legislative measures to protect consumers, such as the Consumer Rights Act 2015, will be studied. You will learn what constitutes a breach of contract and what remedies are available to parties to the contract.

Beyond A Level

Students wishing to continue their legal studies after A Level can opt for a university degree or work-based apprenticeship. Both of these routes can lead to the qualifications required to become a solicitor, barrister or legal executive. Other popular careers include the police, teaching, social work, business and accounting.

Examinations

Examination board: AQA
Specification code: 7162

The course is assessed entirely by examination at the end of the course. Each examination comprises a mixture of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and extended writing questions.

Paper 1 - 2 hours. The Nature of Law and the English Legal System (25%) Criminal Law (75%)
Paper 2 - 2 hours. The Nature of Law and the English Legal System (25%) Tort (75%)
Paper 3 - 2 hours. The Nature of Law and the English Legal System (25%) Contract Law (75%)

The Course:

Materials are delivered online through the Oxford Learning College Campus portal. An online tutor will regularly assess student submissions and supply feedback throughout the course. CCHSG will provide an onsite co-ordinator, to provide students with additional support.

Mathematics

A Level Mathematics builds from GCSE Mathematics and it gives you the opportunity to develop your powers of reasoning, mathematical skills, thinking skills and imagination with regard to problem solving. You are introduced to calculus and its applications.

The course emphasises how mathematical ideas are interconnected and how Mathematics can be applied to model situations mathematically using algebra and other representations, to help make sense of data, to understand the physical world and to solve problems in a variety of contexts, including social sciences and business. It prepares students for further study and employment in a wide range of disciplines involving the use of mathematics – Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Economics, Psychology, and Engineering. Mathematics is a very popular subject and a large proportion of the Sixth Form at CCHSG study it each year.

What do you study?

The course comprises:

- Pure Mathematics (e.g. calculus, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, sequences and series, algebra and functions, exponentials and logs, numerical methods, vectors. proof)
- Mechanics (e.g. quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws, moments)
- Statistics (e.g. sampling, data presentation/ interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, hypothesis testing)

Beyond A Level

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

Examinations

Examination board: Edexcel
Specification code: 9MA0

Paper 1 – Pure Mathematics
2 hour paper. One third of the total A Level marks

Paper 2 – Pure Mathematics
2 hour paper. One third of the total A Level marks

Paper 3 – Statistics and Mechanics
2 hour paper. One third of the total A Level marks

Extension activities

Students take part in the Senior Team Maths Challenge (STMC) which is jointly organised by the UK Mathematics Trust and the Further Mathematics Support Programme. This promotes the development of problem solving, communication and teamwork skills. Students may also be invited to the national UKMT Mathematics summer school. There are also opportunities for students to use of their knowledge by becoming Mathematics mentors to younger students or supporting with the Mathematics Surgery drop in sessions at lunchtimes.



Student comments: *“The work we do challenges the mind and makes what you have done previously seem easy. It makes you understand more fully what you have learned already and why it is needed.”*

“Work is marked thoroughly so that I can see what level I am at and how I can improve. Teachers go out of their way to help in free time.”

Music

Music A Level is a diverse subject, rich in both academic and practical work. It is a hugely enjoyable course and involves working closely with others.

What do you study?

You will enhance your current performance skills (solo and/or ensemble), develop composition skills and study harmony. You will also build upon your listening and analytical skills through the study of 18 separate set works, together with a diverse range of related listening repertoire. The aim of this course is to enrich and stimulate students' musical appreciation in all three areas. For those wishing to take Music further, it develops their skills in each area to prepare them for a Music-related degree.

What experience should you have?

You must be able to read music and ideally, you should have, or be studying for Grade 5 Theory. You should be at least Grade 6 or equivalent on your main instrument.

You must be able to work with other people and be prepared to contribute time and effort to music making in school. You will be expected to join a Music Department ensemble and encourage other students in music making across the school.

Beyond A Level

It is an obvious choice if you wish to pursue any type of musical career, in performing, composing, criticism, music administration. Music A Level is highly regarded as it involves academic work, a huge amount of self-discipline, IT skills and working with others.

Aims of the course:

- To develop performing skills to demonstrate an understanding of musical elements, style, sense of continuity, interpretation and expression
- To develop composing skills to demonstrate the manipulation of musical ideas and the use of musical devices and conventions
- To broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity
- To develop as effective, independent learners and as critical, reflective thinkers with enquiring minds



Examinations

Examination board: Edexcel
Specification code: 9MU0

Component 1 - Performing (30%)

This component is public performance of between 8-12 minutes either as a solo and/or ensemble performance

Component 2 - Composing (30%)

You will create one composition of a minimum of four minutes. You will also complete one technical study of at least one minute in length (Bach Chorale)

Component 3 - Appraising (40%)

This is a written paper consisting of two hours of listening and appraising music. You will study 18 set works from 6 areas of study – Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions, New Directions

Extension activities

Students have access to the wide range of groups and ensemble within the Music Department and are also encouraged to participate in concerts and school productions throughout the year.

Student comments: “Music A Level develops an appreciation of a wide range of styles of music that I hadn’t been exposed to before”.

“It enriches your development as a musician, whilst at the same time being academically challenging and rewarding”.

Physical Education

Sport and exercise is a rapidly expanding global industry and levels of public fitness and participation in physical activity are issues on the political agenda. For this reason, sport and exercise scientists are in increasing demand, particularly given the drive of professional athletes to maximise their potential. This is an ideal course for students who have an interest in both practical performance and the theoretical aspects of sport. It covers factors that affect both participation and optimal performance in physical activity and sport and enhances students' understanding of the factors that affect their own performance and that of others.

What do you study?

- Applied anatomy and physiology (e.g. cardiovascular, respiratory, neuromuscular and musculo-skeletal systems and analysis of movement in physical activities)
- Skill acquisition (e.g. skill classification and continuums, theories of learning and performance, memory models, information processing)
- Sport and society (e.g. pre-industrial, industrial and post-industrial, post World War II, the impact of sport on society and society on sport)
- Exercise physiology (e.g. diet and nutrition, training methods, injury prevention & rehabilitation)
- Biomechanical movement (e.g. biomechanical principles, levers, linear motion, angular motion, projectile motion, fluid mechanics)
- Sport psychology (e.g. attitudes, arousal, anxiety, aggression, motivation, social facilitation, group dynamics, goal setting, leadership, stress management)
- Sport and society and the role of technology in physical activity and sport (e.g. development of elite performers, ethics, violence in sport, drugs, sport and the law, commercialisation)

What experience should you have?

GCSE PE is desirable but not essential. Where GCSE PE has been taken it should be at grade 7 or above. The practical assessment in A Level PE is not part of the taught course. It is therefore expected that students are competing at a high level in an AQA recognised sport (see AQA website) outside school.



Beyond A Level

A Level Physical Education is accepted at all universities and gives access to higher education and sport related employment opportunities including sports nutrition, sports psychology, sports journalism and the leisure industry including personal training.

Examinations

Examination board: AQA Specification code: 7582
Paper 1 – Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology

Section B: Skill acquisition

Section C: Sport and society

2 hour paper. 35% of the total A Level marks

Paper 2 – Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity

Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics

Section B: Sport psychology

Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport

2 hour paper. 35% of the total A Level marks

Non-exam assessment – Practical performance in physical activity and sport. Students are assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity. Plus: written/verbal analysis of performance. Internal assessment, external moderation. 30% of the total A Level marks.



Student comments: A Level Physical Education provides an excellent foundation for candidates in coaching, sports development, sports journalism, the leisure industry, recreational management, the health and fitness industry and professional sport.

The qualification is accepted at all universities and gives access to higher education and sport related employment opportunities.

Physics

Physics is crucial in helping us understand the world around us, the world inside us and the world beyond. By studying Physics you are empowering yourself with the knowledge and skills to give you a more informed understanding of the world - and a valuable qualification to add to your curriculum vitae.

What do you study?

Physics A Level covers a wide range of topics including mechanics, electricity, waves and the often strange world of quantum physics. It goes on to include electromagnetism, astrophysics and cosmological theories, medical imaging and a study of the fundamental particles which make up all the matter in the universe.

Physics is the most fundamental science which underlies all other sciences and as such is a natural complement to other science subjects. It also goes well with Mathematics.

Beyond A Level

Physics and the skills acquired when completing Physics A Level are widely applicable to many degrees and careers.

Physics is a useful subject for many degree courses including Physics, Astrophysics, Medicinal Physics, Engineering (Civil, Electrical, Chemical, Medical and others), Chemistry, Natural Sciences, Geography, Geophysics, Material Science, Biophysics, Medicine, Radiography, Ophthalmology, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry and Mathematics.

It is also a subject that is appreciated in many other career areas including Accountancy, Finance, Communications, Information Systems, Computing, Electronics, Architecture, Climatology and Oceanography.

Examinations

Examination board: OCR
Specification code: H556

A Level Physics is a two year course which is assessed in three written papers at the end of two years. Examination questions have a balance of mathematical calculations and written explanations.

Practical activities are also carried out which count towards a free-standing Practical Endorsement. Topics covered will include Mechanics, Electricity, Waves, Astrophysics, Nuclear and Particle Physics, Medical Physics and Quantum Physics.

Extension activities

Students also have the opportunity to attend extension classes and enter national competitions including the British Physics Olympiad. Many students choose to subscribe to Physics Review magazine and all students have the opportunity to sign up as Physics mentors to younger students.



Student comments: *“Choosing Physics has been the best decision as it answers so many questions. The Physics Department here has given me a love of Physics and has inspired me to go on to study Mechanical Engineering at university.”*

“I was initially unsure about taking Physics, but I can honestly say that after 2 years of A Level it has become my favourite subject and I am so glad I took it.”

Psychology

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

What do you study?

There is a broad range of topics studied across the two year course. The A Level consists of three units with each unit being examined by one paper. There are two compulsory papers and one paper where there is some choice of topics. Papers one and two are each worth 35% of the total A Level: Paper three is worth 30% of the total A Level.

Paper 1: Foundations in Psychology

This paper is compulsory and includes Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Biological Psychology, and Learning Theories. The paper also includes key issues and debates within Psychology.

Paper 2: Applications of Psychology

This paper has one mandatory topic, Clinical Psychology, and students will study Schizophrenia and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. Students will also study Child Psychology.

Paper 3: Psychological Skills

This paper is compulsory and focuses on Psychological Skills which will include Methods, Synoptic Review of Studies, Issues and Debates.

Beyond A Level

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

retail management and personnel. It is extremely useful in any career which involves people, or understanding people, and is a popular choice at degree level.

Examinations

Examination board: Edexcel
Specification code: 9PSO

Assessment will be a 2 hour examination for each of the three papers taught. The papers will consist of a mixture of questions including stimulus-response, short answer, extended response questions and some data calculations where calculators can be used.

Extension activities

Students have the opportunity to attend a number of societies which provide a forum for debate and discussion. Are you interested in why we behave the way we do? Why are we obedient? What makes us aggressive? Is OCD caused by the brain? These and many other issues are covered in PsychSoc. There is also an active Sociology and Criminology Society. Each week students listen to the PodCast 'All in the Mind' and discuss the issues covered. There are bimonthly screenings of relevant films and guest speakers are invited to present on relevant topics. Students also attend the annual London Psychology Conference.



Student comments: "Psychology is a topic that I knew little about but I now consider it my favourite subject. Although a challenge, the interesting and relatable topics create a subject that could not fail to be enjoyed".

"The topics studied in A Level Psychology at CCHSG are hugely thought provoking and have given me a great insight into what influences human behaviour."

RS: Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

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

What do you study?

The course will be divided equally between Philosophy of Religion, and Religion and Ethics, and Developments in Religious Thought. We consider the big issues such as whether God exists, why people are becoming atheists, whether feminism and religion can be compatible, and Freud and Marx's views on religion. We also consider psychological and sociological approaches to religion. By the end of the programme students will have the logical and critical skills to evaluate complex theories and construct arguments about them.

Beyond A Level

The evaluative skills and ability to construct a strong argument developed in Religion, Philosophy and Ethics A Level is highly regarded by top universities and has good transferrable skills for students interested in careers such as Law, Medicine, Journalism, Politics, Broadcasting, Education, and many of the caring professions. For many students, the value of this course has been in the personal discovery and development it fosters. If you enjoy discussing the existence of God, how we can decide what is right and wrong and whether we will still have religion in the future, you would enjoy the Religion, Philosophy and Ethics course.

Examinations

Examination board OCR
Specification code: H573

The course will be divided equally between Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and Developments in Religious Thought.

Philosophy of Religion - 2 hour written paper. 33.3% of the total A Level marks

Students will study: Ancient philosophical influences; the nature of the soul, mind and body;



arguments about the existence or non-existence of God; the nature and impact of religious experience; the challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil; ideas about the nature of God; issues in religious language.

Religion and Ethics

2 hour written paper. 33.3% of the total A Level marks

Students will study: Ethical theories; ethical issues such as business ethics; euthanasia and sexual ethics; ethical language and thought; debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience

Developments in Religious Thought

2 hour written paper. 33.3% of the total A Level marks

Students will study: Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary; historically and in the contemporary world; sources of religious wisdom and authority; practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition; significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought; key themes related to the relationship between religion and society in the context of Christianity.

Student comments: "Philosophy and Ethics develops your ability to analyse theories and arguments, as well as teaching you to think outside the box and explore new ideas."

"It's not until you study Philosophy and Ethics for yourself that you can properly understand human nature, and start to comprehend the bigger questions of life."

Careers Guidance

Our careers programme is designed to provide students with the guidance to equip them to make well informed and aspirational decisions about progression beyond the Sixth Form. With a wide range of options available, be it higher education, apprenticeships, employment or a Gap Year, the PSHCE programme, Careers Team, Subject Teachers and Form Tutors ensure that students are supported in pursuing their individual interests and ambitions.

The CCHSG Library is also an excellent source of resources such as University prospectuses and information about careers, work experience, Oxbridge applications and taking a Gap Year (volunteering or getting a job abroad). There are also materials to support students with interview techniques and CV writing.

Every year a Year 13 Mock Interview Programme is coordinated, which stretches and prepares students for interviews, whether for 18+ applications or to improve their confidence in dealing with interviews in later life. The school has achieved The Quality in Careers Standard for our Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance and employs an independent careers advisor who is available for individual student support.

“The careers advice has been incredibly useful to me. If it wasn’t for all the information, prospectuses and support, I would have no idea what I would be doing in my adult life!”



Applying to University

We have a comprehensive programme of support to help students through the process of choosing a course and making an application to University. Past students also provide an excellent source of advice and insight into particular courses and institutions. During Year 12 students are encouraged to investigate courses through work experience and/or reading around the subject. Talks are given by Admissions Tutors and subject specific talks are provided by external speakers.

Year 12

November – Forward Thinking Day

Advice about choosing a university and writing a Personal Statement.

January – PSHCE Talks

A number of talks take place covering the range of options available at post 18, applying to higher education in general and applying to Oxbridge.

April – Higher Education Evening

Students and their parents are invited to attend an evening which provides an overview of the UCAS application process and how to prepare for an application. Admissions Tutors will also be invited to share their expertise.

June/July – UCAS preparation

Online registration with UCAS takes place and support is provided with completing the application and writing a Personal Statement. Preparation for admissions tests such as ELAT (English), MLAT (Modern Foreign Languages), NSAT (Natural Sciences), LNAT (Law) and BMAT (Medicine & Veterinary Science) takes place within PSHCE.

Year 13

September – UCAS application and interviews

Tutors work with students to review their progress. UCAS applications can be submitted from early September. The UCAS deadline for Oxbridge, Veterinary Science and Dentistry is 15 October. All remaining courses will have a deadline in early January. Once UCAS forms have been submitted students are invited to apply for higher education funding.

October/November – Preparation, interviews and offers

During the PSHCE programme students have mock interviews, firstly a general interview and secondly an interview with a subject specialist. Advice is also provided about writing covering letters and living on a budget.

February/March – Accepting offers

Advice is given on making first and second choices.

May/August – Examinations and Results

Guidance is provided about the procedure for results day, when staff will also be available for support as required.



Oxbridge at CCHSG

Year 12

During Year 12 there will be opportunities to talk to Admissions Tutors when they visit CCHSG. Students can contact our ex-students to gain an insight into particular courses and colleges.

January – PSHCE talks

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

June/July – Support with writing a Personal Statement and preparation for Admissions Tests. Students applying for Organ or Choral Scholarship will need to complete the Oxbridge application form before the end of the summer term.

June/July – Oxbridge Presentation

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

July – Cambridge and Oxford Universities Open Days

The Universities and individual colleges have their open days. Students will have the opportunity to hear talks by Admissions Tutors and lectures given by a variety of departments.

Year 13

September – The Application

Students are supported through the final stages of making the application.

September/October/November – Preparation for Interviews

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

December

Oxbridge interviews and offers.



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