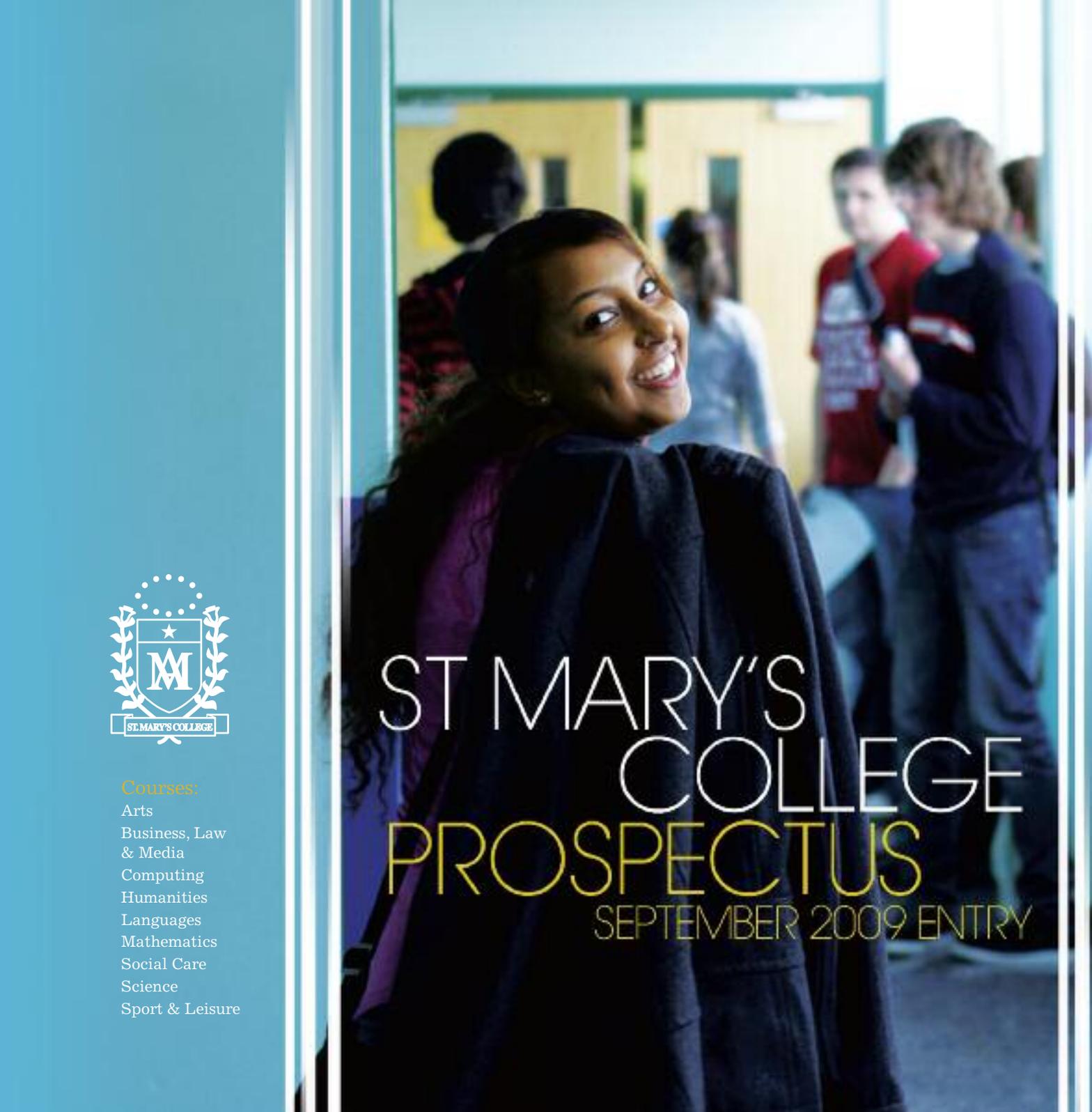




Courses:

Arts
Business, Law
& Media
Computing
Humanities
Languages
Mathematics
Social Care
Science
Sport & Leisure

A young woman with dark hair, wearing a black graduation gown over a purple top, is smiling and looking upwards and to the right. She is in a brightly lit hallway with yellow doors in the background. Other students are visible in the background, some in red and blue clothing. The overall atmosphere is positive and celebratory.

ST MARY'S COLLEGE PROSPECTUS

SEPTEMBER 2009 ENTRY

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WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

Whether you are currently at a Catholic school, which makes St Mary's your natural choice, or you feel you can benefit from our caring Christian atmosphere, or you view us as your local sixth form college, I am sure that we can offer you a high quality post-16 education.

St Mary's College was established over a hundred years ago, and will continue to provide post-16 students with high quality learning opportunities for the 21st Century. This prospectus is designed to give you a taste of some of the opportunities available to you as a student at St Mary's College. Our aim is to provide a full student life for you, both intellectually and socially, in an

atmosphere that is a 'halfway house' between school and higher education or employment.

Since first opening our doors in 1904, we have built up an excellent reputation for our educational standards and examination results. Our A-Level pass rate has been above the national figure for eight of the last ten years. Every year a very high proportion of our students go on to higher education, with several securing places at leading Universities and the top medical schools. In 2007, Ofsted described our progression to higher education as 'excellent'.

In addition to offering a high quality education, the College provides a relaxed and friendly atmosphere in which you will be treated as a young adult with your own views, responsibilities and attitudes. But don't just take my word for it - come and see for yourself what the College is like at one of our Open Evenings. I wish you every success in your current studies and I look forward to meeting you.

Donald Lillistone
Principal



COURSE LEVELS



AS & A Levels

The Government introduced significant changes to the Advanced Level Curriculum in September 2000. The result of the changes is that students have a wider range of options open to them than in the past and the opportunity to obtain a greater number of formal qualifications.

The traditional A level is now split into two parts, the Advanced Subsidiary (AS), which is a one-year course, and the A2, which is also a one-year course.

To put it very simply: AS + A2 = A level

The flexibility of this arrangement means that students can choose a programme that is appropriate for their own needs and interests e.g. 3 A levels, or 2 A levels and 2 AS or 3 A levels and 1 AS etc. (see the 'Combining Courses' section on page 4).

Applied A Levels

Applied A levels are similar in structure to A levels but there are a couple of important differences. Firstly, about two thirds of an applied A level are assessed through portfolio or course work with the remaining third assessed by examination. Secondly, some of the applied A levels are available as double awards. This feature allows students to consider four different options:

Single Award AS

It is equivalent to an AS award and the final grade is from A-E.

Double Award AS

It is equivalent to two AS awards, takes double the amount of time and so has twice the number of lessons and homeworks and the final grade is from AA, AB-EE.

Single A Level

Single AS in year 1 followed by an A2 in year 2. It is the same size as a GCE A level and the final grade is from A-E.

Double A Level

Double AS in year 1 followed by a double A2 in year 2. It is worth 2 A levels but, as you would expect, takes twice the time. The final grade is from AA, AB-EE.

Students following A level courses may also take a course from the intermediate level programme eg GCSE mathematics. See below for details of these courses.

All the advanced level courses are shown in the panel on the next page.

New Advanced level Diplomas

As from September 2009 St Mary's will be offering two diploma courses in 'Society, Health and Development' and 'Business, Finance and Administration'. These courses offer a mix of classroom learning and hands-on experience and are designed to prepare you for wherever you want to go in life. The Advanced Diploma is equivalent to three and a half A-levels and can be used as preparation for, and entry to, university. More information will be available at our Open Evenings.



Intermediate Level Programme

This is a full-time one-year programme that will allow students to obtain the equivalent of 4 to 5 higher grade GCSE passes. Many students who complete this programme will move on to A levels.

The programme is made up of individual subjects. Students choose a combination that suits their individual needs.

- Business Studies BTEC First Diploma (equivalent to 4 A-C GCSE grades)
- Child Development GCSE
- English GCSE
- Health & Social Care Vocational GCSE (equivalent to 2 A-C GCSE grades)
- Human Health and Physiology GCSE
- Leisure and Tourism Vocational GCSE (equivalent to 4 A-C GCSE grades)
- Mathematics GCSE
- Science GCSE

Very occasionally students take an A level as part of their intermediate programme.

Foundation Level Programme

This is a course for students who are not yet ready for intermediate level work. It is a full-time programme that develops literacy, numeracy and study skills as well as allowing the students to specialise in either business or health and social care. Students are carefully guided throughout the course and will be able to progress onto intermediate level programmes on completion.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

From September St Mary's will be offering an ESOL course for students who wish to study but need to gain confidence in English.

If your English skills need considerable development we can enrol you onto a full-time programme designed to improve your level as well as enabling you to gain some other qualifications.

However, if your level of English is more developed, we can combine a programme of ESOL support alongside other subjects. In all cases, we will carry out a full assessment of your needs

Panel of A-level Courses

The A level subjects available will be:

- Applied Art and Design
- Applied Business
- Applied ICT
- Applied Science (AS Only)
- Art and Design - Fine Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computing
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- German
- Government and Politics
- Health & Social Care
- History
- Human Biology
- Law
- Leisure Studies
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Philosophy
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Travel and Tourism

COMBINING COURSES

These qualifications, coupled with St Mary's timetable structure, allow students to access many different combinations. Here are a few examples

1) YEAR ONE	Music AS	Art AS	Performing Arts AS	English Language AS	THIS STUDENT STARTS WITH FOUR SUBJECTS AND CONTINUES WITH THREE
YEAR TWO	Music A2		Performing Arts A2	English Language A2	
2) YEAR ONE	Business Studies BTEC First Diploma		Maths GCSE	English GCSE	THIS STUDENT IS FOLLOWING A 3 YEAR PROGRAMME FOCUSING MAINLY ON BUSINESS
YEAR TWO	Applied Business Double AS		Law AS	Applied ICT AS	
YEAR THREE	Applied Business Double A2			Applied ICT A2	
3) YEAR ONE	Mathematics AS	Physics AS	Chemistry AS	Biology AS	THIS STUDENT IS A SCIENTIST AND TAKES 4 FULL A LEVELS
YEAR TWO	Mathematics A2	Physics A2	Chemistry A2	Biology A2	

Here is an example timetable of a student taking AS levels in music, performing arts, religious studies and English language. Note that there are plenty of opportunities for support in the slot just before lunch. Also notice that the College day has an early end at just before half past three.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00	Music	Performing Arts	Religious Studies	Private Study	English Language
10:10	English Language	Music	Performing Arts	Religious Studies	Free
11:30	Music Support	English Language Support	Performing Arts Support		Tutorial
11:40	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Religious Studies Support
12:10	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14:05	Private Study	English Language	Music	Performing Arts	Religious Studies
10:10	Religious Studies	Private Study	English Language	Music	Performing Arts
14:15	Religious Studies	Private Study	English Language	Music	Performing Arts
15:25					

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



We have an open access policy at St Mary's. It doesn't matter what your exam results are, or even if you have no qualifications at all, we will work with you to draw up a programme of study to suit your needs from our range of courses.

If your learning has been disrupted in the past and your results are not a true reflection of your ability, we will take your special circumstances into account. We will also do our best to make appropriate provision for students with learning difficulties or disabilities.

However, we are aware that certain courses require certain levels of skill and knowledge and therefore we use the guidelines shown below.

Entry Requirements for Advanced Level Courses

To gain access to advanced courses you need to have achieved four higher grade GCSE passes (A* to C) or equivalent. This is often referred to as intermediate level. Some Advanced level subjects require grade C or better in a specific GCSE (eg for AS German you need a higher grade in GCSE German. Refer to subject information for further details). The number of AS subjects that you can study also depends on your GCSE results. The table below provides a guide.

GCSE (OR EQUIVALENT) PERFORMANCE	POSSIBLE NO. OF AS SUBJECTS
4 Grade C not including English Language and/or Mathematics	2
4 Grade C including English Language and/or Mathematics	2 – 3
5 Grade C including English Language and/or Mathematics	3
5 Grade C including English Language and/or Mathematics with some B or A in subjects relevant to your choice at advanced level	3 – 4
Mostly grade B and better with English Language and Mathematics at grade C or better	4
Mostly grade A or A*	5

We expect all advanced level students to have a minimum of 4 main studies. Other courses that students can follow alongside AS or Applied AS are shown below.

GCSEs

In English, Mathematics and Science. The first two may be critical if you wish to go on to University. A science is essential if you wish to go into teaching or nursing.

General Studies

This is available on a flexible learning basis at either GCSE or A level. There will be a personalised programme drawn up for students to follow with teacher support.

COPE

This is a course designed to develop skills essential for study at A level and beyond. Successful completion of the course leads to the award of points for University entry (70 points, which is better than grade A at AS)

Entry Requirements for Intermediate Level Courses

It is desirable for students to have achieved a few E and D grades at GCSE or equivalent. However, of much greater importance is a commitment to study and a genuine interest in the subject.

Entry Requirements for Foundation Courses

Ideally an entry level qualification or a few GCSE grades F or G. However, a determination to do well and take advantage of support is more important.



ENRICHMENT

We want to provide our students with experiences that they will remember for life. Below are a few of the activities that our students can get involved in.

- Army residential
- Cinema Trips
- Critical Thinking Courses
- Debating Group
- Disney Land Paris
- Field Trips
- Football
- French Exchange
- German Exchange
- Law Courts Visits
- London Shows
- Lourdes Pilgrimage
- Motivational Seminars
- Music Tour
- New York Visit
- Newspaper Production
- Oxford University Residential
- Parliament Visit
- Poetry Slams
- Sports Leadership
- Student Chaplaincy
- Student Mentoring
- Theatre Production
- University Open Day Visits
- Video Production
- Visits to Businesses
- Visit to Poland (Auschwitz)
- Work Experience

UNIVERSITY

“Excellent Progression to Higher Education”

Ofsted June 2007

St Mary’s is very proud of the high number of students who progress from the College to University. We work hard to raise the aspirations of our students and encourage them to aim high. We also put a lot of time into preparing and writing personal statements and the interview process.





A Catholic college is a caring community

The College exists for you and it is our responsibility, working in partnership with you, to lead, guide and support you in a safe, secure and caring environment - not just academically, but morally, personally and spiritually. Underlying all our College policies are the words of Jesus "love one another as I have loved you". All our students are equal in the eyes of God and are, therefore, to be treated with respect and dignity.

What does attending a Catholic college mean?

Religion is not put forward dogmatically, for example there is no compulsory worship or a discrete timetabled religious education programme. However, we do proclaim loudly that we are Catholic and that, as the only Catholic college in the north east - one of only 16 in England and Wales - St Mary's College is special. Our faith is central to all that we do and, as believers in the values and benefits of a Christian community, we offer a warm welcome to Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

While you are with us you will have the opportunity to deepen and strengthen personal faith within a witnessing Christian community. We have at least one act of worship a week, to which all students are welcome, and our chapel is always open for private prayer. We celebrate Mass on Holy days, hold other services throughout the year and have frequent visitors from the local Catholic community. The College has an active Chaplaincy team, which includes students, staff, priests and lay people from outside the College. There are opportunities to get involved in the work of groups such as the St Vincent de Paul Society. Throughout your academic studies, opportunities will arise to explore issues of belief and moral values. In keeping with the caring community spirit of the College, we encourage each other to share our views and to respect each other's opinions, especially when not in line with our own.





COURSE SUMMARY INFORMATION

For each subject there is a more detailed description available on the website www.stmarys-sfc.ac.uk

Art 10

- Applied Art and Design
- Art and Design - Fine Art
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Photography

Business, Law & Media 13

- Applied Business
- Law
- Media Studies

Computing & ICT 15

- Applied ICT
- Computing

Humanities 17

- Geography
- Government and Politics
- History
- Philosophy
- Religious Studies
- Sociology

Languages 20

- English Language
- English Literature
- English GCSE
- Modern Foreign Languages

Mathematics 22

- Mathematics GCSE
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics

Sciences 23

- Applied Science
- Biology
- Human Biology
- Chemistry
- Human Health & Physiology
- Physics
- Psychology
- Science GCSE

Social Care 27

- GCSE Child Development
- Health & Social Care

Sport & Leisure 29

- Leisure Studies
- Physical Education
- Travel & Tourism



APPLIED ART & DESIGN



Level:
A Level (AS and A2)

Content:
Applied art and design is learning about and applying the working methods used in the art and design sector.

Assessment:
3 units at AS and 3 units at A2
– no exam.

Entry requirements:
Standard entry requirement
for advanced level courses.
(See page 5 for details)

Complementary Subjects:
IT, computing, maths, media studies
and art.

Opportunities:
The GCE in applied art and design
qualifies for UCAS points so if you
complete it successfully you could move
on to study for a degree or HND in art
and design, interior design architecture,
CAD, and advertising. You could also
go on to relevant employment.

ART & DESIGN FINE ART



Level:
A Level (AS and A2)

Content:
A practical course of visual studies with
a history of art and design related unit.

Assessment:
At the end of the course.
2 modules for AS and a further
2 modules for A2.

Entry requirements:
Standard entry requirement for
advanced level courses (See page 5)
including GCSE grade C or better in art.

Complementary Subjects:
All.

Opportunities:
Higher Education in art related areas
(plus art foundation). Acceptable as an
entry qualification for nearly all
degree courses.

MUSIC

Level:

A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

Emphasis on development of practical and theoretical techniques. Also detailed study of set works from the western classical tradition and other areas such as 20th century music.

Assessment:

3 modular courses per year in theory, composition and performance.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (see page 5) including GCSE grade C or better in Music or Grade V Theory.

Complementary Subjects:

Performing Arts

Opportunities:

Orchestral, theatrical, studio, recording, teaching and in a contractual or freelance capacity.

PERFORMING ARTS



Level:

A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

This is a new AS/A2 examination. It is suitable for anyone who can demonstrate genuine interest, a true commitment, and the necessary talent to perform. This is a practical and theoretical course, which will give students many opportunities for performance and skill development.

In the first instance the AS will offer three units:

- investigating performing arts organizations
- professional practice (development of skills)
- professional practice (performance).

A further three units will be taken at A2 level:

- getting work (how to find employment in the industry)
- exploring repertoire (audition work, developing skills)
- performance showcase.

Assessment:

The first two AS units as outlined above are internally moderated and the last externally examined. In the A2 the first two units are internally moderated and the performance showcase unit externally assessed by a visiting OCR examiner.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5). If drama has been studied at GCSE at least a grade C must have been achieved. Students must have a keen interest in drama.

Complementary Subjects:

Music, media studies and applied arts

Opportunities:

The course is a valuable subject and will help students gain entry to a wide range of higher education opportunities, including degrees in performance studies, drama and dance.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Level:

A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

You will develop an appreciation of the visual world and respond to it in a personal and creative way. The course follows the Edexcel syllabus that consists of two modules.

Assessment:

Module 1 is assessed through coursework. You will be required to work from a given starting point towards one or more well-considered conclusions. It contributes 60% of the final AS mark.

Module 2 is an externally set assignment worth 40% of the final mark. A question paper will be given during the second term based on a specific theme. This will be taken in the summer under controlled conditions.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (see page 5)

Complementary Subjects:

Art, Media Studies, ICT.

Opportunities:

Photography is unique in exploring and combining many aspects of the arts, science and technology. You can pursue the subject at degree level or use it to support further studies in art, media and other visual degrees.





Level:

A Level (AS and A2)
Single and Double award.

Content:

The Applied Business course will provide students with a broad introduction to the business sector and will encourage students to develop skills, knowledge and understanding in realistic business contexts. Students will become aware of the practices and techniques used within marketing and finance, operations management and human resource management, and the links between them. They will develop an understanding of the processes, attractions and risks of setting up an enterprise, the relationship between business and the external environment and the social and ethical issues in business.

Areas of study include:

- Marketing
- Human resource management
- Customer service
- Finance
- E-commerce
- Business law

Assessment:

The course is assessed by a mixture of internally marked assignments and externally assessed exams. Coursework counts for two thirds of the assessment and examination for one third. Students will be required to produce 2 in depth written assessments on the AS single award and 4 on the AS double award. It is expected that students will complete most of this work in their private study time. Each assessment is roughly 40-50 pages long. On the A2 course there is the same weighting as coursework.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5) and GCSE grade D or better in English Language. Students will need to have good literacy skills to produce detailed written assessments.

Complementary Subjects:

Applied business combines very well with leisure studies and travel & tourism which incorporate a range of business disciplines and facilitate progression into business, leisure and tourism management degrees.

Opportunities:

Careers in marketing, management, public relations, human resource management, banking and finance.

Entry to a range of higher education courses in business studies and related disciplines



Level:

A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

The course covers the English Legal System, Sources of Law and Criminal Law.

Assessment:

Modular examinations, 2 modules for AS and a further two modules for A2.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5)

Complementary Subjects:

Most subjects but particularly government and politics, sociology, psychology, history and business studies.

Opportunities:

Very useful for business management, accountancy, local government as well as being a good preparation for law or business related degrees.

MEDIA STUDIES

Level:

A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

The theory and practice of the media, including TV drama, film and new media technologies.

Assessment:

Modular examinations, two modules for AS –Foundation Portfolio (coursework) and key media concepts (TV drama) and a further two modules for A2 – Advanced Portfolio (coursework) and critical perspectives in media.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5) including GCSE grade C or better in English language.

Complementary Subjects:

English language, English literature, music, computing and IT.

Opportunities:

Media based university course, other degree courses, media related careers.



APPLIED ICT

Level:

(AS and A2) double and single award

Content:

AS single award

Digital applications and services, life in the information age, the digital divide. E-commerce websites, the use of computers in business decision making.

A2 single award

Using database software, managing ICT projects and further use of spreadsheet software.

AS double award

As with single award plus:

System design and installation including hardware and software.

Web development through planning, designing and building a simple website

Technical support services including writing an on-screen technical support manual.

A2 double award

As with single award plus:

Communications and networks including network architectures, topologies and components.

Customising applications using an event-driven programming language.

Web management including improving functionality by adding an e-marketing upgrade.

Assessment:

Both AS and A2 :

Practical examination 33%,
e-portfolios 66% %

Entry Requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses
(See page 5).

Complimentary Subjects:

Business, media, art and design.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses
(See page 5).

Complementary Subjects:

Business, media, art and design

Opportunities:

University: Business IT degree/graphic design/web design/media courses or employment in ICT related business



COMPUTING



Level:

A-Level (AS and A2)

Content:

AS

Module 1. Computing fundamentals, including hardware, software, data, communications, system life cycle, the characteristics of information systems, and implications of computer use.

Module 2. Problem solving, program structure, data types, data structures, procedural languages. How to write programs, and how to test and run solutions.

A2

Module 3. Operating systems, language translators, computer architecture, representation, structure, and manipulation of data, programming paradigms, low level languages. Databases.

Module 4. Coursework covering investigation and analysis, testing, documentation of a real world programming or database application.

Assessment:

80% externally assessed exams (2 in year 1 and 1 in year 2)

20% internally assessed coursework in year 2

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5) and GCSE grade C or better in mathematics.

Complementary Subjects:

Maths, sciences, media, art and design.

Opportunities:

University: Computing degree, science/maths/graphic design/web design/media courses.

Employment:

Web designer, programmer, network engineer, database administration.

**Level:**

A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

Human and physical geography topics through specific case studies, e.g. Plate tectonics, global population, hot deserts, health issues. Development of basic investigative research, ICT, graphical, statistical skills.

Assessment:

2 modules for AS, further 2 modules for A2.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses. (See page 5) including GCSE grade C or better in geography.

Complementary Subjects:

Biology, chemistry, travel and tourism and business studies.

Opportunities:

Higher education and wide variety of careers including tourism and leisure, planning and marketing, surveying.

Level:

A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

Modules include: electoral systems and voting behaviour, political parties and pressure groups, the working of the democratic system, the American system of government, the politics of the USA.

Assessment:

Modular examinations, 2 modules for AS, further 2 modules for A2.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses. (See page 5) and preferably GCSE grade C or better in English language.

Complementary Subjects:

Any, but particularly arts, social sciences and business studies.

Opportunities:

Variety of careers including the civil service, local government, the health service, public administration, journalism and the law.





HISTORY

Level:

A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

You will study the history of Germany 1871-1925, Russia 1801-1953 and Britain 1902-1964.

Assessment:

Two modular examinations for AS, one modular examination and one piece of coursework for A2.

Entry requirements:

Standard requirements for advanced level courses (See page 5) including GCSE grade C or better in history and English language. Students who have not studied history are welcome provided the other requirements are met.

Complementary Subjects:

Most subjects but particularly government and politics, English literature, and religious studies.

Opportunities:

Up to degree/research level. Good supportive subject opening up a range of careers, including law, administration, personnel and secretarial, teaching, local government, civil service, journalism and nursing.

PHILOSOPHY

Level:

A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

Philosophy is a thought provoking and challenging subject. The course covers the theory of knowledge, moral, religious, political and science philosophy. Ideas are examined from both early and modern philosophers including Plato, Kant, Nietzsche and Sartre.

Assessment:

2 AS modular exams and a further 2 modules for A2

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5) including GCSE grade C or better in English language.

Complementary Subjects:

Philosophy goes with any other subject.

Opportunities:

Philosophy develops the skills of critical thinking, persuasive argument and clarity of thought and language, all of which are highly valued in higher education and in many professional careers.



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

A Level:
(AS and A2)

Content:

Four modules over two years including: a fascinating look at religious experiences such as mysticism and near-death experience; an in-depth study of medical ethics and the varying attempts at identifying right and wrong; and an investigation into the existence of God. Teaching methods involve students using information technology, film-clips and case studies.

Assessment:

Modular examinations, 2 modules for AS, further 2 modules for A2.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5) including GCSE grade C or better in English language.

Complementary Subjects:

Religious studies goes well with any other subject.

Opportunities:

Entry to higher education courses and careers in professions such as Law, Personnel and Public services such as teaching and social work. This course develops research-based skills and skills in critical thinking which are valued in many professions.

SOCIOLOGY

Level:
A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

Sociology is the study of society. It tells us who we are, where we have come from and where we are going. If you've ever wondered where your sense of self comes from; how society influences your behaviour; why you have to spend 11 years in education and why some groups do so much better in exams; why people join religious cults and commit crimes, then Sociology is the subject for you.

Assessment:

Modular examinations, 2 modules per year. Please note: there is no coursework option in Sociology.

Assessment:

Modular examinations, 2 modules for AS, further 2 modules for A2.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5) including GCSE grade C or better in English language.

Complementary Subjects:

Philosophy, Psychology, History, Law, English, Government & Politics, Geography, Health & Social Care and Media Studies.

Opportunities:

Variety of university courses. Careers in teaching, social work, nursing, police, personnel and management.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Level:

A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

You will study spoken and written English in the modern world, in your own life, and from a historical perspective. The course involves a variety of topics and activities, including discussion of the influences on the language we use today, from Viking gangs to Nokia mobs.

Assessment:

There are 2 modules in each year, with 1 being assessed by examination and 1 by coursework.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5) including GCSE grade C or better in English language.

Complementary Subjects:

Psychology, sociology, history and media studies.

Opportunities:

Journalism, Speech therapy, Teaching. NB - if you want to take a degree in English, most universities require English literature.

ENGLISH LITERATURE



Level:

A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

The study of literature at this level is based on the critical exploration of whole texts and teaching will focus on encouraging you to articulate your opinions and textual interpretations. You will follow modules on Narrative, Tragedy and the Gothic as well as engaging with critical material and reading widely. Through this course you will develop the skills of critical thinking and textual analysis and broaden your understanding of literature and its cultural importance.

Assessment:

The course follows AQA's Specification B; AS is assessed by open book exam and coursework; A2 is assessed by closed book exam and coursework.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (see page 5) including GCSE at grade C or above in English Language and, if it has been taken, English Literature.

Complementary Subjects:

English Literature is complemented by a wide range of subjects including History, Law, Psychology and English Language.

Opportunities:

The habits of analytical thought, critical enquiry and effective communication are an asset in any chosen career. English Literature is essential if you want to study English at some universities.

**Level:**

GCSE (Foundation Tier)

Content:

Four written coursework assignments covering Shakespeare, prose study, media and original writing. Plus three oral assignments; an individual presentation, a group discussion and a drama-based activity.

Assessment:

2 written external exams (60%), coursework (written) 20%, coursework (oral) 20%.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for intermediate level courses (See page 6)

Level:

- A Level (AS and A2) French
- A Level (AS and A2) German

Both subjects have the same format.

Content:

Study of culture and society through a variety of interactive tasks: Oral (discussion and debate), listening, video/film, creative and discursive writing, reading, comprehension and extended research.

Assessment:

Modular examinations, 2 modules for AS, further 2 modules for A2

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 4) including GCSE grade C or better in relevant language.

Complementary Subjects:

Virtually any other subject.

Opportunities:

Higher education, careers in translating/interpreting, travel and tourism, teaching languages. Modern foreign languages are fast becoming key requirements in technology (in particular the automotive industry), energy (nuclear and hydro-electric) and medical research. Most universities offer European exchange study periods and modern foreign languages can sometimes be a requirement. Increasingly desirable in any profession.

MATHEMATICS GCSE



Level:
GCSE

Content:

This course is modular. All three modules are exam based and are taken in November, March and June. Each of these modules comprises a non-calculator and a calculator paper.

Assessment:

Three examinations worth 18%, 27% and 55% respectively of the total marks.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for intermediate level courses (See page 6)

MATHEMATICS

Level:
A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

The course builds on GCSE knowledge in co-ordinate geometry, statistics, algebra, probability and trigonometry. You will be introduced to vector mathematics which simplify some aspects of geometry. You will also acquire a working knowledge of calculus and use it as a powerful tool for solving problems. You will be introduced to a new area of mathematics called decision maths. Throughout the course you will be encouraged to analyse problems in a precise and logical manner.

Assessment:

Modular examinations, 3 modules for AS, further 2 or 3 modules for A2. For AS, one exam will be non-calculator.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5) including GCSE grade C or better in mathematics.

Complementary Subjects:

Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

Opportunities:

Base for a science, engineering or mathematics degree and careers in engineering, finance, commerce, industry and teaching.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS



Level:
A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

This course leads to 2 A levels in mathematics, namely A level maths and A level further maths. You will follow the A level course as above. Also you will study more statistics, decision and pure maths. You will then be introduced to mechanical theory as part of your studies.

Assessment:

Modular examinations, 3 modules for AS, further 3 modules for A2.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5) including GCSE grade A or better in mathematics.

Complementary Subjects:

Physics, chemistry, biology, geography and psychology.

Opportunities:

See A level mathematics.

APPLIED SCIENCE



Level:
A Level (AS only)

Content:
A variety of classroom based modules, which produce portfolios of experimental reports covering chemical analysis, physiological measurements and energy transfers.

Assessment:
Two thirds of the course are assessed by coursework assignments and one third by external examinations.

Entry requirements:
Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5) and preferably GCSE grade C or better in English language.

Complementary Subjects:
Maths, IT, health & social care and geography.

Opportunities:
Higher education opportunities in applied science or science technician level work. Students who did not initially meet the entry requirements for other science subjects can progress onto these subjects if they successfully complete applied science.

BIOLOGY



Level:
A Level (AS and A2)

Content:
AS: Biology and Disease, the variety of living organisms.

A2: Populations and environment, control in cells and organisms.

Assessment:
Modular examinations and coursework. 2 modules for AS, further 2 modules for A2.

Entry requirements:
Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5) including GCSE grade C at the higher tier or better in dual science or biology.

Complementary Subjects:
Other sciences, maths, geography and PE.

Opportunities:
Medicine, veterinary science, nursing, pharmacy and degrees in biology, botany, zoology and biochemistry, also widely accepted third A level for degree and higher education courses.

HUMAN BIOLOGY

Level:
A Level (AS and A2)

Content:
AS: The Body and its Diseases
Humans – their origins and adaptations
Investigative skills

A2: Bodies and cells in and out of control
The air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, Investigative skills

Assessment:
Coursework and 2 modular examinations for AS, with coursework and 2 modular examinations for A2

Entry requirements:
Standard entry requirements for advanced courses (see page 5) including GCSE grade C at the higher tier or better in dual science or biology.

Complementary Subjects:
Chemistry, Maths, PE, Health and Social Care

Opportunities:
Physiotherapy, Nursing and degrees in physiology and biology. Also widely accepted as a third A-level on many degree courses and higher education courses.

CHEMISTRY

Level:

A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

AS:

Unit 1 – Foundation Chemistry

Unit 2 – Chemistry in Action

Unit 3 – Investigative & Practical Skills

A2:

Unit 4- Kinetics, equilibria & organic chemistry

Unit 5 – Energetics, redox & inorganic chemistry

Unit 6 – Investigative and practical skills

Assessment:

Modular examinations, 2 modules for AS, further 2 modules for A2. Practical assessment for AS & A2.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5) including GCSE grade C at the higher tier or better in dual science or chemistry.

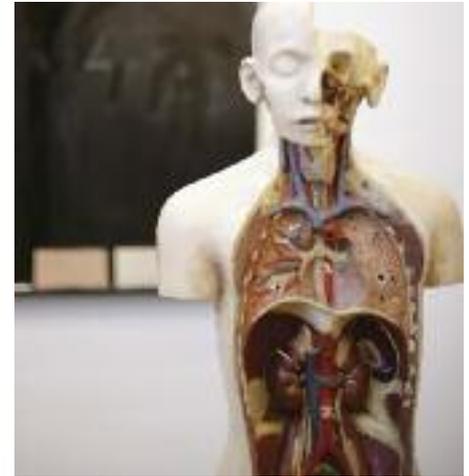
Complementary Subjects:

Mathematics, physics, biology.

Opportunities:

Careers in chemistry, medicine, biochemistry, chemical engineering, dentistry and veterinary science. Higher education courses in geology, biology environmental studies and physics.





Level:
GCSE

Content:

This science based course covers three themes:

- Relations between Man, other organisms and the environment
- Organisation and maintenance of the individual
- Reproduction, growth and development

Assessment:

One examination at the end of the year worth 80% of the marks. The remaining 20% of the marks are awarded for coursework.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for intermediate level courses (See page 5).

PHYSICS

Level:

A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

The AS modules will cover particle physics, quantum mechanics, electricity and basic mechanics. A2 modules will cover radioactivity, nuclear physics, magnetism, gravity, evolution of stars, black holes and cosmology.

Assessment:

Modular exam: 2 modules for AS and 2 modules for A2 + practical exam.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses. (See page 5) including GCSE grade C at the higher tier or better in mathematics and dual science or physics.

Complementary Subjects:

It is recommended that students of physics should also take AS maths as they complement each other very effectively. Other subjects that go together with physics are the other sciences, computing or applied art & design.

Opportunities:

Scientific research, engineering, the armed forces, medicine and computer science, also non-scientific careers including banking, accountancy and the civil service.

PSYCHOLOGY



Level:

A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

Psychology of individual differences, cognitive psychology, social psychology, developmental psychology, physiological psychology, forensic psychology, health and clinical psychology.

Assessment:

Modular examinations, 2 modules for AS, further 2 modules for A2.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5) including GCSE grade C or better in English language. At least grade D in mathematics is essential.

Complementary Subjects:

Many others e.g. sociology, music, physics, mathematics, law and health & social care.

Opportunities:

Entry to university with other A levels, useful for law, social science, business studies, art and music. Useful for most careers including nursing, teaching, social work, advertising and personnel.

SCIENCE GCSE

Level:

GCSE

Content

This is an integrated science course that covers aspects of biology, chemistry and physics as well as investigating how science works.

Assessment

Examinations for the biology, chemistry and physics components worth 75% of the marks. The remaining 25% is awarded for coursework.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for intermediate level courses (See page 6).



Level:
GCSE

Content:

A one year course covering the family and its influence on the growth and development of the child, beginning with postnatal care of the newborn and the mother and the wide range of care needed. The course examines in detail how children develop and learn physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially including the importance of toys and play and other factors that may influence development and learning.

Assessment:

The coursework is an in-depth study of the development of one child between 0-5 years. The study includes both research and observations and is worth 50% of total marks. The external exam consists of short answer and structured questions worth 50% of total marks.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirements for level two courses (see page 6)

**Level:**

A Level (AS and A2) double and single award.

Content:

Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of the areas of health, early years care and education and social care. They will develop skills which will enable them to make an effective contribution to the care sector. Students will be encouraged to visit a variety of health care settings under supervision. This will enable students to gain a valuable insight into local health care provision.

AS single award

- Human growth and development
- Communication and values
- Positive care environments

A2 single award

- Meeting individual needs
- Promoting health and well-being
- Investigating disease

AS double award as single award plus

- Social aspects and lifestyle choices
- Activities for health and well-being
- Public health

A2 double award as single award plus

- Using and understanding research
- Social issues and welfare needs
- Understanding human behaviour

Assessment:

Work will be assessed by a mixture of internally marked assignments and externally marked exams. At AS at least one unit must be externally assessed. At A2 at least 2 units must be externally assessed, one of which must be an A2 unit. (4 external units for the double award)

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5).

Complementary Subjects:

These include biology, psychology, sociology and applied science.

Opportunities:

Career as a carer, higher education courses in nursing, early years teaching, social-work, criminology, childhood studies, behavioural science, psychology.

**Level:**

A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

Students will develop an understanding of the scale and structure of the UK leisure industry. They will develop skills related to marketing, customer service and management.

AS Units will cover:

- The leisure industry
- Working practices and procedures in the leisure industry
- The leisure customer

A2 Units build upon the AS level and will cover:

- Leisure in action
- Employment in leisure
- Current issues in leisure

Assessment:

Work will be assessed by a mixture of internally marked assignments and externally assessed examinations. Coursework accounts for two thirds of the assessment and as such students will be required to produce in depth written assessments in their private study on a continual basis throughout the year. The 2 written assessments are roughly 40-50 pages long.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5) and GCSE grade D or better in English Language. Students will need to have good literacy skills to produce detailed written assessments.

Complementary Subjects:

leisure studies combines very well with travel & tourism to form a leisure and tourism qualification. Other complementary subjects include applied business and media studies.

Opportunities:

Employment – leisure facilities, professional training or progression to higher education.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Level:
A Level (AS and A2)

Content:
Participation in sport and recreation.
The Critical Sports Performer.
Preparation for Optimum Sports Performance. The Developing Sports Performance.

Assessment:
Examination in May (AS) June (A2)
Both the AS and A2 have a further coursework module to be completed by May.

Entry requirements:
Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5) including GCSE grade C or better in PE if studied at school. Experience of performing (competitor or official) in two sports to at least school level. A level physical education is suitable for sport performers including students with disabilities.

Complementary Subjects:
Most, but especially biology or leisure studies, chemistry, psychology and applied science.

Opportunities:
This course would be valuable for anyone interested in sports related careers, particularly in coaching or teaching. It would also be of use to students considering physiotherapy or personal fitness instructing.

**Level:**

A Level (AS and A2)

Content:

Students will develop an understanding of the scale, structure and development of the travel and tourism industry in the UK. In addition they will acquire skills in customer services and develop knowledge on travel destinations and key issues affecting a growth industry.

AS Units will cover:

- The travel & tourism industry
- The travel & tourism customer
- Destination Europe

A2 Units will cover:

- Responsible tourism
- Current issues in travel and tourism
- Working/promotion in travel and tourism

Assessment:

A mixture of two-thirds coursework and one-third examination will assess work in each year. Coursework accounts for two thirds of the assessment and as such students will be required to produce in depth written assignments on a continual basis through the year. It is expected that this will be done in their private study time.

Entry requirements:

Standard entry requirement for advanced level courses (See page 5).

Complementary Subjects:

Travel & tourism combines very well with leisure studies to form a leisure and tourism qualification.

Other complementary subjects include applied business, geography and languages.

Opportunities:

Employment, professional training or progression to higher education.



Open Evenings

Thursday 16th October 2008

Between 6pm & 8pm

Thursday 5th March 2009

Between 6pm & 8pm



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