



Rugby High School

**SIXTH FORM
PROSPECTUS**

SEPTEMBER 2012

Rugby High School and Lawrence Sheriff School Sixth Forms collaborate to offer a very wide choice of A levels. Students may take one of their subjects at the other school if it is not available at their home school. Timetables are matched and there is a free bus service between the schools throughout the day. Please see the Sixth Form prospectus for both schools in order to see the full range of courses available.

Subjects will usually have 6 taught periods each week. However, if the numbers of students wishing to take a subject are particularly small, we have to make adjustments. This could mean that we may run a subject on fewer than 6 periods or run it alongside year 13 students if this feasible. In extreme cases, we may have to withdraw the course altogether. We will contact students as soon as possible to let them know if this is the case.

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ART

EDEXCEL

The AS UNITS The AS comprises 2 units of assessment. It may be awarded as a discrete qualification, or it may be the first half of a full A Level qualification.

UNIT 1 - Art and Design Coursework

(Unit 1 is 30% of Advanced GCE, 60% of AS – internally set and marked, externally moderated.)

Coursework Unit 1 offers rich opportunities to structure projects of visual study that show breadth and depth in the development of visual language. This unit is intended to form the basis on which students develop their knowledge, skill and understanding in creating a rich visual language within the context of selected ideas. Ideas provide the starting point for art and design practice, forming an integral part of the creative process. Students are encouraged to formulate ideas from a variety of starting points. They should carry out appropriate research and use this to inform the development of their ideas.

Students will be expected to build on and develop their recording skills and demonstrate skilful use of the formal elements, including line, tone, colour, shape, pattern, texture, form and structure. In developing these skills, students will experiment with a wide range of media and methods, learning how to transform materials in order to reflect the different qualities of their observed forms and images. Through an informed use of visual language, students can more successfully develop and communicate their ideas. Contemporary, historical and cultural contexts should be analysed and reviewed throughout the course.

Supporting studies must be submitted and these must show fully the breadth and depth of students' visual thinking in the progress of their work.

Unit 2 - Art and Design Externally Set Assignment

(Unit 2 is 20% of Advanced GCE, 40% of AS – externally set, including eight hours' unaided work, internally marked, externally moderated)

The Externally Set Assignment represents the culmination of the AS course and takes place in the summer examination series only. Students should build on the knowledge, skills and understanding gained from their experiences in Unit 1. There is a timed element of eight hours at the end of examination period. The Externally Set Assignment should involve students showing evidence of the development of visual language skills in:

- generating a range of ideas
- appropriate research into sources and contexts
- primary recording and analysis of sources and contexts
- sensitive selection and exploration of media and processes
- development of ideas, review and refinement
- synthesis of ideas and outcome(s), which connect with appropriate contexts.

The A2 UNITS The A2 comprises a further 2 units of assessment. Taken together with the 2 AS units, it leads to a full A Level qualification.

Unit 3 – Art & Design Coursework

(Unit 3 is 390% of Advanced GCE – internally set and marked, externally moderated.)

This unit incorporates two linked elements: a) Practical work and b) Personal study

It is essential for both elements of this unit, the practical and the personal study, that students build on their prior knowledge and experience developed during the course. The supporting studies for this unit may combine the preparatory research studies for both elements. Sketchbook(s), notebook(s), draft writing, files, worksheets, design sheets, large-scale rough studies, electronic developments, video clips, samples, swatches, test pieces and maquettes may constitute

supporting studies. The area of study, theme or focus chosen should link work produced for both the practical work and personal study. The two elements should be seen as integrally connected and supporting each other.

a) Practical work

Practical work for Unit 3 aims to provide opportunities for students to pursue their own creative, visual ideas in a chosen area of art, craft and design. Students will demonstrate the ability to resolve issues and ideas that emerge as an inevitable part of the process of creating art and design work. Practical work should be closely related to the knowledge and understanding gained as part of a structured learning experience. Students should develop their practical, creative ideas in the light of their chosen focus for the personal study for this unit.

As the practical work progresses, work from the personal study will provide the focus for contextual analysis and connections, which should then be used to inform and inspire the students' own creative visual ideas. Work for this element requires students to realise a response to a clearly identified area of study. Practical work should arise from the students' current interests and experiences in art, craft and design together with knowledge, skills and understanding gained from earlier units.

b) Personal study

Work for this element requires students to produce an illustrated dissertation on a select aspect of others' art, craft and design. Students are required to research, evaluate, analyse and establish coherent and sustainable links between their own practical work for this unit, with that of historical and contemporary references. Students should also be aware of some of the methods employed by critics and art historians in achieving an understanding of art and design practices and analysing the imagery and meaning of the work produced. Students should develop their dissertation in the light of their chosen focus for the practical coursework for this unit. They will select artists' work, methods and/or art movements appropriate to their practical work as a suitable basis for the study. The work will culminate in an illustrated written presentation.

Unit 4 - Art & Design Externally Set Assignment

(Unit 4 is 20% of Advanced GCE – externally set, internally marked, externally moderated)

The Externally Set Assignment represents the culmination of the Advanced GCE course in Art and Design.

The delivery of this unit is planned with appropriate guidance and technical support, to ensure students achieve the best possible grades, reflecting their true potential. The assessment objectives should form the basis for planning and structuring work for the set assignment. Students should build on the knowledge, skills and understanding gained from their experiences in Unit 3. They must respond to the theme from the Externally Set Assignment and produce their own creative outcome(s). The timed element of 12 hours needs to be carried out at the end of the examination period. For the Externally Set Assignment students should show evidence of the development of visual language skills in:

- generating a range of ideas
- appropriate research into sources and contexts
- recording and analysis of primary sources and contexts
- sensitive selection and exploration of media and processes
- developing of ideas, review and refinement
- synthesis of ideas which connect to appropriate contexts

Students seeking further information on this course should contact Mr Connelly at Rugby High School.

BIOLOGY

AQA - AS and A level

Biology has a daily impact on our lives including health and ecological concerns, cloning and stem cells, genetic modification, gene therapy and the era of personalised medicine, DNA technology and the production of new drugs and vaccines etc. In studying AS Biology you will gain a scientific understanding of these issues to make informed decisions.

The new AS course will build on concepts and skills that will have been developed in the new GCSE Science specifications. It presents Biology as an exciting, relevant and challenging subject.

The course will have two modules plus a module on investigative and practical skills leading to an AS level qualification in Year 12. Year 13 has two more modules and an assessment leading to A level.

Who should consider Biology?

Those who are looking towards the wide range of biology-related higher education courses including medicine, biochemistry, cell biology, biotechnology, applied biology, forensic science, ecology, environmental science, agriculture, veterinary science, pharmacy, optometry, dentistry, nursing, physiotherapy, food science.

Subjects that support Biology include Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Geography, Psychology and PE. However if Biology is your only science it will give you useful breadth.

Entry requirements are at least B in GCSE core and A in Additional Science or BBB in the three separate sciences and also a grade B in higher tier Maths.

For more information, please contact Mrs Clemons, Head of Biology.

CHEMISTRY

OCR - AS and A level

Chemistry has a daily impact on our lives. In studying AS Chemistry you will gain a scientific understanding of a wide range of issues to make informed decisions.

The new AS course will build on concepts and skills that will have been developed at GCSE. It presents Chemistry as an exciting, relevant and challenging subject.

The AS course has two taught modules plus a module on investigative and practical skills leading to an AS level qualification in Year 12. Year 13 has two more modules and an assessment of practical skills leading to A level.

Who should consider Chemistry?

Those who are looking towards the wide range of chemistry-related higher education courses including medicine, chemistry, biochemistry, forensic science, environmental science, veterinary science, pharmacy, optometry, dentistry, nursing, physiotherapy, food science.

Subjects that support Chemistry include Biology, Physics and Maths. However if Chemistry is your only science it will give you useful breadth.

Entrance requirements are a minimum of a grade B in GCSE Science and a grade A in GCSE Additional Science or grades BBB in GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry & GCSE Physics. A minimum of a grade B in higher tier Maths is also required.

Further information about the course can be found in the Science Department area of the Rugby High School Website. The Head of Chemistry is Miss Gospel.

CITIZENSHIP

AQA

This is a relatively new course that is offered to Year 12 students.

Citizenship offers the opportunity to look closely at the main issues that are concerned with living in Britain today. Like other AS Level examinations candidates sit two papers. The first paper concentrates on the role of the citizen in Britain today. What does it mean to be British? How socially diverse is Britain? Are we all equal citizens? What are my rights and responsibilities? The second paper looks at broader issues concerned with how citizens can bring about change and the active role that they can play to influence decision making. Who holds power in Britain today? Who can make a difference? How can I make a difference? Aspects of representation within a democratic society will also be studied.

There is an expectation that all students enrolled for the course will take an active part in the way that decisions are taken both in school and out of school. Within school this will include ensuring that the student voice is heard, the school council functions effectively and that elections are carried out fairly. Further active citizenship outside of school is also expected. Evidence relating to active citizenship will need to be collated and taken into the examination for reference during Paper 2.

It is hoped that opportunities to see democracy in action will also be made available. Visits to Westminster and open meetings at the local council will also form an integral part of the course.

For further information regarding the Citizenship AS course please contact: Mr G Buck

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

OCR - AS and A2 Level

This subject offers the opportunity to study elements of the archaeology, architecture, art, history, literature, philosophy, politics, social history and religion of the Classical Greek and Roman worlds. Modules include Roman Society and Thought, City Life in Roman Italy, Homer's Odyssey and Society and Greek Tragedy in Context.

It encourages the development of a range of analytical, interpretative and communication skills which would prepare a student for work in a variety of areas.

To achieve a certificate at AS Level, two modules of assessment are required. For A-Level, the performance in the AS Level, together with two further A2 units are assessed. All units are equally weighted and assessed by examination.

Who should consider Classical Civilisation?

The course is open to all students; no previous knowledge of the ancient world is required. However, a Grade B pass in English or History is required as a minimum for those wishing to embark on this course. AS/A level Classical Civilisation is a highly regarded subject and works well in combination with either Arts or Science based subjects.

Students seeking further information regarding this course should contact Mrs Everton at Rugby High School.

COMPUTING

OCR - A Level

The Computing course we run at RHS has a very different approach to similar A Level Computing courses run in other schools and colleges. Students will spend much of their time learning how to program by writing computer games in Java (a programming language) for a range of computer systems, from PCs to mobile phones. We also look at a number of other languages from time to time but all of the programming theory we cover is done by designing and writing applications for games, testing them and improving them. In addition, we are also very keen on practical work when it comes to building up students' knowledge of hardware and wherever possible, students will do exercises in class which involves them gaining hands-on experience of equipment.

A Level Computing is highly regarded by Universities. In the past, it has helped students get on to a wide range of degree courses at University, and not just Computing degrees! It has also been used by pupils to go on to Arts Foundation courses at college as well as work-based apprenticeships.

You do not need to have done any GCSE ICT qualification (or similar) in Key Stage 4 but you should have a strong aptitude for Maths. The A Level in Computing is an immensely rewarding A Level that will prepare you with a very useful set of skills for the future. If you are prepared to work hard and show dedication to the subject then we would be delighted to receive your application.

For further information, please feel free to contact Mr Cooper at Rugby High School.

CRITICAL THINKING

OCR

This course is on offer for students in year 12 as an extension course, and also to students in year 13 as an extra optional qualification.

We all engage in critical thinking in everyday life, as we weigh-up the pros and cons in any decision-making situation; but this is a skill we can develop and use to enhance our academic achievement, and use to our distinct advantage as a life skill.

This course is about learning the skills of REASONING, evaluation of ARGUMENT and DEBATE, identifying and evaluating ASSUMPTIONS, judging CREDIBILITY, as well as drawing inferences and PRODUCING SKILLED ARGUMENTS of our own.

This is learned as a set of discrete skills, firstly using manicured argument; and then students learn how to apply them when evaluating the real arguments/theories of others.

All A levels are seeking to develop these skills within their own contexts, and so we encourage students to see these as transferable skills, which will, hopefully, help them to raise their achievement elsewhere in the curriculum, as well as within this Critical Thinking course. Indeed it is fair to say that at degree-level, these skills are of paramount importance, and well received by university admissions tutors.

This course occupies one double lesson per week in Yr 12, very little homework, no coursework, and just two written exams, each taking one and a half hours.

We shall be debating and discussing our thought structures as we learn to clarify and evaluate our thinking, and that of others. It is, then, essential that you be prepared to voice your thinking, and learn new disciplined thinking structures and strategies, as well as to listen to others.

If you require any further information on this course, or the possibilities for progression to a higher level in Critical Thinking, please ask Ms Bianca Wickes.

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

AQA

Overview of the course

Drama and Theatre Studies is a fascinating and challenging subject that demands a creative, analytical and personal response from students. The course contains both practical and written elements. This AS level allows you to develop a knowledge and understanding of the social and cultural contexts of drama through detailed study of dramatic texts. You will learn about dramatic styles, theatrical methods and drama practitioners, undertake practical work and acquire a range of performance skills.

AS outline

Candidates will gain a knowledge and understanding of theatre practice through their own engagement with the medium as both participant and informed audience member. Candidates will develop performance and/or production skills appropriate to the creation and realisation of drama and theatre.

The AS specification has 2 units:

Unit 1: Live Theatre Production Seen and Prescribed Play

- Students will sit a written examination, showing a personal response to live theatre seen during the course.
- Students will give an interpretation of a set play from a performance perspective – also a written examination.

Unit 2: Presentation of an Extract from a Play

- This is a practical unit; working in groups students will select, develop and present an extract from a published play taking responsibility for all aspects of the production.
- Students will also study of an influential director, designer, theatre company or other practitioner, linked to the candidate's practical work.

The A2 specification has two units:

Unit 3: Further Prescribed Plays including Pre-Twentieth Century

- Students will sit a written examination, after studying a variety of pre- twentieth century and contemporary plays. There is a synoptic section of the paper, in which candidates will respond to an unseen text.

Unit 4: Presentation of Devised Drama

- This is a practical unit; working in groups students will develop and present a devised piece of drama, performed in a theatrical style of their choice

Drama and Theatre Studies is an academically rigorous subject. Students who are interested in new concepts and ideas, are creative, reflective and analytical will enjoy this subject. No previous drama qualifications or acting experience are required, but a genuine interest (academic and practical) in drama and theatre is necessary.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

AS and A level - AQA (B)

Students will find English Language A level to be very different to any study of English they have undertaken before. Students are encouraged to observe and listen to language in use, question their preconceptions, form hypotheses and test these. Lessons centre on investigation and discussion and students are encouraged to research living language – a language which is constantly absorbing, adapting and changing.

English Language A level encourages students to develop their interest in and appreciation of English, through learning about its structures and its functions, its developments and its variations. It allows students to express themselves in speech and writing, producing texts for different audiences, purposes and in different genres.

In the course of AS level, students will be introduced to the study of language, using a variety of texts for this basis of this study. In addition study will focus on three specific social contexts: Language and Power, Language and Gender and Language and Technology. Students will also undertake a coursework unit, writing for different audiences and purposes. For A2 students will focus on two areas of study – Child Language Acquisition and Language Change. Students will also undertake coursework, applying their knowledge of linguistic methods and concepts acquired over the course to two separate pieces of writing – a language investigation and an informative media text.

The course is particularly suitable for those students who wish to study English Language or Linguistics or English Studies in Higher Education. It is also useful for students who are considering careers in law, the media, journalism and business, and complements A levels in social sciences. It encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning and gives them a strong grounding in the academic principles relating to working with data.

Students will need to gain grade B in English to start the course.

Please see Miss Danks or Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Jolly or Miss Allison in the English department for more information. The Head of English is Miss Danks.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

AQA - (B)

English Literature touches all our lives, intellectually and emotionally.

The course encourages students to respond with knowledge and understanding to a variety of literary texts, of different genres and from different centuries. At AS level students study two dramatic tragedies, one by Shakespeare, and write a coursework assignment about each. One may be a creative response. In addition, the students study two novels and two selections of poetry considering the ways in which narratives are presented and developed. Students will evaluate context and explore subtext; they will examine how writers' choices of form, structure and language shape meanings; and throughout the course should become ever more appreciative of the diversity of our literary heritage.

At A2, in addition to sitting an exam in which they undertake analysis of poetry, prose and drama and analyse a third text against a background of critical theory, students will write a piece of coursework comparing two texts. The theme of the exam will either be Elements of Gothic writing or Elements of the Pastoral.

Is Literature for you?

Prospective students should already enjoy reading fiction and discussing what they have read. They should be strong in both English and English Literature, with at least a B grade in both at GCSE. Primarily, students should enjoy reading, considering the deeper implications of texts and the ways in which writers craft their work.

We would particularly recommend this A level for anyone thinking of studying English at University, going into Law or similar professions. It does, of course, complement many other A level subjects very well.

We are looking for thoughtful, enthusiastic students, who will, as the course progresses, become autonomous readers, able to judge for themselves the quality of a text.

Students will need to gain grade B in English &/or English Literature to start the course.

For further information, please speak to any member of the English department. The Head of English is Miss Danks.

FRENCH

AQA - AS and A Level

French is the language of our nearest European neighbours and Business Partners and continues to be a popular choice at AS and A level. Studying the language beyond GCSE gives you the opportunity to increase your fluency and discover more about the History, Culture and Society of France and the French speaking world.

The AS course focuses on building upon the skills acquired at GCSE, enabling you to use the language independently and put forward your opinions on important global issues such as the role of young people in society; the impact of tourism on France as one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world; health issues and new technologies; media and fashion. The course is relevant to our everyday lives, thought provoking and challenging. You will reach a level of competence which enables you to discuss and write about controversial issues affecting French society today.

Who should consider French?

All employers value a candidate who has a high level of proficiency in a Modern Foreign Language and French is traditionally the most widely studied language studied in the UK. Whether you are hoping to pursue a career in Business, Law, Politics, Journalism, Teaching, Medicine or Finance, an A level in French will enhance your application to progress in your chosen field.

All subjects combine well with a language A Level. We live in a global civilisation and the ability to communicate in another language is a skill which complements all areas of study and all careers.

For more information please contact Mrs Shirley in the Languages Department.

GENERAL STUDIES

Edexcel

There are many reasons for studying General Studies at both AS and A2 level and perhaps the most important reason is that it enables students to develop a broad range of knowledge. The specification introduces new areas of study with the opportunity to apply and develop specialist knowledge which, together with the use of thinking and analytical skills, complement other study areas. This enriches sixth-form education and develops cross-curricular skills. It also enables students to address the areas of key skills that are clearly woven into the specification. Many students find that they develop an interest in a variety of topics that would otherwise have been denied them in their AS and A2 studies.

The assessment objectives show that students must have the ability to communicate in a concise, logical and relevant manner.

There are two areas of study at AS level which are examined by two separate examination papers:

1. Challenges for Society: scientific, technological and moral issues.
2. The Individual in Society: social and genetic features, the media the arts and electoral systems

These areas are developed at A2 and examined by a further two papers.

For further information regarding the General Studies course please contact: Mrs R Maclean

GEOGRAPHY

OCR - AS and A level

Geography at AS and A2 levels involves the study of processes and interactions at work within and between the physical and the human worlds. Students develop a sense of place and relate their appreciation of geographical concepts and principles to selected physical and human environments: from flooding in the midlands to shanties in Mexico City. This dynamic subject covers many of the pressing issues facing the world in the 21st Century: population pressure, globalisation and global warming. We will be exploring management issues and how we can develop our environment for a sustainable future.

We follow the OCR Geography course. Within the AS course the students study three physical and three human topics, these include the River, Coastal and Cold environments and the Energy issue, Managing urban change and the Growth of tourism. At A2 the students study Earth hazards, Ecosystem management and Development and inequalities.

The students undertake a three day residential fieldtrip at the beginning of year 12 to Dorset. This trip has a dual focus, firstly to support syllabus understanding in rivers and coasts and secondly to prepare the students for the A2 Geographical skills exam paper in which the students conduct an individual fieldwork investigation that they are examined on in a written format. Students will become confident in the handling, processing and interpreting of data in a variety of formats: map work, photograph analysis, satellite image and GIS sources. Such life skills are vital for any degree course and profession.

Who should take Geography?

Students taking Geography acquire a comprehensive range of academic and life key skills which are highly valued by university admissions and employers alike. Past Geographers have followed diverse career paths in areas ranging from teaching to media, from land management to archaeology and from tourism to estate management. The broad nature of this A level in terms of knowledge and skills makes this a great qualification for a student wishing to pursue a Geography based degree or indeed students that are unsure what they wish to do later. AS/A level Geography works well in combination with either Arts based or Science based subjects. Throughout the course we address the physical and human environments equally and thus students find themselves well prepared for any future course.

Students must attain a grade B in Geography (if studied) **or** B in English to study Geography GCSE.

The Head of Department is Mrs Dixon-Bolt

HISTORY

Edexcel (Advanced GCE in History 9HI01)

How can History help in your future career?

There are some careers for which History is one of the most useful subjects to have taken at school, notably law, the civil service, local government, journalism, teaching, librarianship, or the Armed Forces. However, since History develops your powers of analysis and reasoning, many careers will be open to students with a History A level or university degree.

Course requirements

You must have AT LEAST a grade B in GCSE History, in order to study History A level at RHS. If you have not taken GCSE History, but are interested in History and current affairs, you are strongly advised to consider studying Politics A level, which is also taught at Rugby High School by the History and Politics Department. The A level History course is rigorous and academic in its demands on students, who will be expected to work extensively at the traditional academic skills of reading, note-making, essay-writing, participation in discussion and debate in class, and learning of factual content. It is very important to have a good memory for factual details: dates, names, events etc. High ability at English (including spelling, punctuation and grammar) is expected of A level historians. Students should also be aware that since History is assessed mainly by exam-papers written against the clock, it is a major asset for History students to have handwriting of high quality, i.e. neat, fast, and easily legible.

AS Modules (Year 12):

The AS course is worth 50% of the A level. The two modules taught in Year 12 are assessed by separate exam-papers at the end of Year 12, totalling 2 hours 40 minutes.

A2 Modules (Year 13):

The A2 course is worth 50% of the A level. Module 3 is assessed by exam-paper at the end of Year 13 (2 hours). Module 4 is assessed by various pieces of coursework written in Year 13 (see below).

Details of Modules

1. Russia, 1881-1953: (25% of A Level)

This topic covers the events leading up to and following the Russian Revolution of 1917 – one of the pivotal events of 20th century history, in the world's largest country. Why did the reign of the last Tsar of Russia, Nicholas II, end in 1917, after centuries of rule by the Romanov family? What happened in the Russian revolution to bring the Communists to power in 1917, and what was Communist Russia like under the dictators Lenin and Stalin from 1917 to 1953?

2. Henry VIII: Authority, Nation and Religion, 1509-1540 (25% of A Level)

This important and fascinating period of English history includes the religious changes in the reign of Henry VIII (the early stages of the Reformation), such as the break with Rome and the Dissolution of the Monasteries; the structure of English government in the reign of Henry VIII, especially under Cardinal Wolsey; and England's international relations with France, Spain and Scotland.

3. Protest, Crisis and Rebellion in England, 1536-1588 (30% of A Level)

This A2 module builds on the topics studied in Unit 2 (Henry VIII) by exploring similar themes over the next half-century of Tudor history, including: religious changes under Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I; faction and court politics; the development of the Tudor governmental machine; and Anglo-Spanish relations. A key aspect of this topic is the evaluation of historians' interpretations and controversies among historians.

4. Coursework topic: The USA: From Reconstruction to Civil Rights, 1877-1981 (20% of A level)

This topic covers the massive internal changes in American society from 1877-1981, such as ethnic divisions and living standards; westward expansion and industrialisation; immigration policies; and the extent to which equality of opportunity was achieved by the civil rights campaigners. Coursework involves Interpretation and Investigation of these topics; Interpretation means assessing the views of historians who have written about the topic, while Investigation involves writing an extended essay (2,000 words) on an aspect of the topic. Please note that the teachers can choose an alternative coursework topic on modern European or World History if they wish to do so.

The teaching of the A level History course is shared by the members of the History Department: Mr Stanley, Mrs Price, and Mrs Richmond. Students seeking further information about the course should contact any of these teachers.

PLEASE NOTE:

The History & Politics Department at Rugby High School teaches two separate A level courses: History A Level and Politics A Level. Students considering History A Level are advised to consult the Politics page of this brochure, and to consider Politics as a possible alternative to History. Some students may also wish to take both subjects.

HOME ECONOMICS

(Food, Nutrition and Health)

OCR

Who should consider Home Economics?

This course builds on knowledge gained from GCSE Design & Technology: Food Technology, from GCSE Home Economics: Food and Nutrition and also accommodates candidates coming new to the subject. Candidates benefit from a coherent, flexible and worthwhile course of study and become equipped with skills needed for analysis, planning and evaluation of tasks, together with essential life skills. The qualification is particularly suitable for candidates choosing to go on to a full range of courses in higher education and for careers in, for example, Nutrition, Food Science, Food Technology, Sports Science and Consumer Protection.

The examination comprises of 4 units. Two in Year 12 and a further two in Year 13 (if students choose to take the full course).

Year 12 (AS level) 2 units: Society and Health and Resource Management.

Society and Health (1 hour 30 minutes written examination) Students learn about demography, housing, environmental issues and social issues including Health of the Nation, poverty, leisure and employment.

Resource Management (1 hour 30 minutes written examination) Candidates will undertake a range of practical activities relating to the following areas: food provision, food preparation and cooking equipment. Students also study the selection and purchase of food and household goods, food safety and hygiene, consumer rights and financial awareness.

Year 13 (A level) 2 units: Nutrition and Food Production, Coursework (Investigative Study)

Nutrition and Food Production (1 hour 30 minutes written examination) Study of this module includes exploring nutritional and dietary needs of different groups, properties of food, design and development, food packaging and advances in the food industry.

Coursework (Investigative Study) Students are required to cover areas of research, planning, development, communication, creativity and evaluation during the internally assessed coursework unit. Candidates select an appropriate context and title.

Which subjects support Home Economics?

Subjects that support Home Economics include Sociology, Chemistry and English.

The main key to success is to maintain a dedicated, hardworking approach to studying and to remain motivated throughout. Students must show a keen interest in the areas to be studied (as outlined in the summary above) and a willingness to develop practical skills.

Students do not need to have studied Home Economics at GCSE , but Grade B in English Language and B in a science subject are requirements. If you would like further information, please contact Mrs Jones.

LATIN

AS/A2 - OCR

The course in Latin for AS Level aims to introduce the student to the work of Roman writers of the first centuries BC and AD, and to provide a deeper knowledge and understanding of that literature and its social and historical context. Such literature can include the political speeches of Cicero, the historical writings of Livy and the epic poetry of Virgil.

In order to facilitate the reading of literature, students taking this course will continue to study the language. They will practise both prepared and unprepared translation, and analysis of grammar and syntax.

The course will have two modules, Latin Language and Latin Verse and Prose Literature, leading to an AS Level qualification in Year 12. Year 13 has two more modules leading to an A-Level. All modules are assessed by examination.

Who should consider Latin?

The course is open to all students who have taken GCSE Latin. However a pass at Grade B is recommended as a minimum for those wishing to embark on the course.

An advanced level certificate in Latin is considered a valuable qualification by both Universities and employers. Furthermore those who follow a course in Latin to A-Level and beyond take up a wide range of careers, from medicine to journalism, computing to law.

Students seeking further information regarding this course should contact Mrs Everton at Rugby High School.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematicians are sought by business and further educational establishments alike, so an A-level or AS-level in Mathematics is a very valuable qualification, both intellectually and financially. There is no restriction on the A-levels or AS-levels with which Mathematics can be combined. You should only consider doing A-level if you have at least a high grade B with a UMS of 300 minimum at Higher Tier G.C.S.E. mathematics.

To succeed at Maths you need to be able to answer "yes" to the following questions:

- Can you do mental arithmetic?
- Do you like fractions?
- Do you enjoy algebra?
- Are you expecting to get a high grade in the Higher Tier GCSE?
- Are you prepared to do lots of routine practice from the text books?

If you are applying for A-level Maths you will be given a self-assessment kit. You should tackle the problems and, using the attached mark scheme, assess how well you have done. There will also be some self-study materials including access to a website. You should use these over the Summer to make sure that you are fully prepared for beginning the course in September. The time gap between the end of G.C.S.E.'s and start of A level is too great to go without doing a lot of Mathematics.

EDEXCEL GCE Advanced level - 9371

We follow an EDEXCEL A-level which covers Pure Mathematics with Mechanics and Statistics and which provides a sound and broad base for further study and training in many areas.

The units covered are:

C1 Pure Mathematics 1	Taught in year 12	Examined in January of year 12
C2 Pure Mathematics 2	Taught in year 12	Examined in June of year 12
S1 Statistics 1	Taught in year 12	Examined in June of year 12
C3 Pure Mathematics 3	Taught in year 12 and 13	Examined in January of year 13
C4 Pure Mathematics 4	Taught in year 13	Examined in June of year 13
M1 Mechanics 1	Taught in year 12 and 13	Examined in January of year 13

EDEXCEL GCE Advanced Subsidiary Mathematics - 8371

This qualification will be gained at the end of year 12 on completion of units C1, C2 and S1.

Course content:

Pure Mathematics: These units cover four areas. You are already familiar with algebra and trigonometry. You should not opt to take A-level Mathematics if you do not like algebra. In co-ordinate geometry we learn about the properties of lines and curves by expressing them in terms of algebraic equations. Calculus is a remarkable branch of Mathematics in which, for example, we can determine the speed and acceleration of population growth at any instant, simply by knowing its value.

Mechanics: In the Mechanics course we study Statics and Newtonian Dynamics which enable us to predict the forces on a bridge and the behaviour of missiles.

Statistic: Statistics are used in all walks of life. We develop work in the use of statistical diagrams and calculated statistics to help interpret complicated data.

Assessments Each unit is examined in a single one and a half hour examination. There is no coursework requirement.

If you would like further information, please contact the *Head of Mathematics*, Anthony Alonzi, at the school.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Advanced and Advanced Subsidiary Specifications EDEXCEL 9372 and 8372

Further Mathematics A-level is particularly valuable to students who intend to read Mathematics or Mathematics-related courses at University or other institution. It is always taken in addition to A-level Mathematics. If you opt for Double Mathematics (i.e. both Mathematics A-level and Further Mathematics A-level) you should have a grade A or A* GCSE Mathematics.

Double Mathematicians will cover a total of 12 units: six for A-level Mathematics and six for A-level Further Mathematics. There is flexibility in the timing of the different unit exams but this is a possible model below.

The units covered are:

C1 Pure Mathematics 1	Taught in year 12	Examined in January of year 12
S1 Statistics 1	Taught in year 12	Examined in January of year 12
C2 Pure Mathematics 2	Taught in year 12	Examined in June of year 12
M1 Mechanics 1	Taught in year 12	Examined in June of year 12
C3 Pure Mathematics 3	Taught in years 12	Examined in June of year 12
D1 Decision Mathematics 1	Taught in years 12 and 13	Examined in January of year 13
C4 Pure Mathematics 4	Taught in years 12 and 13	Examined in January of year 13
S2 Statistics 2	Taught in year 13	Examined in January of year 13
FP1 Further Mathematics Pure 1	Taught in year 13	Examined in January of year 13
D2 Decision Mathematics 2	Taught in year 13	Examined in June of year 13
FP2 Further Mathematics Pure 2	Taught in year 13	Examined in June of year 13
M2 Mechanics 2	Taught in year 13	Examined in June of year 13

Decision Mathematics is an increasingly important area of the subject which enables businesses to plan efficiently. The techniques which you learn can be used to organise the best route of a vehicle which is to deliver to several different towns or the cheapest order of construction of a large machine or building.

EDEXCEL GCE Advanced Subsidiary Further Mathematics

The content of the extra Further Mathematics units builds on the A-level units so the AS in Further Mathematics will not be completed by the end of year 12. Candidates opting for AS Further Mathematics always opt initially for the full A-level Further Mathematics and then make final decisions during year 13. An AS-level in Further Mathematics can be obtained after completion of units D1, S2 and FP1.

Please contact the Head of Mathematics, Anthony Alonzi, if you would like more information.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

OCR

The fortunes of Physical Education have been transformed over the last decade as the political importance of Physical Education has increased following on from concerns about both children's health and the nation's health as a whole. In studying PE, students will gain an understanding of PE and Sport over a range of disciplines including scientific physiology, history, training, and the psychology of sport.

AS/A2 Physical Education provides a broad and balanced area of study, and represents a challenging and demanding course. PE is highly regarded by the vast majority of universities as an academic A-level, and successful PE students represent individuals who have demonstrated very strong skills across many disciplines. PE has the added advantage of being seen by universities as both an arts and a science subject.

The course will have two modules in year 12, which will include a practical assessment of sporting skills. Year 13 students study a further two modules.

Who Should Consider Physical Education?

There are some careers in which PE is one of the most useful subjects to have studied at school, notably teaching, medicine, physiotherapy, psychology, sports journalism, careers in the leisure industry, coaching, sports development, the Armed Forces and the Police.

Subjects that support AS and A2 PE include Biology, Geography, Psychology, Sociology, History, Chemistry and Physics.

All prospective students are expected to demonstrate interest and enthusiasm for the subject, and should be involved in physical activity on a regular basis. Ideally, this should include involvement in PE outside of the school environment as there is an element of practical coursework involved.

Please note that it is not a necessity to have studied PE at GCSE level. The main key to success is that candidates should at the very least have achieved grade B at GCSE in Science and English Language. The Head of Department is Miss Botting.

PHYSICS

Edexcel - AS and A level

Physics at this level covers traditional concepts such as forces and motion, electricity, materials and waves as well as post twentieth century developments such as radioactivity, quantum physics, particle accelerators, astrophysics and how these modern ideas link to medicine, sport, food technology, astrophysics, particle physics, music and archaeology.

The course builds on concepts and skills developed at GCSE and aims to show students how Physics can be applied to the world around them.

The course is assessed by means of exams and coursework which is medical physics based and incorporates an educational visit to a local hospital to view the medical physics facilities and has a follow up practical element.

Who should consider Physics?

Those who enjoy thinking logically about the world around them, enjoy solving problems and investigating relationships practically and mathematically. Physics provides you with a qualification which equips you with many desirable skills that are relevant to a wide range of professions. Careers where Physics is useful include medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, maths, teaching, engineering, Earth Sciences, meteorology, accounting etc. The combination of practical skills, together with logical and mathematical ability make Physics a desired and respected qualification for many professions as it provides many transferable skills.

Subjects that complement Physics are Maths, Chemistry, Biology, P.E. and Electronics . However a number of students do study Physics successfully independently of these. If you wish to study Physics to A level, then A level Maths is not a requirement, but it is essential for Physics at University level. Students who study maths will find Physics a good complementary choice

Entry requirements are at least a B in GCSE Core and an A in Additional Science or a BBB in all three GCSE separate sciences and a grade B in higher tier Maths.

POLITICS

Do you know which political party you will be voting for in the next election, and why? If so, how much do you know about the views of the OTHER political parties? How much do you know about who governs Britain, and how, or about the European Union? Would you like to know more about current affairs, in Britain and other countries? If you are interested in questions such as these, then the Politics course is a sensible choice. Politics is an interesting and useful course for anyone wishing to be a well-informed citizen of the future. Politics combines well with any other subjects and is useful in a variety of careers, including law, the civil service, local government and journalism. Several RHS students have studied Politics at university in recent years.

The AS Politics course is assessed by 2 exam papers (totalling 3 hours), one in January and one in the summer of Yr 12. On the A2 course, two exams are taken in the summer of Yr 13. Each of the exam papers is 1 hour 30 minutes long.

Year 12 - AS - AQA Politics course

Unit 1: People, Politics and Participation (exam: 1 hr 30 mins, 25% of A level, taken in Jan of Yr12)
This unit studies recent general elections in the U.K. and various methods of election used in the U.K. and in other countries, where different electoral systems can produce very different results. We also study voting behaviour, i.e. the various factors which determine how people vote. The second half of the topic studies the main U.K. political parties in depth (the Conservative Party, Labour Party and Liberal Democrats), along with pressure groups and protest movements.

Unit 2: Governing Modern Britain (exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 25% of A level, taken in June of Yr 12)
This topic starts by examining the nature of the 'unwritten' British Constitution, and the pros and cons of changing to a written constitution. The workings of Parliament are then studied in detail, along with the workings of the 'core executive' (the Cabinet, government departments and agencies of various other types). Finally, the unit covers other 'layers' of government, including: the European Union, regional assemblies such as the Scottish Parliament, and local councils.

Year 13 - A2 - AQA Politics course

Unit 3: Ideologies (exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 25% of A level, taken in June of Year 13)
An ideology is a set of beliefs or ideas. This topic explores the main political ideologies in Britain: conservatism, socialism and liberalism, with a focus on to what extent the main political parties in Britain (the Conservatives, Labour and the Liberal Democrats) have carried out the ideologies associated with their parties. We also study, by way of contrast, the ideas of Fascism in Mussolini's Italy and Hitler's Germany, and modern fascist or racist movements in Britain and elsewhere.

Unit 4: The Government of the USA (exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 25% of A level, in June of Yr 13)
As their second A2 topic, students study The Government of the USA. This involves a detailed study of four topics: the U.S. Constitution; the U.S. Congress (the Senate and House of Representatives) in Washington, including comparison with the U.K.'s Westminster Parliament; the U.S. President (including comparison with the U.K.'s Prime Minister); and the Supreme Court. The aim is to understand how the USA is governed, and how this differs from British government.

Qualifications required for the Politics course

Politics students MUST have at least a GRADE B at GCSE ENGLISH. A good memory for factual details is also important, so Politics students must also have at least a grade B in a similar written subject requiring the learning of factual details, such as Religious Studies, Geography or History. Good handwriting is an advantage. Politics students also need to take part actively in discussion, which can sometimes be lively on a Politics course!

Students seeking further information regarding this course should contact Mr Stanley or Mrs Price at Rugby High School.

PSYCHOLOGY

Edexcel

Psychology has become a very popular subject to take at AS level, particularly because it is, for most, a fresh subject which is taught in a modern way, and which can be seen to have immediate relevance to everyday life.

The AS course covers a wide range of topics, starting with memory, obedience and prejudice, and moving on to three approaches in Psychology: the Psychodynamic, the Biological and the Learning Approaches. Each unit has a key issue which is current and relevant; and also a short practical investigation. This is not assessed as coursework: instead, an exam question will assess students' understanding of the research they have carried out.

The A level course covers topics such as criminology, child psychology, mental illness and looks into psychological debates and issues in more depth.

Psychology is taught and assessed as a science, and so has a significant statistics component, which students need to master as we learn how to gather and analyse data from research studies. Both AS and A level cover research methodology and data analysis, and this is where your maths skills will develop significantly.

The AS course comprises two written exams including multiple choice, short answer questions and a section of extended writing. The A level course also has two written exams and a section of extended writing consisting of a mixture of short answer questions and essay questions.

Who should consider Psychology?

Those interested in a career in which involves working with people.

So, medicine, law, social work, occupational therapy, speech therapy, teaching, business management, advertising, media, personnel management etc.

Psychology is seen as an excellent preparation for higher education courses such as, Psychology, Social Sciences, Sociology, Politics, Economics, Medicine, Philosophy, Business, Law, Media, to name just a few.

To gain a place on this A/S course you will need to get at least a grade B in GCSE English, and a minimum grade B in GCSE Mathematics. It is not necessary to have studied Psychology before.

If you require any further information please speak to Ms Bianca Wickes, Head of Psychology.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

RELIGIOUS STUDIES - OCR

A-level Religious Studies is a demanding academic subject which is valuable preparation for any career requiring an understanding of others, and an ability to relate to people of different backgrounds and ideas. It involves research, essay writing, developing analytical skills and independent thinking. Most of our students find the subject both interesting and challenging and go on to achieve good results. Students who are hoping to pursue further studies in law, medicine or journalism will find the study of Philosophy & Ethics worthwhile.

AS LEVEL

You will study two modules which will be examined in one paper in the summer term of Year 12 and will be worth 50% of the final mark. You will answer two questions from each module.

Module 1: Ethics

This will include ethical theory and deal with questions such as:

- Should moral principles be absolute or relative to situations?
- How do ethical theories apply to medical dilemmas?
- How easy is it to put the 'Just War' criteria into practice?

Module 2: Philosophy of Religion

This will include discussion of the philosophical arguments e.g:

- What are the Ancient Greek influences on the Philosophy of Religion?
- What are the arguments for the existence of God?
- Are there any challenges to religious belief?

Each of these modules will build on subject matter and skills already familiar to those who have taken a short or full course GCSE. There is also an Investigations paper which will be worth 50% of the final mark. Students will select a topic of their own choice for special research, whether this be medical ethics, environmental issues or another from the 7 areas of study.

A2 LEVEL

You will study further topics within the Module areas started at AS level and be examined in the summer term of Year 13. There will be a greater emphasis on evaluation and analysis this year.

A2 Philosophy and Ethics will encourage learners to adopt an enquiring critical and reflective approach to philosophy of religion and ethics.

Module 1: Ethics

This will include ethical theory and deal with questions such as:

- What is the difference between normative ethics and meta-ethics and whether our ethical statements have any meaning?
- Is there a relationship between 'free will' and various forms of determinism and morality?
- Is conscience a reliable guide to making ethical decisions?

Module 2: Philosophy of Religion

This will include discussion of the philosophical e.g:

- What are the philosophical opinions on the best ways of talking about God?
- How do we have a broad understanding of experiences which have been argued to be religious and the differing private and public natures of these events?
- What is a miracle?

You may be wondering if you should have studied GCSE Religious Studies in order to study the subject at A-level. The answer is "No". Although it might be helpful, it is by no means essential. A GCSE qualification in English of at least a grade B is a requirement.

Do you have to be "religious" to take A-level Religious Studies? No, but you should have an interest in religion and be willing to think and discuss.

Students seeking further information regarding either of these courses should contact Mr Kucukcalik at Rugby High School.

SOCIOLOGY

AS/A2 Level - AQA

In a rapidly changing world, 'A' and AS Level Sociology offers students the opportunity not only to explore the processes that are shaping current trends, but also to develop an understanding of the complexity and diversity of human societies and their continuities with the past. The study of sociology stimulates awareness of contemporary social, cultural and political issues, and focuses on the importance of examining these issues in a rigorous, reasoned and analytical way.

The new AS/A2 specifications are divided into two sections.

The first AS has 2 modules of learning and 2 units of assessment. For each unit a choice is made of one of the following topics.

SCLY1 - UNIT 1 - Culture and Identity; Families and Households; Wealth, Poverty and Welfare.

SCLY2 - UNIT 2 - Education; Health; Sociological Methods.

The assessment takes the form of external examinations, the first unit may be sat in the January of the second term of study while the second unit will taken in May at the end of the first year. The second year will commence after the AS exams have finished.

The second part of the course, called A2 has 2 modules of learning and 2 units of assessment. For each unit a choice is made of one of the following topics.

SCLY - UNIT 3 - Beliefs in Society; Global Development; Mass Media; Power and Politics.

SCLY - UNIT 4 - Crime and Deviance; Stratification and Differentiation; Theory and Methods.

Previous experience of sociology is not essential but it is important to have an interest in current affairs and students must be prepared to follow the news and form opinions on topical social issues. Students should be prepared to take part in discussions and contribute to debates. The subject requires extensive reading and a good command of written English; therefore a grade B in English Language and B in English Literature is a requirement for this course.

Sociology is accepted as a full academic subject for entry to universities (including Oxbridge) and vocational courses. Past students have gone on to follow a wide variety of careers in, for example architecture; arts; accountancy; business management; law; nursing; physiotherapy; teaching and theology. Sociology provides a useful background for any work which involves direct contact with people or where decisions have to be made which directly affects people's lives, e.g police force, politics, medical sphere, housing management, teaching and journalism.

Students seeking further information regarding this course and/or the application of Sociology in terms of career opportunities and college places should contact Mrs Maclean at Rugby High School.

SPANISH

AQA - AS and A Level

Spanish is a world language which is rapidly growing in importance and popularity. Studying the language beyond GCSE gives you the opportunity to increase your fluency and discover more about the History, Culture and Society of both Spain and Latin America.

The AS course focuses on building upon the skills acquired at GCSE, enabling you to use the language independently and put forward your opinions on important global issues such as the role of young people in society; the impact of tourism on Spain and Latin America; health issues and new technologies; education, the world of work and equal opportunities. The course is relevant to our everyday lives, thought provoking and challenging. You will reach a level of competence which enables you to discuss controversial issues affecting the Hispanic world today and you will gain extensive knowledge of the background of these societies.

Who should consider Spanish?

All employers value a candidate who has a high level of proficiency in a Modern Foreign Language and Spanish is one of the fastest growing and most widely spoken languages in the world today. Whether you are hoping to pursue a career in Business, Law, Politics, Journalism, Teaching, Medicine or Finance, an A level in Spanish will enhance your application to progress in your chosen field.

All subjects combine well with a language A Level. We live in a global civilisation and the ability to communicate in another language is a skill which complements all areas of study and all careers.

For more information please contact Mrs Shirley in the languages department.

COURSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

In order to succeed at advanced level study, you must build upon a secure foundation. Experience has shown that there is a strong correlation between GCSE grades and success at A level. For this reason we ask for a minimum of 5 grade 'B's across the whole range of subjects taken at GCSE. Every subject has its own particular requirements, and the *minimum GCSE grades* required for entry for each subject are shown below:

Please note that the examining boards have advised that Applied Science GCSE does not contain enough scientific content to allow for success at A level; we will not, therefore, accept this qualification without an interview to assess ability.

ART B in Art or a portfolio meeting	BIOLOGY B in Higher Tier Maths plus B in Core Science & A in Additional Science or B in all 3 separate sciences	CHEMISTRY B in Higher Tier Maths plus B in Core Science & A in Additional Science or B in all 3 separate sciences
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION B in English or History	COMPUTING B in English & Maths	DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES B in Drama (if studied) or B in English
ENGLISH LANGUAGE B in English	ENGLISH LITERATURE B in English &/or B in English Literature	FURTHER MATHEMATICS A or A* in Mathematics
GEOGRAPHY B in Geography (if studied) or B in English	HISTORY B in History	HOME ECONOMICS (Food, Nutrition & Health) Grade B in English plus B in a Science subject
LATIN B in Latin	MATHEMATICS High grade B in Higher Mathematics with a minimum UMS score of 300	MODERN LANGUAGES French – B in French Spanish – B in Spanish
PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS (RELIGIOUS STUDIES) B in English	PHYSICAL EDUCATION B in English & B in a science subject	PHYSICS B in Higher Tier Maths plus B in Core Science & A in Additional Science or B in all 3 separate sciences
POLITICS B in English	PSYCHOLOGY B in English & Maths	SOCIOLOGY B in English

EXAMINATION RESULTS

RESULTS ACHIEVED BY STUDENTS AT A LEVEL IN 2011 – YEAR 13 STUDENTS

	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art & Design	11		9	2				
Biology	49	10	9	12	10	7	1	
Business Studies+	11	2	3	3	3			
Chemistry	44	8	10	10	8	3	3	2
Citizenship	1		1					
Computing	4		3		1			
Critical Thinking	1			1				
Design & Technology+	3		2		1			
Drama & Theatre Studies	11		4	6	1			
Economics+	7		4	3				
Electronics+	2			1		1		
English Language	20	2	5	7	6			
English Literature	29	6	8	9	3	3		
French	12	2	2	6	2			
Further Mathematics	8	2	3	2			1	
General Studies	2			1	1			
Geography	14	2	6	3	3			
German	4		2	2				
Government & Politics	10	1	2	4	3			
History	16	1	4	4	6	1		
Home Economics	7		3	1	2		1	
Latin	4		4					
Mathematics	42	8	18	12	2	1	1	
Media Studies+	9	1	5	3				
Music	3		1	1				1
Philosophy & Ethics	5		4	1				
Physical Education+	9	1	4	2	2			
Physics	17	3	5	4	4	1		
Psychology	41	4	7	17	10	2		1
Sociology	15	2	5	6	1	1		
Total	411	54	134	123	69	20	7	4

+ denotes the subject was taught at Lawrence Sheriff School