



fides Caritas Unitas

ALL SAINTS RC SCHOOL

Diocese of Middlesbrough

Head Teacher: Mr W. Scriven



fides Caritas Unitas

A LEVEL

Course Descriptors



SEPTEMBER 2017



ART

Subject Leader: MR P NORTON

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- Enthusiasm, commitment and resilience
- A positive work ethic and determination to excel
- A willingness to experiment with ideas, techniques and processes
- A creative and mature approach to challenges and tasks
- Independent learning strategies
- Excellent time management and organisational skills

Subject outline :

Our Art course has been carefully designed to challenge and excite our creative students. We endeavour to enable them to create intelligent and meaningful outcomes across a range of disciplines including drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, digital applications and sculpture. In addition to our spacious and well-equipped Art studio we have a room dedicated to Photography with a suite of PC's, professional studio lighting, backdrops and 10 DSLR cameras.

In the first year students embark on two projects simultaneously covering a wide variety of techniques and processes. Whilst one project promotes high level analytical drawing skills and the close investigation of objects and their form, the second project explores how intelligent mark-making can be applied to build interesting and sophisticated, layered surfaces. Both projects are enhanced and informed by the study of related Artists and critical studies. The second unit of work is a controlled test with questions set by AQA.

In the second year students work to their own brief using the skills acquired during AS. Students develop a personal project with the guidance of staff but the required independent learning and ownership are given over to the student. A written component of 3000 words is also submitted with the final portfolio of work. A written component of 3000 words is submitted with the final portfolio and is linked to the theme of the practical investigation. This essay will inform practical and conceptual developments and offer a deeper understanding. A second unit of work is then set by AQA as in the first year.

The course successfully prepares students for direct entry onto Foundation and Degree courses.

Careers it can lead to:

This area of employment is exciting, diverse and constantly expanding. Possible jobs include Animator, Architect, Art Conservation, Art Director, Art Editor, Art Historian, Art Lecturer, Art Teacher, Art Therapist, Arts Administrator, Book Illustrator, Botanical illustrator, Calligrapher, Fashion Designer, Film/Video Maker, Furniture Designer, Fine Artist, Games Designer, Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Industrial Designer, Interior Designer, Jeweller, Landscape Architect, Packaging/Product Designer, Painter, Photographer, Sculptor, Set Designer, Web Designer.

Qualifications required:

GCSE Grade C or higher

BIOLOGY

Teacher in Charge: MRS L FORSTER

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- A responsible and committed approach to work
- The ability to communicate in a variety of ways
- The ability to work without direct supervision
- The ability to make decisions
- An interest in your world
- A sense of enjoyment

Subject outline :

Biology is the study of living organisms, from the molecular level to the makeup of ecosystems.

The course is designed to follow on from Core and Additional Science taught at GCSE. Many topics covered at GCSE are developed further and taught in more depth, in addition to the new topics. The course explores areas such as the human body, causes of disease, advances in medicine and Science in the world around us. Students will learn about the way scientists work and the contributions of Science to modern society.

Careers it can lead to:

Biology can be used as a specific qualification to pursue a career in the subject or a related field, ranging from Research or Technical work to Medicine or Genetic Engineering. Biology can also be used as a general qualification used to follow a career in other professions such as Banking, Accountancy or Law.

Qualifications required:

B in GCSE Core Science and Additional Science (or B in Triple Science Biology) plus Grade 5 in GCSE in Maths and English Lang

BTEC NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS

Subject Leader : MRS S BILTON

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- An interest in local, national and global issues, particularly relating to business and the economy.
- An enjoyment of coursework and be willing to work hard.
- Good organisational and time management skills.
- The ability to work independently as well as in groups.
- Basic skills of numeracy and data analysis.
- 100% attendance.
- You **do not** have to have done Business at GCSE to study this course.

A brief outline of the course:

The course comprises of 8 units of vocational topics which provide students with a broad understanding of how businesses work. 6 of the units are mandatory and include Exploring Business and the Principles of Management as well as introducing students to the key functions of a business such as marketing and finance. Beyond this, students will explore and investigate a broad range of business related topics such as International Business and Business Planning. The units combine both internal and externally set assignments which are assessed to A level standard and is the equivalent to 2 A levels. Of the 8 units, 7 are coursework based and one is assessed by written exam.

Careers it can lead to:

This qualification will give students the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to progress to Higher Education Institutes. Many of our students go on to study Business Studies related degrees and other higher level qualifications. Outside of higher education some of our students have chosen the employment route, receiving offers on competitive apprenticeship and other vocational programmes such as the Nestle Fast Track.

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40

BUSINESS STUDIES

Subject Leader : MRS S BILTON

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- An interest in local, national and global issues, particularly relating to business and the economy.
- Good reading skills and a determination to understand and use business related terminology.
- The ability to relate theoretical concepts to a range of real world contexts.
- A capacity to analyse and weigh up different perspectives to make well-reasoned judgments.
- Basic skills of numeracy and data analysis .
- A thoughtful and enquiring mind to consider business from different perspectives and a willingness to challenge Assumptions.
- You **do not** need Business Studies at GCSE to study this course.

A brief outline of the course:

This A level course offers students an opportunity to understand core business concepts and develop a broad appreciation of how businesses work. Students will study a range of different topics that begin with an understanding of the key functions of a business such as marketing, financial and human resources management and progress to a more strategic understanding of decision making, competitive advantage and globalisation. Assessment on the course is 100% exam.

This course is excellent preparation for a range of post 18 options including higher education, employment or other vocational routes such as apprenticeships. The knowledge and understanding of business together with the range of skills students develop on the course such as teamwork, communication and evaluation skills and are highly valued by employers and universities, aiding a smooth transition after sixth form.

The course requires students to engage with business through wider reading and an awareness of the current issues which impact on business. Keeping up to date with current affairs in the media will benefit their understanding of topics covered, as well as enhance written work with more detailed analysis and reference to realistic examples.

This qualification follows the Edexcel exam board specification.

Careers it can lead to:

Many of our students go on to study Business at degree level choosing from a broad range of related degrees including Business Studies, Business Management and International Business to more specialised fields such as Business with Marketing or Business with Psychology. Some of our students go on to study Economics or Accountancy related degrees however A level Business Studies is a useful spring board to many other degree options. Outside of higher education some of our students have chosen the employment route, receiving offers on competitive apprenticeship and other vocational programmes such as the Nestle Fast Track.

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40

CHEMISTRY

(Available as an AS or A level)

Teacher in Charge : MRS L NIVEN

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- Problem solvers with an inquisitive nature would enjoy this course.
- Organisation and clear communication skills (both written and oral) are necessary to accumulate the large amount of knowledge and apply it effectively to new situations.
- The ability to be logical is essential, allowing one to both tell the 'story' of an explanation, as well as to collect and analyse data.
- Good mathematicians and those with an aptitude for safe, competent practical work will do well.
- Those without enthusiasm, diligence and the determination to persevere may struggle with this course.

Subject Outline:

We study the AQA specification for Chemistry, further developing ideas of physical, inorganic and organic chemistry that were first introduced at GCSE. These include atomic structure, bonding, periodicity, organic compounds and their reactions and quantitative chemistry, which lead nicely to discussions about transition metals, industrial reactions, biochemistry and electrochemistry. Additionally, practicals are used throughout the course to develop skills in using a variety of apparatus, chemicals and techniques. These investigations will also hone skills used by scientists in their everyday work, such as: researching, planning, making and analysing measurements, and evaluating experimental results. Overall, this course looks at the way in which Chemistry is fundamental to our understanding of the processes of life and the production of modern materials.

What careers can it lead to?

A level Chemistry is both an incredibly valuable qualification and required for many university courses. It is a prerequisite for people seeking a career in medicine, nursing, dentistry, biochemistry or forensic science. It will also equip you for a career in industry, for example in the petrochemical or pharmaceutical industries. Students completing an A level in Chemistry are able to demonstrate demonstrates an aptitude to take on a challenge, organise one's self and articulate complex ideas clearly and efficiently. These are all skills desired by employers, not only in science but in other sectors too, such as law.

Qualifications required:

Grade B in GCSE Core and Additional Science; or Grade B in GCSE Chemistry. A grade 6 in GCSE Maths is also required.

COMPUTING

Subject Leader: MR D TAIT

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- An enthusiasm for working with computers and a keen interest in technology
- Independent learning, an appetite for problem solving and meeting challenges
- Basic skills of numeracy and ability to think logically.
- Background reading to keep up to date with new technologies
- You **do not** need Computing at GCSE to study this course.

Subject outline:

- To develop an understanding of the main principles of solving problems using computers
- To develop an understanding of the range of applications of computers and the effects of their use
- To develop an understanding of the organisation of computer systems including software, data and hardware
- To acquire an understanding of modern and changing world of computing.
- To understand the methods of computational thinking.
- To develop the skills to solve problems with a focus on computer programming.
- To understand how algorithms work and can be developed to solve problems.

Why choose AS and A Level Computing?

Computer Science is one of the fastest growing subjects in the UK and the number of students studying A-Level Computer Science have risen for each of the past three years at All Saints. That trajectory is expected to continue with the addition of the subject now also being taught at GCSE. A Computing qualification is challenging but exciting; studying a diverse curriculum that involves learning a programming language to being able to complete challenging binary calculations. Previous students have gone onto study the subject at University or secure computing-based apprenticeships. Success in the subject can lead to increased employability particularly in industries such as cyber security which has a high demand for skilled computer scientists, transferrable skills to other subjects and essentially solid foundations for many technology based jobs that have yet to be created.

Careers it can lead to:

Database administrator	Games developer
Information systems manager	IT consultant
Multimedia programmer	Network engineer/manager.
Systems analyst	IT sales professional
IT trainer	Teacher/Technician
Computer programmer	Cyber security

Qualifications required: GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more

Would be helpful to have strong GCSE's in either ICT/Computer Science, Maths and Science but not essential.

Exam Board: OCR A-Level Computer Science

Units include: - Software development, Programming, Algorithms, Problem Solving, Computational Thinking, Exchanging data

DANCE

Subject Leader : MISS H DUKES

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- A lively interest in knowledge of professional dance
- A willingness to work actively on development of practical dance skills
- A collaborative approach to group practical work
- A willingness to read widely and explore background material to set dance works
- An ability to study the theory and practice of dance technique, choreography, performance skills and appreciation
- To make theatre visits in your own time
- Having a keen interest in the process rather than just the end result
- Lots of enthusiasm and energy!

Subject outline:

Dance is an exciting and enjoyable subject which aims to develop students' knowledge, skills and ability within performance, choreography and appreciation run through the AQA exam board.

The course will involve studying different contemporary practitioners including Rambert Dance Company, Christopher Bruce and Akram Khan. All techniques are studied on a practical level as well as a theoretical level. The course is weighted 50% theory and 50% practical in both the one year AS qualification and two year A Level qualification. In the practical component students will be assessed on a solo and group choreography piece, a performance in a duo/quartet and a solo performance piece based on an established dance practitioner. These pieces will be performed live many times throughout the course.

Final examination takes place in front of a visiting examiner.

In class students will develop their technique across many dance styles, becoming stronger as a performer and technician. The theoretical aspect will be assessed through a written exam, which covers many topics including physiology, safe practise, training principles, appreciation of professional dance works and established choreographers.

It is not essential for students to have studied Dance at GCSE level but pupils do need to demonstrate prior knowledge and understanding of Dance on a practical and theoretical level, combined with a willingness to perform and participate.

Dance combines well with English Literature or Language, PE, Psychology and Sciences as it touches on many disciplines.

Careers it can lead to: The course develops qualities which are widely sought by employers, such as confidence and positive expression. It can lead to careers in diverse fields, such as the Media, Advertising, Travel and Tourism, PE, Business Management, Teaching and of course, the Performing Arts.

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY : 3D PRODUCT DESIGN

Subject Leader : MR A CRAWFORD

Available at A2 Exam board: AQA A2 7552

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- An aptitude for practical problem solving processes
- Good independent learning skills
- Ability to make a contribution to class/group work
- Good practical and communication skills in a range of media
- An appreciation of materials and how they can be formed/deformed
- The perseverance to see a long term project through from start to finish

Subject outline:

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industries.

They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing products of their choice.

Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

The content of the course will be delivered through a range of practical problem-solving activities with all the relevant theory being delivered alongside the practical.

Assessment: Paper 1 Core technical principles and core designing and making principles.

How it's assessed • Written exam: 2 hours • 100 marks • 25% of A-level

Questions: Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response.

Paper 2 Specialist knowledge, technical and designing and making principles.

How it's assessed • Written exam: 2 hours • 25% of A-level

Questions: Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response questions.

Section A: • Product Analysis. • Up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of product(s).

Section B: • Commercial manufacture. • Mixture of short and extended response questions

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

What's assessed : Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge.

How it's assessed • Substantial design and make task • 45 hours • 100 marks • 50% of A-level

Evidence Written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype.

Design and Technology combines well with Mathematics/Sciences/Art, Photography and Business Studies.

What careers can it lead to?

D & T can lead to a wide range of careers from the traditional manufacturing careers to the more hi-tech -Product/Graphic Design, Engineering Design, Sports Equipment Design, Interior design, Furniture Design and Manufacture. These have entrance at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Subject Leader: MRS V LANGAN

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- Enthusiasm for looking at language in a wide variety of contexts
- Enjoyment and interest in writing for specific purposes and audiences
- The ability to communicate clearly
- An interest in the nature and structure of language
- The ability to work independently using study skills for research
- An awareness of language in society

Subject outline :

English Language is an enjoyable 'A' level course, involving group discussions and independent research; higher reading and writing skills; analysis of texts and transcripts of conversation. We follow the AQA English Language specification and begin by studying 'An introduction to the Study of Language' in which you will learn and use linguistic terminology. AS topics for exams are 'Textual Variations and Representations', 'Language Diversity', and 'Language Discourses'.

For A2 we study 'Children's Language Development' and 'Language Change'. Coursework is original writing with a choice of The Power of Persuasion, The Power of Story-telling and The Power of Information in Year 12 and investigating a chosen aspect of language in Year 13.

English Language often supports your study of other courses and combines naturally with most AS/A2 subjects.

Careers it can lead to:

An English Language qualification gives you access to many English/related subject combinations at university. It is always an impressive qualification on a CV and can lead to career pathways in Media, Teaching, Psychology, Sociology, Law and Business; it will also be useful for analysis and report writing in Science based careers.

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more including GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Subject Leader: MRS V LANGAN

Examination Board : AQA

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- Enjoyment of sustained reading of fiction, poetry and plays
- An ability to write fluently and coherently to communicate understanding and insight
- An ability to research into texts of different types and periods
- Willingness to discuss ideas and language
- An ability to develop independent, well-substantiated critical points of view

A brief outline of the course:

English Literature is a fascinating subject which helps students to explore cultural, aesthetic and ethical issues, and to analyse the imaginative and technical language of Literature and the experiences it embodies. It will increase life-long pleasure in reading, writing fiction, going to the theatre etc as well as giving context and understanding to most human issues.

The course involves the study of texts, both modern and pre-twentieth century, and includes poetry, prose and drama. Work is based on a wide range of texts. Students will be given opportunities to access workshops, discussions, theatre and other visits. The A2 course is assessed through 3 modules. Some assessments will involve written exams and one coursework. The breadth of skills, pleasures and insights English Literature brings means that it combines well with virtually every other subject, either by developing similar areas or by contrast. Examination Board: AQA

Careers it can lead to:

As well as specialist courses English Literature can be a basis for a wide range of studies. It can lead to many careers including Media, Publishing, Law, Performing Arts and Education, and also those in industry and business and many others not necessarily literary.

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more GCSE Grade 5 or above in **both** English Language and English Literature

FRENCH

Subject Leader : MR M ASHDOWN

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- A desire to develop your communication skills - the most highly valued asset by employers today
- An active interest in issues affecting young people today, and increasingly at A2 an interest in more global themes
- A desire to develop language skills to a high level
- A willingness to participate orally in discussions
- An awareness of the need for private study to consolidate grammar and extend vocabulary
- An interest in cultivating links with young people in France

A brief outline of the course:

The post-16 study of French opens up a new world to you. You will be surprised at how quickly you build up your fluency and language proficiency, so that you can talk about issues affecting you and other young people in society, at home and in the French speaking world. There are study days, film and theatre trips, and the opportunity to become a 'Language Leader'.

The exam tests the familiar skills of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing in French. The topics link the development of these skills within a wider understanding of the French speaking world and its culture. Topics such as the nature of the family, cyber-society, multicultural society and immigration, law and order, politics, music and cinema are all used to stimulate debate and give a context to the development of language skills.

Careers it can lead to:

The trans-national world in which we now live is crying out for people with modern language skills. French is spoken as a first or second language in countries all over the world and research shows employment prospects among linguistics to be excellent, particularly for those able to offer two languages. A vast range of degree courses and careers are available; you can specialise in modern languages or combine French with almost any other subject area to enhance your prospects and provide you with the skills for further work or study abroad.

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more, plus at least Grade B in GCSE French

GEOGRAPHY

Subject Leader: MRS P GODDARD

Qualities & Skills students will require: An interest in your own surroundings and the world around you

- A desire to learn about contemporary global issues and their impact on people
- The ability to observe, represent and analyse data
- A willingness to take part in fieldwork
- The ability to produce written reports based on your own research
- A good sense of humour!

Subject outline :Geography is a dynamic, interesting and exciting subject which addresses a range of local and global issues. The course will help to develop the student's understanding and appreciation of the world that they are part of and will help them to develop informed opinions on what is happening around them at a variety of different spatial scales.

The course will study core physical and human geographical concepts through a systems based approach to traditional topics such as water and carbon cycles, coastal environments or natural hazards. It will also investigate contemporary geographical themes such as global governance and urban environments.

Geographical Skills - Students will develop the use and application of a variety of geographical skills. A range of investigative, ICT, graphical, cartographical and statistical skills will be covered.

Fieldwork - Students will have the opportunity to undertake fieldwork in a variety of locations. Day trips involve the investigation of infiltration rates on the North York Moors, coastal features and defences along the Holderness Coast and local issues in York and the surrounding area. A residential course is also offered as part of the full A level course. Throughout the course students will experience a range of fieldwork methods and data collection and processing techniques. Fieldwork is examined in the AS exam and at A level students complete an individual investigation based on primary data collection, which is submitted to the exam board.

What careers can it lead to:

Geography's wide range of topics allows progression into both science and humanities degrees as well as into specialist geography courses. Geography is an all-encompassing subject leaving you well equipped for a wide variety of career opportunities in fields as diverse as town and transport planning, nature conservation, development, tourism, geographic information systems (GIS), environmental agencies and even teaching. Geography students develop good transferable skills (analytical and research skills), which also attract employers from a range of other sectors (technology, admin and management, the financial sector, marketing, research).

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more including GCSE Grade of C and above in Geography, unless students have had a discussion with the Geography department prior to application.

GERMAN

Teacher in Charge: **MRS L. MILLS**

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- An interest in both the language and culture of German-speaking countries
- A desire to develop language skills to a high level
- An ability to work with commitment and to work well independently
- An active interest in current affairs and contemporary issues of importance
- A willingness to participate in conversation, discussion and role-play situations
- An interest in cultivating links with young people in German-speaking countries

Subject outline :

The advanced study of German leads the student into a highly stimulating new world of contemporary issues and ideas as seen from the perspective of the German-speaking countries. Students not only develop their level of fluency across the full range of language skills but also develop their ability to understand and respond to important issues that affect society, at home and abroad. In doing so they foster effective study skills that make a positive contribution to their 'A' level courses.

'A' level German follows a multi-media approach to learning with the newer technologies playing an important role. Up-to-date textual and visual materials combine with a clear progression of language development to ensure that students' proficiency is built up in a carefully structured yet stimulating way. Students work in a variety of modes, comprising of individual, pair and group work and whole class activities. Whenever possible, students are encouraged to take part in events organised by outside agencies and, of course, to spend a period of time in a German-speaking country. Topics studied during the course include aspects of German-speaking society, multiculturalism in German-speaking society, artistic culture in the German-speaking world and aspects of political life in the German-speaking world

Learning during the course will be enhanced through access to supported study. Our language assistants can also provide one-to-one coaching.

Careers it can lead to:

Combined with another language and/or other subjects, A Level German provides a good qualification for careers in Banking, Journalism, Interpreting, Translation, Teaching and Business of all kinds. Students may opt to follow a course in higher education that is language based or a more traditional course combining language and literature.

Qualifications required:

Average Grade Score of 40 or more and at least Grade B in GCSE German.

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Subject Leader: **MR M WHEATLEY**

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- Interest in Politics and Current Affairs
- Willingness to read widely, Newspapers, Periodicals, Books
- Willingness to take part in debate and discussion
- Ability to argue a point based on evidence

Subject outline :

Politics is a lively and interesting subject, which is firmly based, in the contemporary political scene. We study issues such as political culture, voting behaviour and electoral systems: political parties and pressure groups: Parliament, the Prime Minister and Cabinet. We will also study the politics of the USA. We have a lively range of resources and normally have a trip to London to visit the Houses of Parliament

Careers it can lead to:

Government and Politics fits in with any A Level combination and would be acceptable for most degree subjects leading to a wide range of careers and opportunities.

Qualifications required: GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more (it is highly desirable that you achieve Grade 4 in English)

HISTORY

Subject Leader : MRS E MARSDEN

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- An enquiring mind, an interest in the past and its relevance to current affairs.
- A readiness to participate in class discussion and express substantiated opinions.
- An interest in acquiring informed opinions of the past through analysing and evaluating evidence.
- Ability to answer essay questions in a relevant and logical manner.
- An interest in reading.

Subject outline :

The aims and objectives of Advanced GCE in History are to enable students to:

- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for history and an understanding of its intrinsic value and significance
- acquire an understanding of different identities within society and an appreciation of aspects such as social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity, as appropriate
- build on their understanding of the past through experiencing a broad and balanced course of study
- improve as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with curious and enquiring minds
- develop the ability to ask relevant and significant questions about the past and to research them
- acquire an understanding of the nature of historical study, for example that history is concerned with judgements based on available evidence and that historical judgements are provisional
- develop their use and understanding of historical terms, concepts and skills
- make links and draw comparisons within and/or across different periods and aspects of the past; and organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in different ways, arguing a case and reaching substantiated judgements.

Exam Board Info and Modules of Study.

Edexcel Route F: AS Level

Paper 1: In search of the American Dream: the USA, c.1917-96 (30% of A-Level 60% of AS Exam=2hrs 15 mins)

Paper 2: South Africa, 1948-94: from apartheid state to 'rainbow nation'. (20% of A-Level 40% of AS Exam = 1hr 30 mins)

A-level History (as above plus....) Paper 3: Ireland and the Union, c1774 -1923 (30% of A-Level Exam = 2hrs 15 mins)

Coursework: You have a choice! Stalin, Churchill or Thatcher. (20% of A-Level – assessment 3000-4000 word essay)

What careers can it lead to?

The main objective of 'A' level History is to develop the ability to think clearly, logically and coherently. This should enable students to take up a variety of courses and careers: degrees in Humanities, Business Management, Law, diverse aspects of Media Studies, Civil Service, Local and Central Government, Teaching.

Qualifications Required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more (it is highly desirable that you achieve Grade 4 in English Lang)

BTEC NATIONAL DIPLOMA HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Equivalent to two A levels. Subject Leader: MRS J GAVIN

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- Very good attendance
- Genuine interest in health, social care, children and young people.
- Show initiative; be a good communicator
- To be responsible for keeping to set deadlines
- An ability to plan and research topics independently

Subject outline :You will study the following coursework units

- 1) Human Lifespan Development
- 2) Working in Health and Social Care
- 3) Enquiries into current research in Health and Social Care
- 4) Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
- 5) Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care
- 6) Promoting Public Health

The following units are externally examined

- 1) Physiological Disorders and their Care
- 2) Nutritional Health

You will experience presentations from a range of practitioners and visits to a range of Health , Social Care and Children and Young People settings.

Careers it can lead to:

Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Teaching, Social Work, Paramedic, Care Assistant, Speech and Language Therapist, Nursery Nursing, Dietician, Paramedic, and many others in the Health/Social Care/Children and Young People Sectors

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more, Volunteering in a Health & Social Care setting is mandatory.

LATIN

Teacher in charge: **MRS A NIGHTINGALE**

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- A desire to develop linguistic skills to a high level through the analysis of complex grammar;
- A fascination with words and their origins;
- A broad interest in the literature, history and society of Ancient Rome and in their continuing influence;
- A willingness to read independently a wide variety of literature in translation to inform the study of set texts in Latin;
- A desire to read literature in Latin and an ability to appreciate and to discuss literary style;
- An awareness of the need for private study to consolidate grammar and learn vocabulary.

A brief outline of the course:

The Latin A Level course gives you the opportunity to explore further the language and literature of Ancient Rome. The study of an inflected language involves a detailed knowledge of grammar and vocabulary which leads to a high level of linguistic understanding and analytical skill. Reading texts in the original Latin demands an ability to appreciate how Roman authors used this complex and beautiful language to reflect on their extraordinary history and society. The combination of linguistic and literary study gives a profound insight into the social, political, moral, artistic and scientific life of a people whose influence can still be seen in all these areas in the world today.

The examinations at AS and at A Level involve both language and literature elements. In the language papers, you will translate passages of unseen Latin into English, with an option also to translate from English into Latin. The literature papers involve the study of prose and verse set texts. Questions involve some translation into English, but the main focus is on your ability to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Latin texts within their literary, social and historical contexts, and to discuss your own response to them. Exam Board: OCR

Further study and careers:

The content of the Latin course combines very well with many other subjects at A Level, including Modern Languages, English and History, whilst the analytical skills and vocabulary knowledge give an excellent background for Maths and Medicine. Latin is highly regarded by universities and employers, who appreciate the high level of academic study it demands and the excellent analytical and linguistic skills it bestows.

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more, plus at least Grade B in GCSE Latin.

MATHEMATICS AND FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Subject Leader : MR P DALLIMORE
Assistant Subject Leader (KS5): MR R DUMBLETON

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- An enlightened acceptance of the challenge
- Confidence in algebra, especially quadratic equations, simultaneous equations and surds.
- Willingness to share ideas
- Desire to build upon current achievement
- Enjoyment of the subject

Subject outline :

One of the most exciting topics at A Level is Differential and Integral Calculus and this means that rates of change of variables (e.g. population, velocity, investment etc) can be explored. This branch of Mathematics was developed independently by Newton and Leibnitz in the 17th Century and has wide ranging applications.

All A Level students study Pure mathematics in Year 12 and in Year 13. Pure Mathematics will make up over half of the course, and students will additionally study Statistics as well as Mechanics, both in Year 12 and in Year 13.

- **Pure mathematics** includes trigonometry, indices and surds, quadratics, sequences and series, co-ordinate geometry and graphs, circular measure and functions.
- **Mechanics** includes displacement, velocity, acceleration, momentum, energy, force and vectors. Many topics are similar to parts of the Physics syllabus so its combination with Physics is advantageous.
- **Statistics** includes the analysis and processing of data and probability. These techniques are applied to the testing of hypotheses. It is useful when combined with Biology, Geography or Psychology and is an asset for Accountancy and Business Studies.

Completing this course leads to an A Level 'Maths' qualification. See below for details about the double 'Further Maths' qualification.

Careers it can lead to?

Mathematics is a great asset to those hoping to enter careers in Business, Banking, Accountancy, Insurance, Local Government, Teaching or the Civil Service. Mathematics qualifications indicate the ability to analyse and solve problems. Engineering and Science based courses (including Medicine) also rely on Mathematics. Mathematics can also be combined with Arts subjects. Mathematical skills are highly valuable and highly valued.

Qualifications required

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40, with a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics, having worked consistently at grade 7-9 during year 11, particularly in algebra topics. These requirements reflect the nature of the course and the level of challenge posed. A student attaining a grade 6 will have the opportunity to demonstrate their suitability for the course through a one month trial at the start of year 12, which would include at least one assessment.

Further Mathematics

This course will be available for the most able students and includes double the content of the Maths A-level, at an accelerated pace. Further Maths students will have the opportunity to study Pure mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics in more depth, whilst potentially studying Decision mathematics as well, leading to two full A-levels. This is an extremely demanding but very rewarding course, suitable for those students considering a Maths related degree at any of the top universities. Grade 8/9 at GCSE is strongly recommended, with outstanding algebra skills. Students should only choose 'Further Maths' on the application form.

MEDIA STUDIES

Teacher in Charge: MR B FORSTER

Qualities & skills students will require :

Media students need to be highly motivated, team players, articulate, adaptable, creative, hardworking and critical. They need to have excellent presentation skills and have an interest in the media in general and not just film.

Subject Outline:

Media Studies is designed to allow media students to draw on their existing experience of the media and to develop their abilities to respond critically to the media. It enables students to explore a wide variety of media, including digital media technologies, drawing on the fundamental concepts informing the study of the media: texts, industry and audiences.

Media Studies also encourages creative work to enable students to gain a greater appreciation of the media through their own production work and to develop their own production skills. At A2 in particular, students are given the opportunity to research a topic which will then form the basis for their production, thus encouraging them to create productions informed by an awareness of contemporary media issues. **Exam Board:** WJEC

Careers it can it lead to?

A Media A Level can lead to a variety of careers. Many All Saints students have gone to study Media further at University and some have gone to work directly in the media in industries such as advertising and marketing; journalism; radio; television. Media graduates are among the most employable of any graduates, says a recent major survey. A recent "What Do Graduates Do?" survey of over 2000,000 ex-students reveals that Media graduates have among the highest employment rates. This is because of the skills gained and developed on Media courses.

Qualifications required: GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more, Grade C or equivalent or above in English or Media Studies

MUSIC

Subject Leader: MR R MANN

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- An interest in all types of music, with emphasis on western classical traditions
- The ability to enjoy listening to and analysing music
- Good performance skills on instrument and/or voice (grade V is standard)
- The ability to question and explore music in depth. Good aural skills.

A brief outline of the course:

Performance A recital on a instrument/instruments of your choice. The piece/s may be in any style and may be solo items or as part of an ensemble

Composition This unit encourages students to develop their compositional skills leading to the creation of a final composition in response to a chosen brief.

Listening and Understanding, History and Analysis Learning to respond to the elements present in music and accurately describe/write about them through listening to unfamiliar pieces and 'set works/set genres' that are studied in more detail to develop skills in musical analysis and aural recognition.

What careers can it lead to?

Television, media, lives performance. Music is most obviously useful as a teaching subject both at secondary and primary level. However, with music technology expanding all the time new careers in sequencing, music production, recording, all seek graduates with music qualifications.

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more, plus at least Grade 5 in Theory and Practical Music Exam (a B in Music is also preferred). If a student hasn't studied GCSE Music, then entry on the course will be through interview.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Subject Leader: MR R MANN

Qualities and skills students will require:

- An interest in music and music technology
- A desire to practise skills using a variety of sound equipment and software
- An interest in composing, arranging and score writing
- The ability to question and explore the way technology influences music trends and production
- The ability to evaluate own work and work independently
- A basic knowledge of keyboard and notation skills

A brief outline of the course:

- Students will learn about and use a wide range of music and music technology skills in order to produce a portfolio of both compositions and multi-tracking recordings to submit as a final 'album'
- Students will be required to listen to and analyse musical, technical and stylistic features of both unfamiliar pieces of music and 'set genres/artists' that are explored in more detail. They will particularly focus on the impact of music technology on this music.
- Students will demonstrate their knowledge of music and the principles of music technology through the manipulation of given pieces and files and through a written commentary.
- Students will explore the development and history of music technology and investigate the music industry of today.

Careers can it lead to:

Music Technology particularly lends itself to careers in media, television, live performance, DJ-ing, sequencing, music production, recording and teaching.

Qualifications required:

40 GCSE average grade score. No formal music requirement but helpful to have an instrumental skill. If a pupil has not studied GCSE Music, then entry onto the course will be through interview.

PHILOSOPHY

Subject Leader: Mrs K Humphrey

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- An enquiring mind, genuine interest in trying to find answers to difficult questions.
- Willingness to read widely around the subject.
- Determination to stick with challenging concepts.
- Engagement in debate and discussion.
- Ability to argue a point based on evidence.
- Logical and analytical skills are essential.

Subject outline :

Philosophy is highly regarded in academic circles and widely recognised by universities as good preparation for studying any subject at degree level.

Studying philosophy is an opportunity to think about and discuss concepts and ideas that you may not have even considered before! It will challenge you in an academic way and will lead to good 'dinner table debate' at home.

In Year 12 pupils study 2 main units:

- Epistemology – What is knowledge? This challenges us to consider the nature of the world around us, how we gain knowledge and what types of knowledge are best. It will even make you consider whether we are living an illusion!
- Moral Philosophy – What we mean by the terms 'good' or 'bad'. How do people make moral decisions? Should we apply strict rules, or consider the circumstances? Should the number of people involved make a difference in what we say is good? Applying these ideas to moral issues in the 21st century.

In Year 13 pupils study a further 2 units in addition to those taken in Y12.

- Metaphysics of God – Does God exist? What evidence is there to support His existence? What are the major barriers to belief in God. How can our 'human language' be applied to God?
- Metaphysics of mind – What is the mind? Are mind and body separate? Can mental properties be reduced to physical causes? What is consciousness?

Careers it can lead to:

Philosophy is almost unique as a subject in that its skills are transferable to all areas. As a result the types of careers that people with qualifications in Philosophy will go on to pursue are wide ranging. Any career that requires logical thinking, clear communication skills, a quick and lively mind will be well suited to a student of Philosophy.

Some of the more traditional routes include: The Legal Profession, Medicine, Journalism, Forensic Science, Psychology, Teaching, Police and Politics. Who would have guessed that companies such as Google and Microsoft have so many philosophy graduates in their employment as a result of their expertise in 'thinking outside of the box'.

Qualifications required:

GCSE Grade B or equivalent or higher in RE, English and Maths

PHOTOGRAPHY

Subject Leader : MR P NORTON

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- GCSE Art at grade C or above offers an advantage but is not essential
- Enthusiasm, commitment and resilience
- A positive work ethic and determination to excel
- A willingness to experiment with new ideas, techniques and processes
- A creative and mature approach to challenges and tasks
- Independent learning strategies
- Excellent time management and organisational skills

Subject outline :

Our course is designed to train students in the use of both traditional chemical and digital photography. In addition to a dedicated Photography teaching area with professional backdrops, a suite of PC's and ten DSLR cameras, students will have access to a well-equipped darkroom facility. Each year is assessed on two units of work and the second unit of each year is an externally set controlled test from AQA.

In the first year students explore the use of DSLR cameras, lenses and lighting to gain a good understanding of techniques related to the development and printing of photographic images. The darkroom is used to create handmade compositions in the form of photograms and topics such as creative depth of field/shutter speed, portraiture, chiaroscuro lighting and landscape stretch students' understanding throughout the year. These topics are delivered along with a critical studies element.

In the second year students work to their own brief using the skills acquired during AS. Students develop a personal project with the guidance of staff but the required independent learning and ownership are given over to the student. A written component of 3000 words is submitted with the final portfolio and is linked to the theme of the practical investigation. This essay will inform practical and conceptual developments and offer a deeper understanding.

The course successfully prepares students for direct entry onto a Degree course.

What careers can it lead to?

Photography links to many areas of the Creative Arts and can lead to a range of jobs such as photojournalism, event photography, sports, wildlife, documentary, TV and media work, fashion, corporate, geographic and conservation, Police and forensic, portraiture, aerial photography and surveying, medical, wedding, food, vehicle, advertising, travel, military underwater, equine, stock image photography, Fine Art, graphics and many more.

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more. Art GCSE at C grade or above is an advantage.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Teacher in Charge : MR E POPPLE

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- Be physically active in a mainstream sports
- An interest in developing a sound knowledge and understanding of Physical Education
- Ability to analyse individual performance in relation to the perfect performer
- Able to contribute through your own initiative in order to develop practical skills
- To enjoy challenges and to have the determination to work hard and to do your best
- You DO NOT have to have done GCSE Physical Education. All Students are welcome.

Subject outline :

The course is split into four units over two years and each unit has a number of sections:

- Within the Theory section you will study; exercise physiology, skill acquisition, sport psychology, biomechanical movement, sport in society and the role that technology could play in physical activity and sport.
- Practical units require candidates to perform as either Performer or Coach in your chosen activity. Both Practical and Theory are assessed in April/May.
- You would need to participate in topic research and prepare and deliver presentations to the class.
- You would have the opportunity to gain coaching awards with links through the school sports leadership programme.
- The subject provides development in all key skill areas – communication, ICT and numeracy.

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more

PHYSICS

Teacher in Charge: MRS C GWILLAM

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- A logical mind
- Interest in how things work
- The ability to work with other students
- Willingness to work hard
- Confidence at using GCSE Maths

Subject Outline:

A Level Physics is a very varied course, covering a wide range of topics, from the minute scale of subatomic particles, to the vast scale of the galaxies and the Universe. Practical work plays an important part in the course, and experimental skills are developed throughout the different topics. At All Saints, we follow the AQA Specification, which covers the following topics at AS Level:

- Measurements and their errors – developing skills in analysing experimental data
- Particles and Radiation - Going beyond protons, electrons and neutrons to include pions, kaons and quarks. Also including a study of the photoelectric effect, atomic line spectra and wave particle duality
- Waves – the behaviour of different types of waves, optical fibres and the Physics of musical instruments
- Mechanics – The Physics of moving objects, including velocity, acceleration, projectiles, energy and power
- Electricity – Electrical circuits, superconductivity, potential dividers
- Materials – How Physics can explain the properties and applications of different materials

At A2 further topics studied include radioactivity, astrophysics, thermal physics, further mechanics, electric and magnetic fields.

Careers can it lead to:

Physics is highly regarded by Universities and employers. It is useful or essential in a wide range of careers including Geo-physics, Engineering, Computing, Electronics, Medical Physics, Scientific Publishing and Accountancy.

Qualifications required:

B in GCSE Core Science & Additional Science (or B in GCSE Physics), plus 6 in GCSE Maths

PSYCHOLOGY

Subject Teacher:: Miss C Johnson

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- An interest in how people behave and what influences it
- Good reading skills and a determination to understand and use specialist terminology
- A capacity to analyse and weigh up evidence for different theories
- Some skills in data handling
- A willingness to discuss issues and controversies about human mental processes and behaviour

Subject outline:

Psychology offers an opportunity to investigate the possible causes of particular human behaviours. This course considers different perspectives within Psychology, from the very objective, scientific elements to the more personal, subjective explanations. Key terminology, theories and methods are outlined and there is a practical element where students investigate psychological theories. Psychology does not always offer simple answers so students need to be able to think through their responses to different kinds of evidence. There is no coursework so students need to be prepared to be assessed via examination only.

This course is an excellent preparation for research at higher level. Scientific methods, language, standards of evidence and statistical skills are covered. The development and interpretation of descriptive and inferential statistics are addressed in isolation and within topics.

The course requires students to discuss and analyse debates and controversies. Topics include gender development, social influence, memory, abnormality, forensic psychology, child development and stress.

Careers it can lead to: Some students go on to degrees in Psychology and careers in mental health nursing, counselling, education, academia and social work. Other students find the material on offender profiling, offender treatment programmes, eye-witness testimony and abnormality gives good experience for police work and management. The large emphasis on the implementation and analysis of research methods is excellent preparation for study at higher levels.

Exam board & modules of study:

AQA:

1st Year: Social Influence; Memory; Attachment; Psychopathology; Research Methods; Approaches; Biopsychology

2nd Year: Issues and Debates: Gender; Schizophrenia; Forensic Psychology

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more including GCSE English Grade 4

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

(THEOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS)

Available as an AS or an A Level

Subject Leader: MRS K HUMPHREY

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- An interest in current affairs
- An ability to analyse language and opinions/argument
- A willingness to discuss
- An ability to evaluate arguments
- An ability to think for yourself

Subject Outline:

Are you interested in the 'big' questions? Are you fascinated by the impact that religious belief has on people's everyday life? Would you like to find out how philosophers have answered some of these issues? Would you like to study some of the ethical issues arising from life in the 21st Century? Are you interested in how people make ethical decisions? Our main areas of study at A Level cover all these areas and more.

Students who choose this subject must be prepared to involve themselves in a variety of academic disciplines - personal research, extensive reading, discussion work, written work and presentations.

What careers can it lead to?

This option combines well with all other subjects. It is accepted as an academic subject by all major (and minor!) Universities. With qualifications in Religious Studies you will be a very attractive choice to many very different Employers - Accountancy, Armed Forces, Law, Police, Medicine and Nursing, Retail - the list is endless. Why not give it a go?

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more plus at least Grade C in GCSE RE

SOCIOLOGY

Subject Teacher: Miss A Mone

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- An interest in society and its structures
- Good reading skills and a determination to understand and use specialist terminology
- A capacity to analyse and weigh up evidence for different theories
- Some skills in data handling
- A willingness to discuss issues and controversies about social division, stability and change

Subject outline:

Sociology is the study of human social relationships and institutions. Sociology's subject matter is diverse, ranging from crime to religion, from the family to the state, from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture, and from social stability to radical change in whole societies. Unifying the study of these diverse subjects of study is sociology's purpose of understanding how human action and consciousness both shape and are shaped by surrounding cultural and social structures.

A-level Sociology offers students the opportunity to develop the essential knowledge and understanding of central aspects of sociological thought and methods. It is designed to encourage students to demonstrate the application of a range of skills and consider the integration of sociological themes.

The specification provides a smooth transition from GCSE Sociology, although this is not a requirement for studying AS or A-level Sociology. The specification also lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Sociology and related subjects in higher education.

Careers can it lead to:

Many prospective employers recognise that sociology combines the development of skills in reasoning and critical assessment with knowledge about society and its workings. Some students continue their studies of sociology to degree level. Sociologists are involved in shaping policies by examining and exposing areas of inequality in society. Sociology at A level frequently leads students to careers involving law enforcement, social work, politics and humanitarian work.

Exam board & modules of study: AQA

1st Year : Education; Methods in Context: Theory and Methods, Family and Households;

2nd Year: Crime and Deviance; Theory and Methods, Beliefs in Society

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more including GCSE English Grade 4

SPANISH

Acting Teacher in Charge: Mrs L. Mills

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- A desire to develop your communication skills - the most highly valued asset by employers today
- An active interest in issues affecting young people today.
- A desire to develop language skills to a high level.
- A willingness to participate orally in discussions.
- An awareness of the need for private study to consolidate grammar and extend vocabulary.
- An interest in cultivating links with young people in Spain.

Subject outline:

The post-16 study of Spanish opens up a new world to you. You will be surprised at how quickly you build up your fluency and language proficiency, so that you can talk about issues affecting you and other young people in society, at home and in the Spanish speaking world. There are study days, theatre trips, and the opportunity to become a 'Language Leader'.

The exam tests the familiar skills of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing in Spanish. The topics link the development of these skills within a wider understanding of the Spanish speaking world and its culture. Topics such as the nature of the family, cyber-society, multicultural society and immigration, music and cinema are all used to stimulate debate and give a context to the development of language skills.

Careers it can lead to:

People with modern language skills are keenly sought in the trans-national world in which we now live. Spanish is spoken as a first or second language in countries all over the world and research shows employment prospects among linguistics to be excellent, particularly for those able to offer two languages. A vast range of degree courses and careers are available; you can specialise in modern languages or combine Spanish with almost any other subject area to enhance your prospects and provide you with the skills for further work or study abroad.

Qualifications required:

GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more plus at least Grade B in GCSE Spanish.

TEXTILES

Teacher in Charge : MISS H RIPLEY

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- A strong interest in anything textiles, from fashion, clothing, designing, interior, upholstery, Art textiles etc.
- An ability to communicate your thinking clearly and represent your ideas graphically
- Good independent learning skills
- An ability to think creatively
- Perseverance and dedication to see a design through the making process

Subject Outline:

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industries.

They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing products of their choice.

Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

The content has been refreshed and enhanced, it is modern and relevant, so students can learn about contemporary technologies, materials and processes, as well as established practices.

The A level places emphasis on understanding and applying iterative design processes. Students will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.

This qualification is linear. This means that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course. Subject content 1. Core technical principles 2. Core designing and making principles 3. Additional specialist knowledge

Assessments Paper 1 What is assessed? Core technical principles and core designing and making principles

How it's assessed Written exam: 2 hours 100 marks 25% of A-level

Questions Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response

What is assessed? Additional specialist knowledge, core technical and core designing and making principles

How it's assessed Written exam: 2 hours 25% of A-level

Questions Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response questions

Section A Product Analysis: 40 marks Up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of product(s).

Section B Commercial manufacture: 60 marks

Mixture of short and extended response questions.

What is assessed Practical application of core technical principles, core designing and making principles and additional specialist knowledge

How it's assessed Substantial design and make task

45 hours 100 marks 50% of A-level **Evidence** Written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype

Careers it can lead to:

Textile Design could take you into a number of exciting career paths. Of course being a textile designer is a natural outcome, but there are other job prospects. Like working as an interior designer or in fashion merchandising and buying. The advertising and marketing profession always needs creative people too, as does the manufacturing industry. You could also apply this A Level to your portfolio of skills as a teacher. Textile Design goes well with other subjects. If you want a career in design you might also consider Art & Design, Business Studies, or Computing as companion A Levels.

Qualifications required: GCSE Average Grade Score of 40 or more. Studying GCSE Textiles Technology would be an advantage.

THEATRE STUDIES

Subject Leader: MISS A CLARK

Qualities & Skills students will require:

- A lively interest in -and some knowledge of - the theatre
- A willingness to work actively on development of practical drama skills
- An ability to work well both individually and as part of a team
- A willingness to read widely and a readiness to explore different styles and genres of theatre
- To become an active theatre goer with and without school
- An ability to manage time well and good organisation skills
- Lots of enthusiasm, energy and dedication!

Subject outline :

Theatre Studies is an enjoyable and rewarding subject which aims to encourage in students the development of appropriate theatre skills; to extend their knowledge and understanding and an extensive appreciation of live theatre.

The AQA course involves studying play texts from historic to contemporary playwrights. Students will also encounter the theory and practice of leading theatre practitioners, including modern companies such as Kneehigh and Frantic Assembly. There are rigorous written components to the course in the form of exams and pupils must be prepared to commit themselves to the theory of Theatre as well as the practice! All written work is accompanied by workshop style lessons to ensure that the emphasis is on the performance perspective of a Director, Actor and Designer. We also research the social background and staging conventions to place the texts in their period.

In Year 12 students will study, prepare and perform a published play and choose a practitioner as their inspiration for style. In Year 13 students work towards a piece of their own devising, again influenced by a theatrical style encountered on the course. Theatre visits are an integral part of the course and pupils must be aware that these trips will take place in the evenings. It is not essential to have studied GCSE Drama to embark on this course but students should be able to demonstrate confident practical skills and have some critical awareness of Drama and Theatre. Pupils should have good written communication skills as the written element of the course can be demanding. Theatre Studies combines well with most subjects as our study touches on many wide ranging issues across various disciplines.

Careers can it lead to:

The course develops qualities which are highly sought by employers and university courses, especially confidence; team work, problem solving and presentation skills. Which leads to careers in diverse fields, such as Media, Personnel work, Marketing and Advertising, Travel and Tourism, Business Management, Teaching and of course, Performing Arts, Film, Theatre and Television.

Qualifications required: 40 GCSE average grade score and a Grade B or equivalent grade in any written subject (English Lit, English Lang, History etc)