

Additional Curriculum opportunities for Y12 2008-9

As a Year 12 student, you will study for an additional accredited course which will give breadth to your AS curriculum, allow you to explore an interest not available in Y11 and develop your independent learning skills. University applications are also strengthened by demonstrating knowledge and skills beyond the AS curriculum.

Unless you are taking Maths and Further Maths with 3 other AS levels, it is expected that you will participate in one of the courses below. These will occupy Thursday periods 7 & 8 plus one or two other periods in the week and further independent study. Thursday afternoon activities in Stage Lighting and Sound, Fencing and CCF will still be available; those opting to continue with these activities will also take GCSE level General Studies.

1) Extended Projects

These are new qualifications being introduced this coming year. They have been viewed very favourably by universities since they allow the student (learner) to choose their own project and show self-motivation and independent learning skills. Extended projects are assessed at the same level as AS work, carry comparable UCAS points but take the same amount of time as a GCSE to achieve. The following extract is taken from the Edexcel specification:

Dissertation: The dissertation provides learners with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of a selected topic. The unit requires the learner to plan, research, analyse information and then evaluate and review the project. The findings and recommendations will then be presented by the learner to a selected audience.

The unit requires learners to take an active role in managing the project and provides opportunities to develop skills in decision making, problem solving and communicating. It also introduces learners to the techniques and methods of research. It is estimated that the dissertation produced will be 5000-6000 words in length in addition to evidence of planning research and evaluation.

2) AS level Music Technology:

Extract from the Edexcel Specification: *Key Features: Emphasis on music technology as an area of advanced study in its own right; musical performance defined as an interpretative and creative skill using music technology; music technology studied within the context of its influence on the way music is produced and listened to; encourages the use of music technology as a tool for composing, arranging and score writing; provides a thorough grounding in sequencing and recording skills; introduces the principles of music technology and aural skills through practical and theoretical means*

3) Certificated Language (OCN): Russian

4) Certificated Language (WJEB): Japanese

5) Certificated Language (OCN): Chinese

Each course is an introduction to the language and culture and covers the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking across a variety of topic areas. The courses lead to an accredited certificate at Entry Level. Many boys have continued their study of these languages in one way or another at university as a result of starting in the Sixth form.

6) GCSE Italian

Italian is one of the four major Romance languages (along with French, Spanish and Rumanian). The course is similar in structure and topics to GCSE French and covers the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking. Past results have been excellent with many boys achieving an A* after one year's study.

7) GCSE: Law

If you ever get a job, rent or own a home, marry, buy or sell, or if you find yourself a victim of injustice, it will help if you have a basic grasp of the law. A knowledge of law is useful for anyone, and this course provides an excellent overview of English Law - what it says, how it works, and the principles on which it is founded. Any student is welcome, whether or not they are considering legal work as a possible career or university course. The course covers: how law is made and interpreted, and how courts work; as well as summarizing the main aspects of Criminal Law, Contracts, Tort (other civil wrongs e.g. negligence) and Family Law (including Marriage and Wills).

Assessment for GCSE - 80% examination, 20% coursework essay(s).

8) GCSE: Psychology

Through Psychology, candidates understand how major social and scientific ideas contribute to technological change - impacting on industry, business, education and medicine and improving quality of life. Candidates recognise the cultural significance of Psychology and trace its world-wide development. They learn to question and discuss psychological issues that may affect their own lives, the direction of society and the future of the world.

The scheme of assessment will require candidates to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of: psychological models, including biological, behavioural, social and cognitive models; psychological processes, including learning, development, individual differentiation and social influence; psychological issues, including reasons for human behaviour, the effects of applications of Psychology, and ethics of enquiry and intervention.

Continued overleaf

9) GCSE (Full or S/C) Photography

Extract from AQA syllabus: *Candidates must show knowledge and understanding of; how ideas, feelings and meanings are conveyed in images and artefacts in their chosen area(s) of study; an appropriate range of art, craft and design processes in two and/or three dimensions related to the chosen area(s) of study, including, where appropriate, information and communication technology; how images and artefacts relevant to their chosen area(s) of study relate to their social, historical and cultural context; an appropriate variety of approaches, methods and intentions and the contribution of contemporary practitioners and others from different times and cultures to continuity and change in their chosen area(s) of art, craft and design. Candidates are required to work in one or more area(s) of Photography such as those listed below. They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas: portraiture, documentary and/or photo-journalism; environmental photography; experimental photography; working from objects, still life and/or from the natural world; Candidates may use digital and/or chemical (silver halide) techniques to produce images.*

10) GCSE Astronomy

Extract from the Edexcel Specification: *The Edexcel GCSE in Astronomy is an interesting subject that is accessible to a wide range of age groups. Astronomy is one of the oldest of the sciences. It has had a significant influence on cultural development throughout the world and astronomical ideas permeate everyday life. Recent advances made in astronomical discovery through the application of science and the use of new technology, especially in the realm of space exploration, further illustrate the relevance and value of studying GCSE Astronomy.*

11) TAA and GCSE General Studies: Stage Lighting and Sound Team

12) TAA and GCSE General Studies: Fencing (Squad)

13) TAA and GCSE General Studies: CCF

With each of these 3 activities you will take GCSE General Studies in an additional two periods each week.

This course allows you to: develop the ability to view concepts, discrete knowledge and situations from a wider standpoint than that of a single discipline and form a synoptic view; develop an awareness of contemporary issues and their importance nationally and/or internationally; develop critical and logical powers of thought and expression, and demonstrate an ability to justify ideas; obtain and comprehend information from a wide variety of sources and extend studies by discussion, reading and working independently.

14) CSLA (Community Sports Leaders Award)

This course is of particular relevance to those taking AS Physical Education/Sports Studies, but is open to other boys, space allowing. Activities include: *contribute to organising and delivering an activity session; establishing and maintaining a safe activity; understanding the structure of sport and recreation in the UK/Home Country; understanding and leading fitness sessions; principles and practice in running events and competitions; principles and practice in running adapting activities; select, plan and lead on an appropriate sporting activity; demonstration of leadership skills.*

PAJ/HRM 2008