

57 THE HIGHGATE PANTRY

beyond

Sixth Form 2021-23



'Teaching in the
Sixth Form is
almost always
exceptional'

Highgate Sixth Form parent



Ancient History	10
Biology	12
Chemistry	14
Classical Civilisation	16
Computer Science	18
Design Engineering	20
Drama and Theatre Studies	22
Economics	24
English Literature	26
Fine Arts	28
Geography	30
Greek	32
History	34
History of Art	36
Interdisciplinary Design	38
Latin	40
Mathematics	42
Further Mathematics	44
Modern Languages	46
French	48
German	50
Mandarin Chinese	51
Russian	52
Spanish	53
Music	54
Philosophy	56
Physics	58
Politics	60
Theology	62
University Destinations	64

Welcome to Highgate Sixth Form

Highgate Sixth Form offers a range of subjects, with teachers who are enthusiastic, experienced and well-qualified subject specialists. We place emphasis on pupils working independently and developing advanced study skills.

In 2020, 57% of all Highgate's Year 13 exam entries were awarded A* at A level (or Pre-U equivalent) and 86% of all grades were A* or A.

New opportunities, challenges and expectations

Sixth Form should provide two of the most satisfying years of your education, because the focus is on your choice of four subjects that inspire you most.

Joining Highgate Sixth Form

If you are joining Highgate from another school, then we aim to provide a smooth induction. You will join one of our 12 Houses and a tutor group of around 16, with whom you have registration and tutor time. For many, your House (and the friends you make in it) will form some of your happiest memories of Highgate but you have plenty of opportunities to mix with Sixth Formers from different Houses, in and out of lessons.

Staying at Highgate

If you are staying at Highgate, then school life will change considerably. You will receive more individual attention from at least two teachers per subject, enjoy a number of privileges, and will develop considerable academic independence.

How do I submit my subject options, as a current Highgate pupil?

Your initial choices must be submitted via the on-line form by 30 November. At this point, please enter a combination of four subjects which fit into our blocking system (published separately). If you would like to take a combination of subjects that doesn't fit in the blocks please note this in the free-text box. We will make every effort to manipulate the blocks around these choices. If you have concerns about your subject choices, please discuss these with your tutor, our Sixth Form team or the Deputy Head (Academic).

Academic studies in Highgate Sixth Form

We want to give you the best foundation for the next exciting stages in your life - competing for a place at leading universities and for the best jobs in our rapidly changing world. Our small classes enable you to discuss and debate

issues with greater freedom and you spend more time working independently, outside the classroom. In Year 12, the extension programme gives you an insight into undergraduate style work.

Co-curricular opportunities

Of course, there is more to Highgate Sixth Form than just acquisition of qualifications. We offer a variety of co-curricular activities, including acting and directing, dozens of sports and academic societies, the chance to become a prefect and to shape the school on Sixth Form council. As Sixth Formers, you have the opportunity to lead in all of these areas.

Highgate Sixth Form facilities

Our two Sixth Form common rooms provide social space and coffee bars, ensuring you can relax and work here. Our Library contains an excellent collection of print and on-line resources, which are added to each year; the top floor of the library is dedicated exclusively to Sixth Form use.

What next?

There is no substitute for talking to others. Speak to your parents, your peers, current Sixth Formers, and your teachers (at Highgate or at your current school) about your plans. For advice on your subject choices, speak to your subject teachers or to a member of the Sixth Form team.

Please remember to pick subjects you enjoy and are good at it; do not think too far beyond these two things and you will choose the right subjects!

If you have queries about Highgate Sixth Form, then please contact:

Mr Newton, Deputy Head (Academic)
James.Newton@highgateschool.org.uk

Mr Brunskill, Head of Sixth Form (Pastoral)
Simon.Brunskill@highgateschool.org.uk

Mr Waller, Head of Sixth Form (Academic)
Guy.Waller@highgateschool.org.uk

Sixth Form Life

What will my timetable be like?

Your Year 12 timetable includes four teaching blocks – one for each subject. You have 11 or 12 lessons per fortnight, per subject. Teachers provide plenty of required prep. work, including work for the start of Year 12 to be completed over the summer. Your teachers will also give you advice on going beyond the syllabus in your discretionary time. You have three or four private study periods each fortnight and it is crucial to your success that you use these periods wisely.

How much homework will I get?

As a simple guide, you should undertake four hours of work, for each subject, per week. This rises to five hours per subject, per week, in Year 13 and you should use your study periods to help complete it. Much of the work set, and many of the resources required to complete it, are hosted on HERO, our e-learning platform.

What further study will be required?

A significant change from I/GCSE is the requirement for greater independence. Be prepared to plan your work and organise your study on a regular basis, deliberately fitting in time for thinking about what you studied in class and for further delving into your chosen subjects.

What about tutor time?

As a Highgate Sixth Former, you have daily contact time with your tutor, plus two tutor slots a week. Tutors use this to help you plan your time. Your tutor is also responsible for monitoring your progress and helping you look ahead to what is required for higher education and careers.

Are there extension lessons?

You may have, or soon find, a particular interest in one subject that you are keen to pursue at university. Our departments begin extension classes in January of Year 12 and everyone will attend at least one class a week, either to help you decide what to study or to prepare you for it. These classes, and your ordinary lessons, aim to extend your studies far beyond your A level/Pre-U syllabuses.

What about talks, trips and visits?

Outside of the classroom, we offer a variety of educational and co-curricular activities. We encourage you to gain a wide knowledge of issues within and beyond your subjects. Departments take turns in presenting different topics, which are beyond the scope of the syllabus. Visits to venues and events in London form part of your studies.

What about sport and exercise?

One afternoon a week is allocated to Sport and Exercise (SpEx) and we expect you to participate in an activity of your choice each term. While there are teams and competitions to enable you to compete against other schools or clubs, we cater for all abilities and enthusiasms – from those who simply like to keep fit to the keenest athletes who represent our School. Information about the different sporting pathways is available from our SpEx Department.



'The depth and breadth
of the teaching is
impressive'

Senior School parent

Sixth Form Studies

What is the Highgate curriculum?

We run linear, two-year A level and Pre-U courses, with public examinations at the end of Year 13. We enjoy teaching without the interruption of public examinations in the summer term of Year 12 and so we choose not to enter pupils for AS examinations. We have internal examinations in June (Year 12) and internal practice examinations around March (Year 13).

What is a Pre U?

It is a different academic but A level equivalent type of qualification. It is recognised by all universities and regulated by Ofqual. The Cambridge Pre-U grading system differs to A levels: Distinction 1, 2, and 3; Merit 1, 2, and 3; and Pass 1, 2, and 3. (Distinction Level 1 is the equivalent of a high A* at A level, while D3 is the equivalent of an A). Our Deputy Head (Academic), and departments who offer Pre-U, can provide further details.

How many courses will I take at Highgate?

You will study four courses in Year 12, and complete three or four full A levels/Pre-U's by the end of Year 13. Each year a significant number of our Sixth Formers take four courses in Year 13. You will receive individual advice about this towards the end of Year 12, to ensure you have a study programme that suits your abilities and ambitions.

What other learning options are available?

In Year 12, you follow a one-year course in Critical Method and many embark on the Extended Project Qualification.

The EPQ counts for half an A level and enables you to practise advanced independent research techniques on a topic of your choice, which may not be related to any A level/Pre-U syllabus.

Why does Highgate not offer a fifth A level?

Our Critical Method course, EPQ and extension classes underline our commitment to academic excellence. We believe that this, rather than a fifth A level, is the best way to extend you intellectually.

How do I choose my subject?

Your choice should be determined by your academic potential to succeed and your enthusiasm for that subject. If either is absent, it is unlikely you will enjoy the course or make a success of it.

Current Highgate pupils will have to achieve six grade 7s (the "old" A grade), or above at I/GCSE to automatically qualify for the Sixth Form. Furthermore, you need to have achieved at least a grade 7, but preferably a grade 8 or 9 (the "old" A* grade), in subjects taken at I/GCSE which are to be continued at A level. In rare cases, a grade 6 (or B) may be acceptable, but you may find yourself at a disadvantage. In the case of subjects where it has not been possible to take an I/GCSE, other conditions apply, please see subject entries in this booklet for more details.

Please note that if you opt for a subject and do not get at least a grade 7 in it at I/GCSE, we may ask you to reconsider.

In 2020 a record 57% of all exam entries were awarded A* or a Distinction (D1 or D2) at Pre-U.
86% of all grades were either A* or A.



'Extremely high quality of teaching and pupil engagement and encouragement - positively inspirational, thank you'

Sixth Form parent

Why does Highgate not offer some subjects?

Our Heads of Departments choose A levels, which allow them to teach challenging subjects in a way that stretch our academically able pupils in preparation for university and their career.

There are common A level subjects that we choose not to offer because we feel they do not fulfil the criteria of being academically challenging enough and they are not pre-requisites for degree courses at university. Subjects we do not offer include Business Studies, Law, Psychology and Sociology.

What tips can you give me on choosing my subjects?

Please use this booklet for guidance. Then speak to your teachers and ask them any questions about the courses you are interested in. You will also gain a lot from speaking to Year 12 or Year 13 pupils. As already mentioned, the most important thing to remember is to pick subjects you are good at and enjoy.

When will I confirm my subject choices?

Having submitted your initial options at the end of November, we understand you may wish to reconsider them, especially following the process of revising for and taking your mock examinations. We will ask you to confirm your subjects again in mid-March. Changes following this are dependent on their accommodation within our blocking structure.

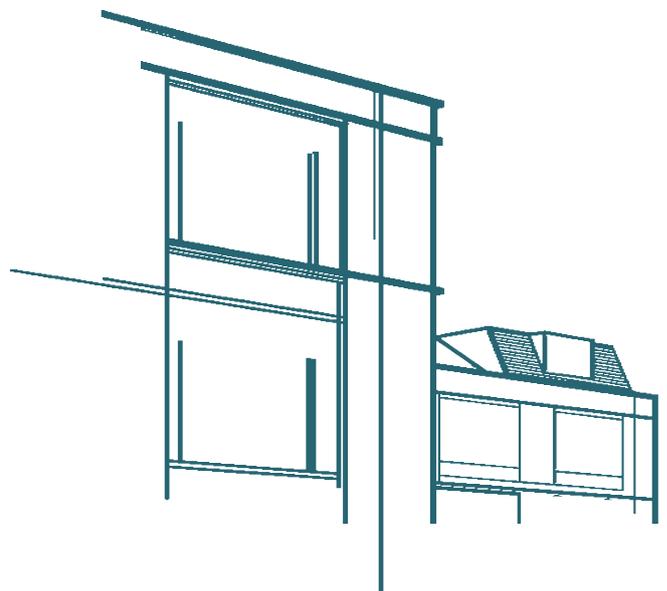
25 pupils were placed
at Oxford or Cambridge
University from academic
year 2019-20

How do I apply from another school?

Our 16+ open evening in early October lets you see what Highgate has to offer, as well as talk to staff and current pupils. You then complete and submit your online application form by our external deadline. We run an assessment day in mid-November, with offer letters posted out subsequently. For more information, including the application deadline, please visit our website.

What else do I need to know?

We reserve the right to alter our blocking, after we see all initial choices. We aim to ensure the largest number of pupils can take the four subjects they want, but we cannot promise every conceivable combination.



Beyond Highgate Sixth Form

The majority of Highgate Sixth Formers chose to continue their education at university. University courses can lead to a wide range of career opportunities, many not directly related to the subject studied at university.

How will Highgate help me apply to university?

- Preparations for university begin in Year 12, with:
- The Year 12 Extension Programme
- Higher Education talks
- Visits to universities
- A Higher Education event with representatives from most Russell Group universities
- A North American university fair attended by major colleges
- All pupils are assigned a university mentor

Your mentor will guide and support you in planning and preparing your university application. We also have two members of staff to support applications to North American universities and each year we send Sixth Formers to top-ranking institutions in the USA and Canada.

Our subject specialist teachers provide personalised guidance about university courses, while our extension classes let you go beyond the classroom and further develop your interests. Extension classes also foster intellectual independence and introduce subjects not taught at Highgate, like anthropology, architecture, law, sociology, and medicine.

We are justly proud of the higher education achievements of our Sixth Formers, who study and thrive in universities across the globe.

87% of pupils went on to their first choice of University in 2020

How will Highgate help me develop my employability?

Highgate supports all Sixth Formers in making informed choices about their future career. We have a full-time Careers and Employability Specialist, based in our Senior School Careers Office, who works closely with our Deputy Head (Pupils' Personal Development and Employability) to ensure you receive up-to-date, relevant and useful careers advice.

Here is a sample of the Employability and careers activities that take place throughout the year:

- Bookable one-to-one careers conversations with our Careers and Employability Specialist ensure you gain impartial and independent guidance, explore individual career options, develop your CV, and work on applications for apprenticeships, volunteering and gap year opportunities
- Our compulsory four-week carousel of PSHE lessons in Year 12, delivered by specialist teachers, starts you thinking about future employability
- Our annual careers fair lets you talk to 60+ representatives from different employment fields
- Mentoring opportunities with industry figures ensure you get to talk about your interests and start thinking about future employment
- Practice job interviews in Year 12, plus advice on preparing and submitting a CV, prepare you for future job applications and interviews
- Employability days let you learn more about writing cover letters, preparing for interviews and finding work experience. A range of careers events and talks let you get more advice on employability and careers options, apprenticeship opportunities, and taking a gap year

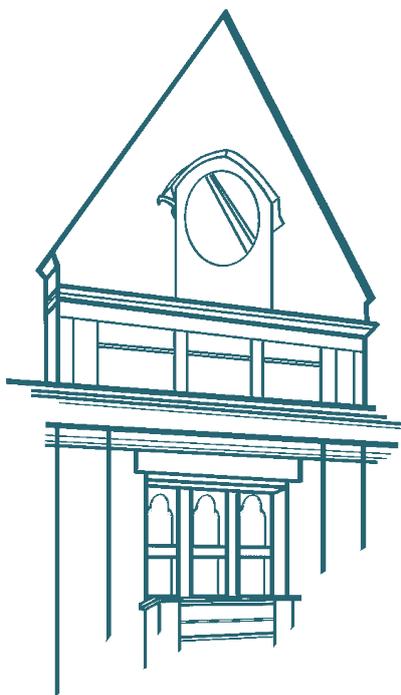
By offering an extensive and dedicated careers and employability programme, we ensure you get the support and advice needed to make important decisions about your future career.



Ancient History OCR (H407) A level



Two Highgate Sixth Formers have gone on to read Classical Archaeology and Ancient History at Oxford in recent years.



'It will be enough for me, however, if these words of mine are judged useful by those who want to understand clearly the events which happened in the past and which (human nature being what it is) will, at some point or other and in much the same ways, be repeated in the future'

Thucydides 1.22

Why study ancient history?

What is the best way to run a state? Why do people go to war? What is the impact of far-reaching power on the individual? Such questions exercised ancient authors just as much as they exercise us today and Ancient History will allow you to explore how some of the finest minds of the ancient world can still shed a powerful light on them. The discipline takes in a remarkable range of sources from Persian inscriptions to Roman coins, from Tacitus' biting analysis to the lofty heights (and lewd lows) of Athenian tragic and comic drama: the ability to adapt to different artefacts in strikingly varied contexts lies at the heart of the ancient historian's art.

A level Ancient History is available to all Highgate Sixth Formers – you do not need to have studied Latin, Greek or Classical Civilisation at GCSE. We welcome all who have an interest in the ancient world and wish to develop their powers of historical analysis through the scrutinising of primary sources.

What is our approach?

Our rigorous course focuses on primary sources, and aims to give you both a broad and in-depth experience of the history of ancient Greece and Rome. There is a great deal of discussion and debate within lessons, and our small class sizes create a seminar-style feel that encourages you to be independent thinkers. Within the historical framework, topics are extremely varied, covering a mixture of literary, visual and archaeological sources to help shape your views of the events and society of both cultures.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

OCR's new A level Ancient History syllabus has four components: two Greek, and two Roman. These consist of two period studies, covered in Year 12, to include a substantial span of Greek and Roman history over a period of at least 75 years, and two depth studies, designed to focus on a shorter time span to explore the complexity of events and historians' debates thereon. A more detailed breakdown of our topics is: Greek topics: Period study: Relations between Greek and non-Greek states, 492–404 BC

A focus on the Hellenic alliance that defied Persia, and then collapsed into the disastrous in-fighting of the Peloponnesian War. Herodotus, 'the father of history', and Thucydides, still regarded as the foundational author on international relations and political commentary, are key authors amongst a huge variety of others.

Plus one of the following depth studies:

- The Politics and Society of Sparta, 478–404 BC
- The Politics and Culture of Athens, c.460–399 BC
- The Rise of Macedon, 359–323 BC

Roman topics:

Period study: The Julio-Claudian Emperors, 31 BC–AD 68
A focus on the rise of the emperor Augustus from the ashes of brutal civil war, and the efforts of his successors Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius and Nero to maintain the legacy of one-man rule.

In addition, one of the following depth studies:

- The Breakdown of the Late Republic, 88–31 BC
- The Flavians, AD 68–96
- Ruling Roman Britain, AD 43–128

Your exam paper will involve questions on each topic that require responding to the original sources (extracts are printed on the exam paper), discussing the quality and reliability of the various sources studied, and extended essay questions which are broad in their scope.

What skills will I gain?

You will develop your powers of argument in response to the primary sources, and strengthen your abilities in planning, structuring and writing essays. You will cultivate a critical eye for authorial intention, honed to adapt to a wide range of media, and you will be encouraged to put your own views to the test in the context of contemporary debate and scholarship.

What co-curricular activities are available?

Our Department runs regular trips to Greece and Italy. Closer to home, we run trips to the British Museum and a walk around 'Roman London'. Classics Society allows pupils to discuss the intersection of the ancient and modern worlds, with debates this year on gender in Roman elegy ('Was Ovid a feminist?') and perceptions of ethnicity in Greek and Roman society. Sixth Formers lead the editing of our Classics Journal, *Kleos* this year seeing its fourth issue.

What can I do next?

Our A level provides an excellent foundation for university courses in ancient history, history, classics, politics, English, anthropology, art history, philosophy and anything which requires extended writing. The analytical skills, which this course helps develop, are vital in many career paths including law, journalism, research and politics.

Entry requirements

None – A level Ancient History is available to all those curious about the ancient world. However, given the range of reading and analytical writing required, we would encourage those with a particular interest in equivalent essay-based subjects (E.g. History or English). There is no requirement to have any knowledge of Latin or Classical Greek.

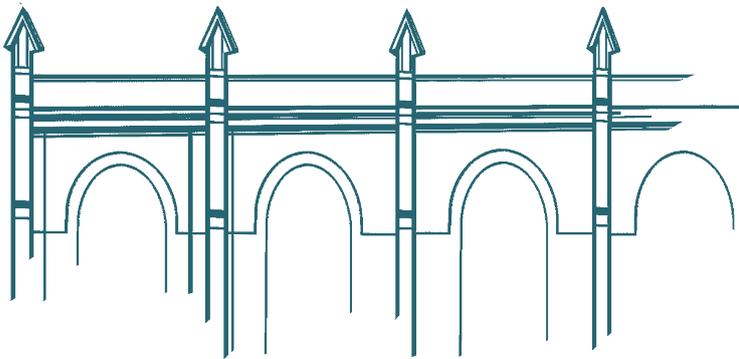
More information

Please note: if you opt for A level Ancient History, you cannot opt for A level Classical Civilisation as well.

Please contact Mr Shepherd, Head of Classics
Henry.Shepherd@highgateschool.org.uk



All Highgate biologists take part in the full Biology Olympiad competition, winning 31 medals and 34 commendations in 2019-20.



"As someone who is just curious to understand how things work, biology is the perfect subject, providing detailed explanations of fundamental concepts like 'what allows humans to function?' - biology opens the door to understanding the very basis of life and all its complexities"

Sixth Form pupil

Why study biology?

Biology, the study of life and living processes, like all academic subjects, trains the mind and teaches a fascinating array of valuable knowledge and skills. It is therefore useful and relevant to any of you who may wish to pursue a scientific career or simply want to study a stimulating and interesting subject, even if it is not directly related to your future plans.

What is our approach?

We teach the Cambridge International A level specification, as we feel that this course offers the best balance between you having to learn 'traditional' elements of the subject, whilst at the same time having to appreciate how your understanding of these subjects relates to developments in the scientific world. Our course explores the wide range of subjects that are gathered under the umbrella of biology, including cell biology, biochemistry, genetics, ecology and evolution, physiology, neurology and many others. Our Biology Department comprises nine members of staff, plus two full-time technicians. The range of specialist interest areas within our Department enriches the learning experience enjoyed by all our Sixth Formers.

You are taught by two teachers for the duration of your course, and class sizes tend not to exceed twelve. Lessons take various forms including seminars and presentations in well-resourced and modern laboratories. Practical work is an integral part of the subject, so you carry out a variety of laboratory and field-based experiments throughout the course. You will use IT for both the presentation and analysis of data, and be encouraged to acquire IT skills as a means of communicating your research and findings to the class.

Our Department places a significant emphasis on you engaging with contemporary research, and it is not unusual for you to be asked to consider, with appropriate support and guidance, original research papers.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

You will study the following: cell structure; biological molecules; enzymes; cell membranes and transport; the mitotic cell cycle; nucleic acids and protein synthesis; transport in plants and mammals; gas exchange and smoking; infectious disease; immunity; energy and respiration; photosynthesis; homeostasis; control and co-ordination; inherited change; selection and evolution; biodiversity; classification and conservation; and genetic technology.

Assessment involves one multiple-choice examination, three written examinations and one practical examination at the end of the two-year course.

What skills will I gain?

Our A level will help develop your research, problem solving, organisation and analytical skills. You will also develop practical science skills essential for biology.

What co-curricular activities are available?

You can be involved in our Science Society and Biology Extension classes, in addition to our Medical Society. In each of these, you receive, and give, talks on a wide variety of biological topics that range far beyond your exam specification. The opportunity to work for a CREST Award in Biology is also available as a part of our Tuesday Afternoon Activities.

What can I do next?

Biology is a popular choice for strong scientists who may study it alongside other science or mathematical subjects. Biology remains a recommended subject for those who wish to read medicine, veterinary studies, dentistry or biological sciences at university.

Our A level Biology provides excellent preparation, in general, for university-level study but also equips aspiring life scientists with a solid foundation in key biological processes and concepts.

Entry requirements

A minimum grade 7 in GCSE Biology. Sixth Formers looking to study A level Biology would ideally also be looking to study A level Chemistry.

More information

Please contact Mr Lockhart, Head of Biology
James.Lockhart@highgateschool.org.uk



In 2020, 46 Highgate Sixth Form chemists were entered in the Chemistry Olympiad, achieving 5 gold, 11 silver and 17

Why study chemistry?

Chemistry today is fascinating and far reaching. We know something about the chemistry of stars, and we know much about the chemistry of life on Earth. 118 elements have been discovered, but their possible and actual combinations are infinite. Chemistry in medicine, industry and agriculture have transformed the way we live, including causing environmental issues for which modern researchers must now seek chemical solutions. Chemistry derives its universal relevance from its intellectual appeal, utility and application. Chemistry occupies a central position among the sciences: it has important interfaces with mathematics and physics, with engineering, and with biology and medicine.

What is our approach?

We deliver a rich and diverse curriculum that builds on what you learnt at IGCSE and delves deeper into the complex world of the atom. Our syllabus is an excellent preparation if you hope to study Chemistry, or a related subject, at university. Practical work demystifies chemistry and brings topics to life. Your regular practical work will build key analytical and observation skills, which are important transferrable skills.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

In Year 12, you are introduced to concepts of mole calculations and quantitative experiments, atomic structure, chemical bonding and the periodic table, with emphasis on the elements and compounds of Groups 2 and 7. You also study organic chemistry via hydrocarbons, alcohols and derivatives, including modern instrumental techniques used to identify them, such as mass spectrometry, chromatography and spectroscopy. You continue by looking at chemical energetics, reaction rates and green chemistry.

In Year 13, you concentrate on the core organic chemistry with one of your teachers, studying aromatic compounds, carbonyl compounds, carboxylic acids and their derivatives, and nitrogen compounds to polymers. This aims to provide you with a deeper knowledge of organic chemistry, and an understanding of how it shapes the natural world, whilst providing many important products.

In parallel, you study physical and inorganic chemistry, which enables you to develop a quantitative and more in-depth approach. You explore the more advanced aspects of chemical equilibria, combined with a study of acids, bases and buffers, as well as lattice energies, electrode potentials and the transition elements.

Laboratory work remains a central part of the subject, so you undertake a variety of experiments and these are assessed by teachers regularly throughout the course.

You complete three written papers at the end of Year 13. Papers 1 (periodic table, elements and physical chemistry) and 2 (synthesis and analytical techniques) include multiple-choice questions, followed by structured and extended response questions. Both cover theory and practical skills. Paper 3 (unified chemistry) covers the entirety of the course, containing structured and extended response questions.

What skills will I gain?

Chemistry, with its uniquely wide span within the scientific spectrum, is an excellent way to develop your intellect. Not only will you acquire powerful analytical and problem-solving skills, as well as organisation and dexterity in practical work, but you will also be required to show ingenuity, curiosity, precision and spatial awareness in 3D: key skills for an undergraduate chemist.

What co-curricular activities are available?

We offer weekly extension classes in Year 12 and Oxbridge preparation classes in Year 13, an active STEM Society, and opportunities to take part in the International Chemistry Olympiad and Cambridge Chemistry Challenge competitions.

What can I do next?

In recent years, Chemistry has been a popular A level choice and our course has delivered excellent results. Looking ahead to higher education, A level Chemistry is essential if you are considering medicine, dentistry or veterinary science and recommended if you are thinking of engineering or environmental sciences.

Entry requirements

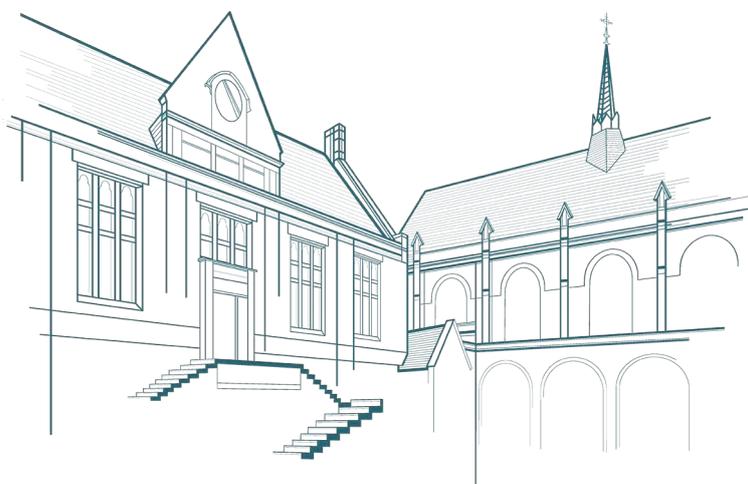
At least a grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry or 77 in GCSE Double Award Science, together with at least a 7 in GCSE Mathematics (if A level Mathematics is not studied). There are no A level subjects that are required to be studied with A level Chemistry, though Mathematics is helpful.

More information

Please contact Miss Cameron, Head of Chemistry
Ella.Cameron@highgateschool.org.uk



Highgate Sixth
Formers take the
lead in editing and
producing Kleos, our
classics journal



Why study classical civilisation?

A level Classical Civilisation offers the most wide-ranging and interdisciplinary approach to the ancient world. You can study the origins of theatre in Greek tragedy alongside its representation in fifth century vase painting; the development of Roman love poetry and love's dissection in Greek philosophy; the foundational epic of Western literature, Homer's Iliad, next to its Roman counterpart, Virgil's Aeneid. Few subjects offer such a broad exploration of the very beginnings of western thought.

What is our approach?

You sharpen your critical faculties across a range of media: lyric poetry, drama, philosophy, archaeology, all have their place within the course. Crucial to a scholarly understanding of these artefacts is the historical context which produced them, as such you will gain an insight into archaic Greece, the politics, culture and conflicts of Athens in the fifth century BC, and early imperial Rome. Lessons will often be discursive, and thus require preparation of the material under discussion in advance.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

Our course consists of one compulsory component and two components, where the topic is dictated by the particular teacher's passion and expertise.

Paper 1: The World of the Hero (40% of total A level)
Homer's Iliad (Year 12) - As a lyrical exploration of the destructive impact of war on a community, the Iliad remains unsurpassed.
Virgil's Aeneid (Year 13) - Virgil recasts Homer, Iliad and Odyssey alike, into one great Roman epic, written for an empire (and emperor) that ruled the world.

Paper 2: Culture and the Arts (30%)
Greek Theatre (Year 12) - This module goes to the roots of European drama. Critical reading sets two great tragedies, Sophocles' Oedipus Rex and Euripides' Bacchae, against an equally great comedy, Aristophanes' Frogs.

Paper 3: Beliefs and Ideas (30%)
Love and Relationships (Year 13) - This comparative study traces Greek and Roman beliefs across both cultures to take in the ideas of Sappho (one of the few female voices from the ancient world), Plato, Seneca and Ovid on gender, passion and the nature of love itself.

Written tasks focus on the close analysis of sources, both visual and literary, and the building of cogent arguments in broader essays. You are encouraged to read the opinions of modern historians and critics so you reach your own conclusions within the context of contemporary scholarly debate. All papers are examined at the end of Year 13, and there is no coursework.

What skills will I gain?

This subject clearly complements skills practised for courses in English, philosophy, politics, religious studies, history, history of art, and Latin/Greek, but we are delighted to have Sixth Formers from other disciplines who simply want to further their knowledge and understanding of the ancient world. Skills of close observation and cogent expression, as applied to subjects as diverse as Platonic philosophy and Attic vase paintings, will be regularly practised and developed.

What co-curricular activities are available?

Our Department runs regular trips to Greece and Italy. Classics Society allows pupils to discuss the intersection of the ancient and modern worlds, with debates this year on gender in Roman elegy ('Was Ovid a feminist?') and perceptions of ethnicity in Greek and Roman society. Sixth Formers lead the editing of our Classics Journal, *Kleos* - this year seeing its fourth issue.

What can I do next?

The skills developed in analysing literature and visual material, as well as those through writing about and discussing literature/art, stand you in good stead for many degrees and careers. In particular, any path that requires clear, well-expressed use of language, extended writing, and sharp analysis of written or visual material will benefit from this course.

While many do other subjects at university, it is worth noting that there are excellent university courses in classical studies or ancient history, and several Sixth Formers each year are drawn to this study.

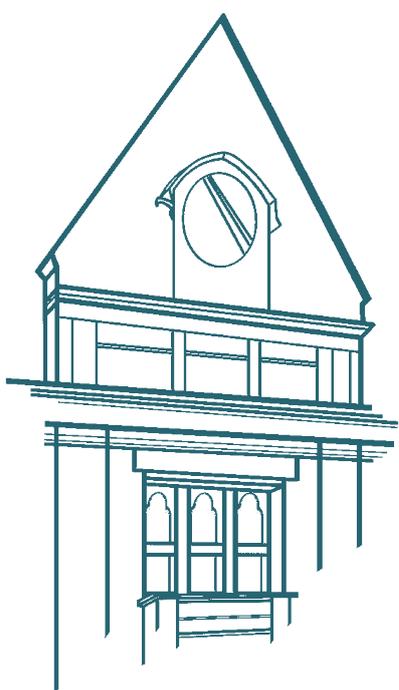
Entry requirements

There is no need to have studied Latin or Greek, or GCSE Classical Civilisation. Please note: if you opt for A level Ancient History, you cannot opt for A level Classical Civilisation as well.

More information

Please contact Mr Shepherd, Head of Classics
Henry.Shepherd@highgateschool.org.uk

Computer Science OCR A level



Out of Highgate's first cohort for A level Computer Science, half went on to study computer science-related degrees at university

Why study computer science?

A level Computer Science is a practical and rigorous course where you apply academic principles, learnt in the classroom, to real-world systems. It is a creative subject that combines invention and excitement. Our qualification values computational thinking, helping you develop the skills to solve problems, design systems, and understand the powers and limits of human and machine intelligence.

These concepts lie at the heart of this qualification and are the best preparation if you want to study computer science at a higher level. Yet A level Computer Science also provides a good grounding for other subjects that require computational thinking and analytical skills.

What is our approach?

At Highgate, we follow the PRIMM approach to teaching programming - Predict, Run, Investigate, Modify and Make. We use a variety of programming languages including JavaScript, Python and Lua.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

There are three components to A level Computer Science.

Component 1 - Computer systems

This component is a traditionally marked and structured question paper. This externally marked question paper is worth 40% of your final qualification (140 marks).

This component covers the characteristics of contemporary systems architecture and other areas including: the characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices; software and software development; programming; exchanging data; data types, data structures and algorithms; and legal, moral, ethical and cultural issues.

Component 2 - Algorithms and problem solving

This component is a traditionally marked and structured question paper with two sections. This externally marked question paper is worth 40% of your final qualification (140 marks).

Section A includes traditional questions concerning computational thinking such as problem solving and programming; algorithms; pattern recognition, abstraction and decomposition; algorithm design and efficiency; and standard algorithms. Section B contains a scenario/task, which could be an algorithm or a text page-based task, and involves problem solving.

Component 3 - Programming project

This internally assessed and externally moderated component is worth 20% of your final qualification (70 marks). You select your own user-driven problem of an appropriate size and complexity to solve. This enables you to demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the assessment objectives. You need to analyse the problem, design a solution, implement the solution and give a thorough evaluation.

What skills will I gain?

You develop your problem solving, creativity and analytical skills. You have an opportunity to put all these skills into practice by completing an independent programming project in Year 13.

What co-curricular activities are available?

Our Sixth Formers regularly enter national programming competitions, including the British Informatics Olympiad. Highgate have won competitions at this level and we encourage teams to enter, to enhance collaborative skills. There are also Year 12 extension classes that allow you to explore interesting topics removed from the curriculum.

What can I do next?

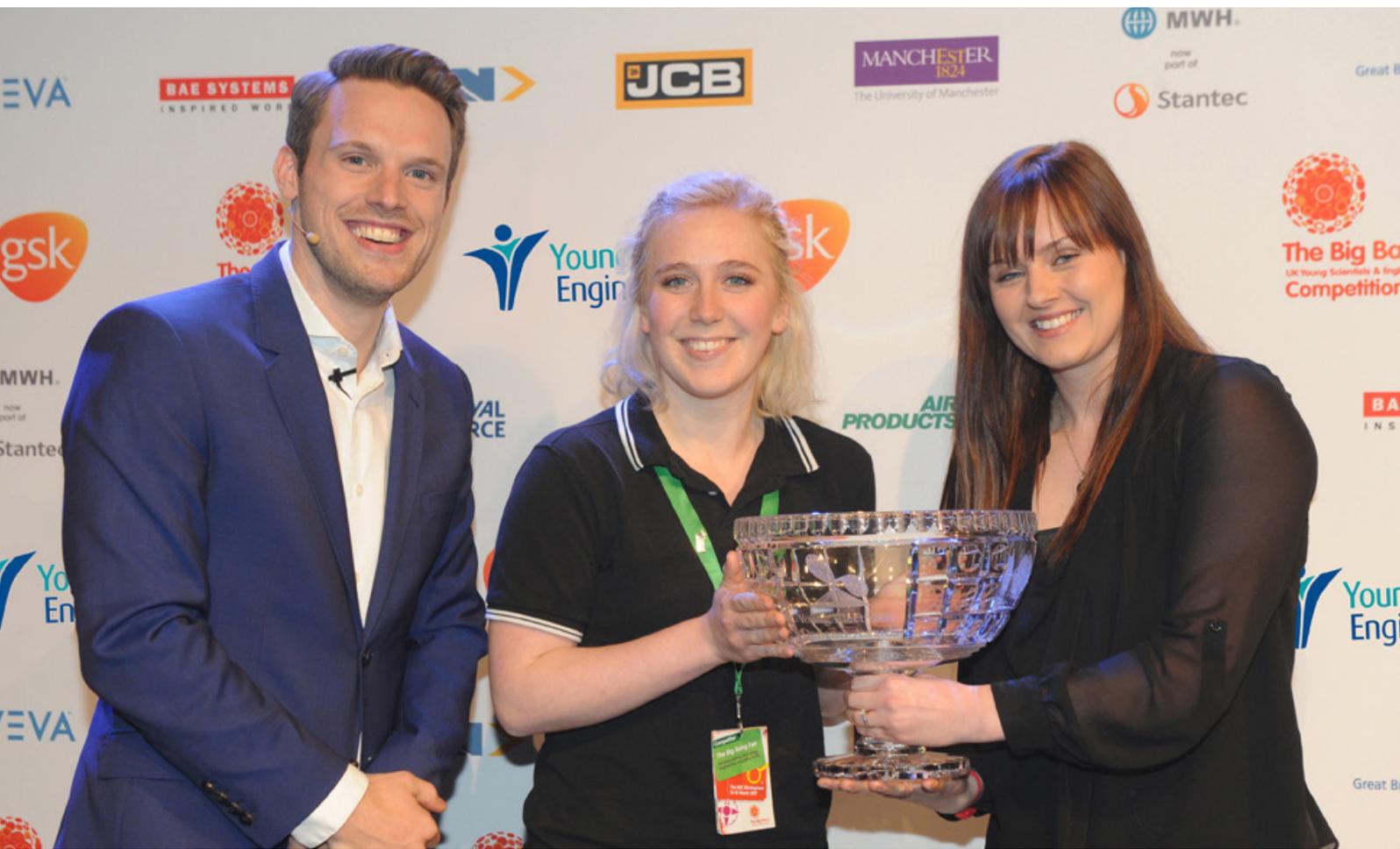
Studying computer science can lead to a variety of professions, including financial services, accountancy and telecommunications. Within industry, popular career choices include database administrator, application developer, web developer, software engineer, systems manager and video game designer.

Entry requirements

A strong mathematical background is essential, and it is desirable to have a good GCSE in Computer Science.

More information

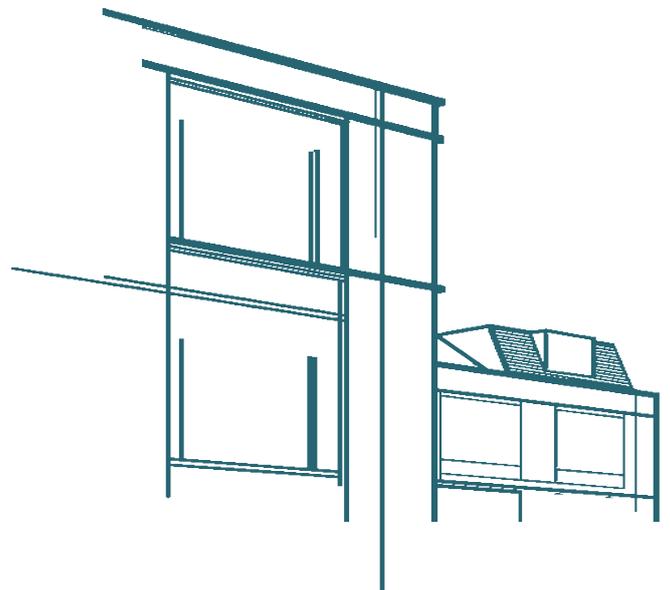
Please contact Mr Noyce, Computing Department
Daryl.Noyce@highgateschool.org.uk



Alice Mitchell, winning the Young Engineer of Britain competition at the Big Bang show, using her A level DTE work.

"I love studying DTE because of the creative free rein, fun teaching atmosphere and tools we are given to realise our ideas and inventions. It's by far my favourite subject!"

Sixth Form pupil



Why study design engineering?

Design Engineering is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. Our A level has been devised by working closely with higher education representatives and industry professionals to ensure the direction of the qualification fulfils the requirements that support educational and career progression. There has also been a focus on ensuring the content reflects authentic practice, giving an insight into the way that creative, engineering and/or manufacturing industries function. Learners are thus enabled to make the connection between the knowledge, understanding and skills they develop, and how this benefits them in the future.

‘The skills and experiences that you explore within A level Design Engineering are exactly the type of person we are looking for.’ Dr James Mackrill, Lecturer and Admissions Tutor, Faculty of Engineering, Dyson School of Design Engineering.

What is our approach?

Our A level requires you to identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes/products. You acquire subject knowledge in design, technology and engineering, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture. This qualification will excite and engage you with contemporary topics covering the breadth of this dynamic and continually evolving subject. It creates empathetic learners who develop the ability to confidently critique products, situations and society in every walk of their lives, now and in the future. You build skills in thinking and designing to support the requirements that you need to demonstrate when progressing to higher education, industry or entrepreneurship.

Our Department participates in many national Design and Engineering competitions and runs a biannual trip to Bologna or Munich, to learn about the automotive and renewable energy industries.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

In Year 12 you will acquire new knowledge and skills using of our state-of-art equipment and workshops. All the topics are on the OCR website, ranging from user-centred design, entrepreneurship to beam deflections and mechatronics. One of the projects in Year 12 is Upcycling. This involves taking the students to an aeroplane salvage company, where they take parts from a range of aircraft. They are then tasked with upcycling them into marketable products, which are then hopefully sold. In Year 13, you will spend the majority of your time working on an individual project, where you will apply the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the course.

The course is assessed via two exam papers: Principles of Design Engineering; and Problem Solving in Design Engineering. In total they make 50% of the final mark. The remaining 50% is assessed by the Year 13 Iterative Design Project (coursework). For many, this is an opportunity to conceive and construct something you have designed, which can be deeply rewarding and also enhances your powers of decision making, as well as critical analysis. Some students go on a patent their ideas and prototypes. Some students also enter their creations into national competitions.

What skills will I gain?

A level Design Engineering strengthens your critical thinking and problem-solving skills within a creative environment, enabling you to develop and make prototypes/products that solve real world problems, considering both your own and others’ needs, wants, aspirations and values. It prepares you for tomorrow’s rapidly change world.

What co-curricular activities are available?

Our Department offers a wide range of activities, from Robotic and Drone Club to Automobile Society (which use our pit and car garage). There is also a number of competitions, some leading to world championships in the USA or Taiwan. Over the years, our Sixth Formers have won many national and international competitions.

What can I do next?

Our Sixth Formers have opted for university courses including Engineering, Computer Science, Augmented Reality, Industrial Design and Architecture. Others have applied directly to industry and to degree apprenticeships. Many of our alumni work for Design and Engineering companies, like Dyson, Rolls-Royce, and Aston Martin. Some students go on to be entrepreneurs and start up their own tech companies, Litho as one example of this.

Entry requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE is normally required. You should also be confident practically, and willing to build and test your ideas. A good grasp of Mathematics is fundamental to certain elements of this A level. (It is not compulsory to study mathematics in conjunction with this course, but it will help).

More information

Please contact: Mr Thomson, Director of Design Technology & Engineering
Andy.Thomson@highgateschool.org.uk

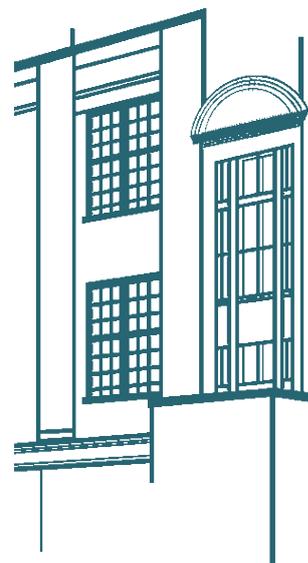
Check out our Twitter and Instagram accounts for examples of work, plus information about industry and upcoming events.

  [@HighgateDTE](https://www.instagram.com/HighgateDTE)



"The lessons are engaging and exciting and the course is so seamlessly connected and taught. There are countless, incredible opportunities available to us through theatre visits, workshops and productions inside and outside of the studio."

Olivia, Year 12



Highgate offers a cycle of concerts, recitals and drama performances during the year involving over 500 pupils of all ages.

Why study drama and theatre studies?

If you enjoy reading plays, going to the theatre, and writing about drama, as much as participating in it, you will enjoy our course. Whether you want to perform, direct or design, you need to be a good team worker and have the confidence to experiment independently with your ideas.

What is our approach?

The Edexcel syllabus lets you study plays from the point of view of a director, designer, performer and critic. You acquire the knowledge and understanding of the language of drama and theatre, as well as develop your performing and analytical skills.

You gain a thorough understanding of drama and theatre, highly developed analytical skills, and an ability to communicate effectively with others. In addition, you acquire time management and leadership skills, giving you the ability to work under pressure, as you fulfil reading commitments and written and practical assessments.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

Component 1: Devising (40% of qualification, 80 marks)

You devise an original performance piece using one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli. This internally assessed (externally moderated) unit has two parts: a portfolio of 2,500 – 3,000 words (60 marks) and a performance or design realisation (20 marks).

Component 2: Text in Performance (20% of qualification, 60 marks)

You participate in both a group performance of one key extract from a performance text and a monologue or duologue of an extract from another performance text. Both are assessed by a visiting examiner. Again, there are design opportunities in place of performances.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (40% of the qualification, 80 marks)

This two and half hour written examination is divided into:

- Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation (20 marks)
You answer one extended response question, from a choice of two, analysing and evaluating a live theatre performance seen.
- Section B: Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text (36 marks)

You answer two extended response questions based on an unseen extract from a performance text studied. You must demonstrate how you, as theatre makers, intend to realise the extract in performance. You answer from the perspective of a performer and a designer.

- Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text (24 marks)
You answer one extended response question, from a choice of two, based on an unseen named section from the chosen performance text. You must outline how the work of the chosen practitioner has influenced the overall production concept and demonstrate awareness of the performance text in its original performance conditions.

What skills will I gain?

You learn to work effectively as part of a team, develop your confidence, and create strong organisational time management skills. You will be persuaded to push the boundaries and encouraged to experiment with ideas.

What co-curricular activities are available?

Our Sixth Formers can write and direct their own plays, audition for our biennial School musical, and be a part of the production that goes to the Edinburgh Fringe. In addition to performance, there are also opportunities to work backstage with our Theatre Technician.

What can I do next?

Our alumni study a range of subjects at university, from English at Cambridge, to languages, theatre and film, and even medicine. We also have Sixth Formers going straight into drama school, past destinations being Guildhall, Italia Conti and Musical Theatre at The Royal Academy.

Entry requirements

A grade 7 and above in GCSE English. There is no need to have studied GCSE Drama but a commitment to the subject, whether it be as a participant in school productions or as a proven regular theatre-goer, is strongly advised.

More information

Please contact Ms Fehr, Head of Drama and Theatre Studies
Juliet.Fehr@highghateschool.org.uk



Over half our Highgate Sixth Formers who took A level Economics in recent years went on to study the subject at university

Why study economics?

How did policy-makers respond to the 2008 financial crisis and what have we learned from the crash? What level of inequality should be tolerated in society? Is taxation the best way to prevent smoking? Economics is a wide-ranging discipline that attempts to provide a logical and rigorous framework for answering questions that are fundamental to society.

A social science in every sense of the term, economics takes a scientific approach to exploring social phenomena. Technically rigorous and conceptually unique, economics trains you to be a critical and analytical thinker.

What is our approach?

We teach Economics from first principles, ensuring that you gain a deep understanding of the building blocks of the subject. We draw broadly on current affairs to develop deep applications of the subject, seeking out interesting materials from popular and academic publications in Economics.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

We currently follow the Edexcel syllabus, which is split into the following themes:

1. Introduction to markets and market failure
This is the nuts and bolts of microeconomics – how markets work and why some markets may not always work perfectly.
2. The UK economy – performance and policies
An essential course in macroeconomic literacy, this theme explores how we evaluate the overall health of the economy and how the government can influence this.
3. Business behaviour and the labour market
An investigation into how the behaviour of a firm is affected by the amount of competition in a market. Here we look at monopoly power, price-fixing, and what governments can do to protect consumers.
4. A global perspective.
An analysis of how economies interact with each other – trade wars, currency manipulation and exchange rate movements. Here, we also study development economics.

There is no coursework and all assessment takes place through examinations. You sit three papers: microeconomics, macroeconomics, and a synoptic paper

designed to identify themes across the two sides of the discipline. Examinations include data response questions (where you are required to draw on information given in data and extract from this to write a series of short-answers and mini-essays) and essay questions (where you use your own theoretical and applied knowledge to answer extended, evaluative questions), plus calculations, short-answer and multiple-choice questions.

What skills will I gain?

A level Economics will develop your analytical rigour, critical judgement and contextual awareness, and build your understanding of how subtle and complex relationships can be modelled and graphed.

What co-curricular activities are available?

Our vibrant, Sixth Former-led Economics Society is a well-attended weekly forum hosting talks, guest speakers and debates. Regular extension classes throughout Year 12 offer you a chance to explore applied case studies and undergraduate level technical theory. Finally, our Investment Club lets you learn from Mr Mahajan's expertise in the financial sector and gain real-time experience of trading, through an interactive trading platform.

What can I do next?

Anything, and certainly not just finance! Economics students frequently top the lists of most sought-after graduates by large companies, who value their rigorous analytical skills and technical ability. Economics graduates often find themselves recruited into tech, consultancy, government and law.

Entry requirements

An aptitude for mathematics is essential. You never deal with complicated algebra in A level Economics but economic diagrams involve modelling relationships between variables on a set of axes, so you'll need a good conceptual understanding of how relationships between variables can be represented graphically. Mathematics (and, in some cases, A level Further Mathematics) is necessary to take the subject to degree-level.

More information

Please contact Ms Burrows, Head of Economics
Antonia.Burrows@highgateschool.org.uk



"Studying English literature simply provides a space in which to think, and the sheer amount of different historical, literary and philosophical ideas which you are exposed to means you can't help but become more questioning of, sensitive to, and intrigued by the society in which we live"

Georgie, Y13

Why study English literature?

If you are interested in ideas, in imagination, in how the world is shaped, in how it is shaping you, in independent thought, in argument, in critical engagement and, most of all, if you are interested in words, then you should study Pre-U English Literature.

What is our approach?

Highgate was among the first UK schools to offer this two-year linear course, currently the most rigorous and challenging in the subject. However, its real value goes beyond the examination: it encourages you to develop a questioning approach to literature and excellent levels of close analytical skills, whilst encouraging much wider reading across different literary movements and time frames. In addition, you explore the cultural, social and political contexts of texts, alongside different critical interpretations. The focus on independence is especially apparent in the personal investigation coursework, for which you select your own books.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

Our current set texts are:

Poetry and Prose, Section A, poetry pre-1900: Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Nun's Priest's Tale* John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Books 9 and 10

George Gordon Byron, Lord Byron, Selected poems
Alexander Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*

Poetry and Prose, Section A, poetry post-1900: Liz Lochhead: Selected poems

Alice Oswald, Selected poems Sylvia Plath, Selected poems
Poetry and Prose, Section B, prose pre-1900: Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*

Charles Dickens, *Our Mutual Friend*, Henry Fielding, *Tom Jones*; Henry James, *What Maisie Knew*

Poetry and Prose, Section B, prose, post-1900: Alice Munro, *Short stories*

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*

Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth*

Drama, Section A:

Shakespeare, *Richard III*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Drama, Section B:

Hannah Cowley, *The Belle's Stratagem*, Brian Friel, *Translations*, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, *The School for Scandal*, Tom Stoppard, *Arcadia*

In the first term, your introductory course focuses on different critical approaches to texts, alongside the development of close analytical skills and an overview of literary movements. This is taught alongside the set text novel. During this term, all Pre-U English Literature Sixth Formers enter the TS Eliot essay writing competition, in which you produce a critical appreciation of two texts that you have read independently. In the second term, you begin to study the set text poetry, and continue to develop and refine your approach to unseen papers, alongside a contextual appreciation of texts. Preparation begins for your personal investigation.

Your personal investigation is completed in your second year, as you study set texts for drama and Shakespeare. You continue to prepare for your unseen paper, consolidating your critical and contextual responses to literature across time.

Over two years, you prepare for four papers, each worth 25% of your final mark. Two are closed text two-hour exams and the third, based on responses to unseen passages, is two hours and 15 minutes. The fourth is a 3,000 - 3,500 word essay, individual in title and scope to you

What skills will I gain?

Pre-U English Literature not only adds considerably to your knowledge of literary texts but also develops your skills of analysis and evaluation, your ability to write well-structured essays, and your capacity to present arguments in a logical and persuasive fashion.

What co-curricular activities are available?

Our course is supported by regular theatre trips. Recent literary tours have included a four-day visit to Ireland to extend our study of James Joyce, Seamus Heaney and Samuel Beckett; day trips to Milton's cottage and Keats' house; a Pre-U English Literature conference day, led by academics from universities including Oxford, Warwick and Yale; and talks at our Senior English Society.

What can I do next?

In addition to personal benefits, the skills developed in writing and talking about literature stand you in good stead for any career in which clear communication, or simply a love of language, is important.

If you are considering English, media and communications studies, American studies, drama and theatre studies, law, philosophy, journalism, languages or linguistics at university, then you should strongly consider Pre-U English Literature. Our alumni regularly receive places to read English at Oxford, Cambridge and other leading universities.

Entry requirements

Top grades in GCSE English Language and English Literature. To be successful in Pre-U English Literature you must enjoy reading, be independent and questioning, appreciate close textual analysis, and write with attitude.

More information

Please contact Mr Barfield, Head of English
Thomas.Barfield@highgateschool.org.uk



"What's great about Art at Highgate: you learn to think in such a different way to your other subjects, which really expands your mental capabilities and widens your educational experience - and the art department at Highgate for me over the years has become a relaxed space where I can feel at home and able to express myself and let go"

Year 13 pupil

Why study art?

If you have an interest in the world of art and design, and if you enjoy making and creating, you will relish the chance to have two more years to study art.

If you are interested in working in a design-based or creative industry in the future, the knowledge and skills you develop from studying art will benefit you. Art helps you in any career that involves using your creativity, problem solving, aesthetic understanding or presenting your own ideas.

What is our approach?

A level Fine Art is a very open course which allows you to learn about any aspect of the world and feed it into your own artwork. For example, you can bring in your interest in languages, psychology, biology, geography, philosophy, architecture or other cultures. You use your investigative, analytical and creative powers to examine, and think about, an aspect of our world, and develop your own practical work in response. You can work in any of the following areas of fine art - drawing, printmaking, sculpture, lens-based and alternative media.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

- Year 12: Personal Investigation (60%). For this unit, you produce a portfolio of artwork across a range of materials or media. You develop your skills by undertaking a series of workshops in your first term - drawing and printmaking, photography and film, sculpture, and painting. You also attend a series of life drawing classes to develop observational skills. After this, you undertake a more personal project, evidencing your learning and research in work journals, and portfolio sheets.
- Year 13: Externally Assessed Assignment (40%). This is a major personal coursework project where you work in a self-directed manner, with the support of two teachers, to produce a collection of work that shows exploration, research, technique and skill. You write a statement of intent at the beginning whereby you say what you want to learn and achieve during this unit. Your project involves development of a sustained piece of studio practice, culminating in a fully resolved piece or body of work. Preparatory studies and supporting work must also be submitted, including research, exploration, analysis and evaluation of working practices, ideas and contexts of related artists. Your project culminates in a 15 hour exam.

For each unit, you receive marks under four assessment objectives.

- Develop - develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding
- Experiment - explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops
- Record - record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress
- Present - present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.

What skills will I gain?

You will develop a range of skills including project management, analysis, observational drawing, painting, digital software, sculpting and more.

What co-curricular activities are available?

We offer a number of clubs and societies, plus life drawing sessions throughout our Michaelmas term. Our studios are open every evening, from 4pm-6pm, so any Sixth Former is able to work there then.

What can I do next?

The portfolio of work you produce can open the door to a foundation course at art college from which you can go on to study fine art, photography, theatre design, graphic design, interior design, fashion etc. Alternatively, you could apply through UCAS to study art history or architecture, or go directly onto an art or design degree.

Entry requirements

A good GCSE in Art and Design or equivalent.

More information

Please note: you are unable to take both A level Interdisciplinary Design and A level Fine Art into Year 13, as you would be awarded the same qualification.

Please contact Mrs Sacks, Head of Art
Jennifer.Sacks@highgateschool.org.uk



Our Geography Department uses the latest ICT technology and Geographical Information Systems (GIS), through our own computer suite, to underpin learning in the twenty-first century.

"Studying Geography has powerfully shaped the way that I see the world, whether that is being able to work out the life stories of mountains that are millions of years old or seeing the root causes of global inequality or understanding how climate change might affect society"

Sixth Form pupil

Why study geography?

There has never been a better or more important time to study Geography. With growing interest in issues like climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant courses you will study.

Highgate teachers draw on a rich variety of experience to stimulate an interest in, and a sense of wonder about, places, and to help you make sense of our complex world. We explain how places and landscapes are formed, how people and their environment interact, and how a diverse range of economies, societies and environments are interconnected.

What is our approach?

For our Sixth Formers, we seek to engender: knowledge and understanding of the planet and its peoples; a lasting awareness of the complex and dynamic world around us; sensitivity, tolerance and empathy towards all others; and critical and independent thinking.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed? Our A level is comprised of three components:

1. **Physical Geography.** Topics covered include water and carbon cycles, hot desert environments, and hazards. Assessment is via multiple-choice questions, short answers and extended prose. The unit is worth 40% and assessed by exam.
2. **Human Geography.** Topics covered include global systems and global governance, changing places, and resource security. Assessment is via multiple-choice questions, short answers and extended prose. The unit is worth 40% and assessed by exam.
3. **Geographical Investigation.** We are excited to offer you the chance to carry out an individual investigation based on a question or issue defined and developed by you, with our support. Your investigation includes data collected in the field, and can relate to any part of our course content. This unit is worth 20% and assessed by a written project/geographical investigation, marked by teachers and moderated by the board.

What skills will I gain?

At Highgate, we help you develop many highly desirable transferrable skills including recording, analysing, interpreting and critiquing data, extended writing, and cartographical, graphical and diagrammatical presentation of information. The development of this is facilitated through a rich programme of curricular and co-curricular fieldwork, including research with Queen Mary University of London.

What co-curricular activities are available?

You can engage in relevant debate through our popular Geography Society, which meets weekly, and our programme of extension seminars. Lectures are given by our Sixth Formers, as well as Highgate staff and professors from institutions like Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, and KCL.

What can I do next?

A level Geography builds skills and knowledge that are desirable for a number of university courses, including earth sciences, geography, geology, archaeology, oceanography, and more.

A level Geography is also helpful for a number of careers including, but not limited to, roles in research, science and the environment.

Entry requirements

7 in GCSE Geography. Other desirable attributes include an: inquiring mind; interest in the world, and people, places and environments; interest in practical fieldwork; ability to design an independent personal investigation and write fluently; understanding of complex inter-relationships in a synoptic context; and appreciation of current affairs at the local, national and global scale.

More information

Please contact Mr Beloe, Head of Geography
Mark.Beloe@highgateschool.org.uk



Recent Highgate leavers,
with A level Greek, have
applied for degrees as
diverse as PPE, Theology
and Medicine



Why study Greek?

A level Greek preserves the study of texts that have been read (and re-read) for millennia. Our course recognises that you will have moved fast to cover material at GCSE, and so consolidation of linguistic understanding is an early focus. Literature lessons focus on nothing less than a critical reading of the defining authors of European thought: Thucydides on Athenian foreign policy and the roots of democracy; Plato and Socrates' conception of love; a son lost without his father in Homer's *Odyssey*; and Sophocles' masterful exploration of pride and madness at Troy in *Ajax*.

What is our approach?

Our classes are small, so you receive a lot of individual attention. For the language elements, you learn vocabulary, practise new constructions by translating sentences into and from the classical language, and tackle an unseen translation every week. You have to prepare the set texts for each lesson, so you can enter fully into class discussion, and there is a weekly assignment for each literature module, which is either a context question, a short presentation or, later on, an essay.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

Language lessons focus on building your confidence in tackling a range of Greek authors, reading both prose and poetry; thus these will also constitute a broad survey of Attic literature, taking in history, rhetoric and drama. You will be encouraged to translate from English into Greek in order to grasp more firmly the mechanics of the language (though this is never compulsory in the final examinations!).

Prose literature includes:

- Plato *Symposium*: Aristophanes, the comic playwright, reflects on the mythological origins of gender in mankind
- Thucydides *History of the Peloponnesian War*: the foundational historian and student of human psychology examines the beginnings of the Sicilian expedition, the disastrous failure of which spelt the end of the 'Athenian empire', and the beginnings of Athenian democracy.

Verse literature includes:

- Homer *Odyssey I*: Telemachus tries to establish himself in Ithaca in the absence of his father, beset by the unwelcome attention of the suitors who plan to marry his mother.
- Sophocles *Ajax*: Sophocles grapples with the themes of honour, pride and the wasteful folly of war, all acted out before the walls of Troy.

Assessment is by examinations (50% language and 50% literature). There is no coursework.

What skills will I gain?

Greek literature is difficult but endlessly rewarding. By tackling texts collaboratively in lessons, you hone your powers of analysis with a forensic attention to detail. Likewise, you sharpen all the critical tools you need to express yourself persuasively on poetry, philosophy, politics and history. Above all, the texts you read can provide a powerful yardstick by which to measure opinion on some of the most pressing questions of today.

What co-curricular activities are available?

We undertake visits to museums and to see classical plays, which are put on regularly in London, and there should be at least one tour to Classical sites abroad during your two years. A Classics play is performed once every two years. Classics Society allows pupils to discuss the intersection of the ancient and modern worlds, with debates this year on gender in Roman elegy ('Was Ovid a feminist?') and perceptions of ethnicity in Greek and Roman society. Sixth Formers lead the editing of our Classics Journal, *Kleos* - this year seeing its fourth issue.

What can I do next?

A level Greek, like Latin, serves as an excellent complement to almost any other subject: Greek authors stand at the very roots of European culture (mathematics, history, physics, geography, drama, politics, economics, all are Greek words...). However, and perhaps even more than Latin, this is a subject which sets you apart. Whether you choose to continue to a classical degree at university or not, A level Greek bears a clear stamp of academic distinction.

Entry requirements

At least a grade 7 in GCSE Greek (or equivalent), and preferably an 8 or 9.

More information

Please contact Mr Shepherd, Head of Classics
Henry.Shepherd@highgateschool.org.uk



"What I love about History A Level is the variety of fascinating topics it enables you to study, the depth in which you study them and the liberty you have with the civil rights coursework, which has been my favourite part of the course so far"

Olivia, Y12

Why study history?

History is intellectually exciting and challenging: you read some of the leading historians in your field and learn the basis of their rival interpretations of the past, how to explain and evaluate contemporary documents, and how to express yourself precisely and persuasively. The three routes you can choose from allow you to develop a deep understanding of the connections between the modules in each. We make every effort to meet your first preference but cannot guarantee it will be possible to timetable a particular course with every other subject combination.

What is our approach?

We offer three history courses: Route 1, Route 2, and Route 3. Our small class sizes ensure lessons are similar to university seminars, so you do much of your learning at

home through reading and directed notetaking. Whilst we do not totally abandon didactic teaching, our classes are often fora for discussion and analysis in which you are expected to contribute. Class debates and presentations frequently feature. We also expect well-researched and well-argued extended writing. On average, you should expect to write one essay every two to three weeks.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

Route 1 History, Unit 1 (1A):

The Age of the Crusades, c1071-1204

The Cross and the Crescent: The Foundation of Crusader States and the Disaster of the Second Crusade, c1099- 1149

The Tide Turns: Jihad, The Muslim Counter-Crusade and the disintegration of the Crusader States, 1149-1187

Christendom Falter: The Glorious Third and Calamitous Fourth Crusades, 1187-1204

Route 1 History, Unit 2 (2A):
Royal Authority and the Angevin Kings, 1154–1216 A Broken Crown? The Restoration of Royal Authority, 1154–1166
Treason and Treachery: The Crisis of Authority, 1166–1174
Mastering the Barons: Consolidating Royal Authority, 1174–1189
Lionheart: Richard I, 1189–1199
A Tyrannous Whelp? King John, 1199–1214 England's Crisis: The end of John's reign, 1214–1216

Route 1 History, Unit 3: A non-examined historical investigation
One extended essay, of up to 3,500 words, from a list of questions on Anglo-Saxon England

Route 2 History, Unit 1 (1D):
Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603–1702
Absolutism Challenged: The Early Stuart Monarchs and their Parliaments, 1603–1629
The Downfall of the House of Stuart: Revolution and Civil War, 1629–1649
The Republican Experiment, the Return of the King and the Struggle for Constitutional Supremacy, 1649–1678
Royalty Shackled? The Establishment of Constitutional Monarchy, 1678–1702

Route 2 History, Unit 2 (2C):
The Reformation in Europe, c1500–1564
Corruption and Depravity: The condition of the Roman Catholic Church, c1500–1517
Heresy: Luther's Challenge, 1517–1521
The Genie out of the Bottle: The Protestant challenge, 1521–1531
Religious Warfare in Germany: The expansion of the Reformation, 1531–1555
The Most Perfect School of Christ: Protestantism exported, 1541–1564
The Triumph of Orthodoxy: The Catholic response, 1531–1564

Route 2 History, Unit 3: A non-examined historical investigation
One extended essay, of up to 3,500 words, from a list of questions on Tudor England

Route 3 History, Unit 1 (1J):
The British Empire, c1857–1967
Commerce, Control and Civilisation: The Development of British Imperialism, c1857–c1890
The Pinnacle of Power? Imperial Consolidation and Liberal Rule, c1890–1914
Rebellion and Reconstruction: The Challenges to Imperialism, 1914–1947
The Winds of Change: Decolonisation and the Re-ordering of Empire, 1947–1967

Route 3 History, Unit 2 (2H):
France in Revolution, 1774–1815
Challenges to Change: The Origins of the French Revolution, 1774–1789

Being like Britain? The Experiment in Constitutional Monarchy, 1789–1792
Mob Rule: The Emergence and Spread of the Terror, 1792–1795
Pendulum Politics: The Directory and Napoleon's Rise to Power, 1795–1799
Fooling France: The Impact of Napoleon's Rule on France, 1799–1815
Imperial Ambition: The Impact of Napoleon's Rule on Europe, 1799–1815

Route 3 History, Unit 3: A non-examined assessment One extended essay, of up to 3,500 words, from a list of questions on civil rights in the USA

Regardless of period, you will take three modules:

- The Unit 1 Breadth Study is assessed by a two-and-a-half-hour examination. You consider developments over around 100 years and analyse different historians' arguments.
- The Unit 2 Depth Study focuses on a shorter period of significant historical change or development. The only difference is the focus on primary sources, rather than interpretations. It is assessed by a two-and-a-half-hour examination.
- The Unit 3 non-examined assessment sees you research and write an extended essay of up to 3,500 words. Your essay is taken from a choice of questions on a given topic,

What skills will I gain?

You learn to read and interpret sources closely and critically, and to read historians' interpretations swiftly, picking out the most important information. You also learn to construct persuasive arguments, on paper and in speech.

What co-curricular activities are available?

Our popular History Society meets weekly, with talks by Sixth Formers and eminent visiting speakers. There is also our History Journal, an annual pupil-led magazine. We visit exhibitions and historical sites in London, and there are optional trips to Cambridge, and to historic sites of Paris.

What can I do next?

If you want to study a history-related degree at university (like modern history, ancient history or archaeology), you should take it at A level. A level History is also an excellent subject for keeping your options open. It can be useful for courses that include elements of history and essay writing like economics, classical studies, modern languages, English, history of art, law, politics and religious studies.

Entry requirements

A grade 7 or higher in GCSE History, plus an interest in reading in depth and at length.

More information

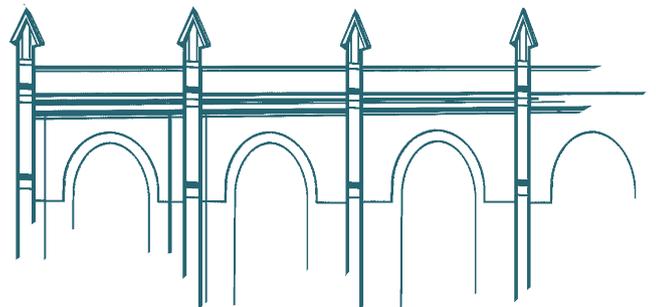
Please contact Dr Dabby, Head of History
Benjamin.Dabby@highgateschool.org.uk



Recent leavers are currently studying in Oxford and Cambridge, Edinburgh and other top universities.

"Through looking at art you get a window into history. It's the most powerful way of learning"

Isobel, Y13



Why study history of art?

You should study history of art if you are genuinely interested in art and design. Perhaps you want to study the subject at university (as half of our Sixth Formers do every year), to work in the arts, to strengthen the analytical and contextual part of your fine art course or to study an academic art subject to balance your A levels. If so, then A level History of Art is a good subject to consider.

If you are thinking about becoming an architect, then A level History of Art is the only option that teaches both history and theory of architecture.

What is our approach?

Although most works of art and architecture on the syllabus are from the European tradition our course has a global scope and includes many non-Western works. You learn to combine visual analysis with the study of historical contexts, wider cultural ideas and philosophical concepts.

The sheer variety of material covered means that this subject is enjoyed by all. You acquire visual literacy and knowledge, and you practise skills which further your intellectual development, complement other subjects, and have an appeal for university admissions tutors and employers.

Our lessons contain a great deal of discussion and direct involvement. Our small class sizes encourage a seminar-style atmosphere, which enables you to become independent thinkers and stands you in good stead for university. You also have ample opportunity to develop your spoken language skills to a high standard through presentations in class, during visits and as part of a national public speaking competition.

Many works of art and architecture are studied first-hand during lesson time visits and day trips to museums and galleries in and around London, and during a visit abroad.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

Our subject content is divided into three areas:

- **Visual analysis**

You develop the ability to undertake effective visual analysis and build knowledge and understanding of key terminology. You study painting and graphic works, sculpture, designed objects and architecture from 500 BCE to the present.

- **Themes**

You explore the themes of Nature and Identities through studying works from Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas.

- **Periods**

The study of a period allows you to research and explore, in detail and in-depth, the key movements, concepts, artists, architects, contextual factors and related developments of art and architecture in a specific place, and across a clearly defined time-frame. You study the following periods: Brave New World: Modernism in Europe (1900–39) and Pop Life: British and American contemporary art and architecture (1960–2015).

You sit two externally-examined papers and must complete all assessments in May/June in any single year. Both papers are three-hour written examinations, each worth 50% of your qualification.

What skills will I gain?

Key transferable skills gained, and highly prized by employers, include visual awareness, problem solving, and critical and contextual thinking. You also develop effective written and oral communication skills, and become adept at analysing and interpreting information from a range of sources. You learn to read challenging texts and to work independently.

What co-curricular activities are available?

You are encouraged to take an active part in our Art History Society, plus activities with pupils from younger years and our partner school, LAET. We organise talks, visits and study days, and provide tickets for lectures, exhibitions and a conference.

What can I do next?

Around half of our Sixth Formers read History of Art at university. The skills gained in A level History of Art are useful for many university courses and future careers.

Entry requirements

No previous knowledge is required. An interest in visual art and design is essential and good language skills are desirable. Intellectual curiosity and open-mindedness, plus a readiness to read widely and engage with challenging texts are expected.

More information

Please contact Dr Jammers, Head of History of Art
Judith.Jammers@highgateschool.org.uk

Interdisciplinary Design

Edexcel A level (Art and Design)



"Studying Interdisciplinary Design in Highgate Sixth Form opened my eyes to creative career paths beyond Highgate which I never thought were possible. Getting an offer to study fashion at Central St Martin's has been life changing for me"

Harry, Year 13

Why study interdisciplinary design?

Designers exist in a wide range of disciplines: from architects to product designers, from installation artists and scenographers to industrial designers. Now – more than ever – designers are required to engage with a broad spectrum of other disciplines. Interdisciplinary design focuses on exploring the boundary between design and other subjects in an experimental yet academically rigorous way. Interdisciplinary designers are those interested in how design can be utilised to explore and push other disciplines such as the built environment, theatre or installation art.

What is our approach?

Through a series of workshops, we help you develop knowledge and skills in the practises of design, technology, and art, and use these to investigate a range of subjects based around your own personal interests. You explore this work practically through designing and making.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

Year 12: Personal Investigation (60%). Your first year is based on the experience many can hope to have in their first year of university, when entering into a design-related degree like architecture. Through a series of workshops, you build your knowledge and understand a variety of skills including model- making, drafting, InDesign, CAD and electronics.

You take these skills forward into your own investigations, undertaking a more personal project, improving your work with critical academic reading and writing, and evidencing your learning in work journals, models and portfolio sheets.

Year 13: Externally Assessed Assignment (40%). Year 13 involves a major personal project where you work in a self-directed manner, with the support of your teachers, to produce a body of work that shows exploration, research, technique and skill.

Preparatory studies and supporting work must also be submitted, including research, exploration, analysis and evaluation of working practices, ideas and contexts of related designers. Your project culminates in a 15 hour exam and the form that this final piece takes could be anything from an installation to a musical instrument, from a robotic artist to a design for a new modular system.

For each unit, you receive marks under four assessment objectives.

- Develop - develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding
- Experiment - explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops

- Record - record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress
- Present - present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements

What skills will I gain?

You develop a range of skills including project management, analysis, casting, fashion skills, digital software, sculpting and more.

What co-curricular activities are available?

We offer a number of clubs and societies, plus life drawing sessions throughout our Michaelmas term. Our studios are also open every evening, from 4pm-6pm, so any Sixth Former is able to work there then.

What can I do next?

You will be equipped with both a portfolio and the visual communication skills that further education and employers pursue, and learn to see design as a tool for questioning rather than as an endpoint. The portfolio of work you produce during your A level can open the door to a degree in architecture, product design, interior design, engineering, graphic design and many other design-based courses. Universities and employers routinely examine the capabilities of applicants based on the content of their portfolios, candidates' depth of inquiry and communication skills.

Entry requirements

A good GCSE in Design and Technology and/or Art and Design, or a portfolio of work of equivalent standard. Please note: you are unable to take both A level Interdisciplinary Design and A level Fine Art as you would be awarded the same qualification.

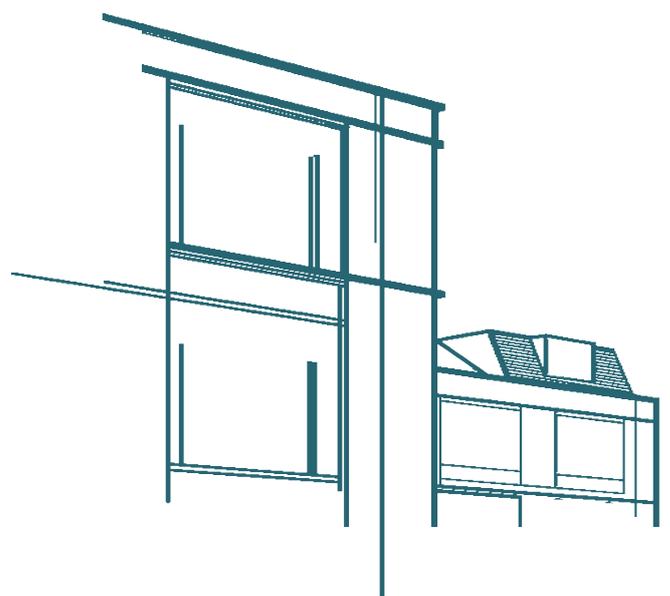
More information

Please contact Mrs Sacks, Head of Art
Jennifer.Sacks@highgateschool.org.uk

Remember that one of the best ways to see if this is the course for you is to speak to our current Sixth Formers and look at their work.



In recent years, Highgate Sixth Formers have made successful applications for courses as wide-ranging as mathematics or medicine, with Latin as one of their A levels



Why study Latin?

The study of classical languages and literature lies at the heart of western society. Latin literature gives us a direct insight into an empire which spanned three continents, gave the Mediterranean the longest period of peace it has experienced in historical times and, by its absorption and championing of Greek learning, laid the foundations of European thought. A broad survey of Roman authors in both language and literature lessons takes in the razor-sharp forensic thinking of Cicero, the disillusion of Tacitus at the follies of capricious emperors, the irreverent whimsy of Ovid for an age of moral austerity, and the monumental verse of a poet in love with the landscape and mythologies of Italy in Virgil.

A fascinating subject in its own right, the academic rigour involved in the study of Latin is highly respected and prized by employers in almost any field you can mention.

What is our approach?

Our classes are small to medium-sized, so you receive individual attention. For language elements, you are encouraged to learn vocabulary under your own steam, practise new constructions by translating sentences into and from the classical language, and tackle an unseen translation every week. You prepare the set texts for each lesson, so you can enter fully into class discussion, and there is a weekly assignment for each literature module, which is either a context question, a short presentation or, later on, an essay. You are encouraged to make your own notes and translations, and to further our work in class by using our Library's well-resourced Classics section.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

Our current topics are:

Prose Literature

Cicero Pro Cluentio: 66BC – in the tumult of the civil war, Cicero defends a man accused by his own mother of poisoning his stepfather to profit from his will.
Tacitus Annals IV: 23 AD – Tacitus examines the reign of the emperor Tiberius and the rise to power of Sejanus, the ruthless commander of the imperial bodyguard.

Verse Literature

Catullus: a selection of poems charts the rise and fall of Catullus' tumultuous affair with the enigmatic 'Lesbia' in late republican Rome; as an exploration of the agony and the ecstasy of a passionate love affair, these verses remain difficult to beat.

Virgil Aeneid XII: in the powerfully ambiguous ending to Virgil's monumental epic, Aeneas meets Turnus and calls into question Roman conceptions of power, heroism and virtue.

Language lessons will focus on building your confidence in tackling a wide range of Roman authors, reading both prose and poetry; thus these will also constitute a broad survey of Roman literature, taking in history, rhetoric, lyric and elegiac poetry. You will also be encouraged to translate from English into Latin in order to grasp more firmly the mechanics of the language (though this is never compulsory in the final examinations!).

There is no coursework element.

What skills will I gain?

You will learn how to be precise in your use of language and logical in your thinking. The study of some of the finest of all literature gives you a training not just in literary criticism but also in formulating arguments based on the analysis of literary, historical, political and philosophical issues. We develop your essay writing skills, whilst encouraging you to read more widely around the set texts.

What co-curricular activities are available?

Our Department runs regular trips to Greece and Italy. Classics Society allows pupils to discuss the intersection of the ancient and modern worlds, with debates this year on gender in Roman elegy ('Was Ovid a feminist?') and perceptions of ethnicity in Greek and Roman society. Sixth Formers lead the editing of our Classics Journal, *Kleos* - this year seeing its fourth issue.

What can I do next?

A level Latin serves as an excellent complement to almost any other subject. While some find it exceptionally useful for drawing comparisons with literature in English and modern languages, and others find its forensic approach to language adds obvious power to the historian's elbow, its acute attention to detail and logical structure also appeals to the mathematically-minded. So, whether you apply for Classics at university or not, A level Latin is a subject that will set you apart. Indeed, a recent (and successful) applicant for medicine found himself talking at length about A level Latin in his university interview.

Thus there is no stereotypical classics Sixth Former but, by the end of the course, we expect you to be a precise yet flexible thinker, able to express yourself lucidly and logically in discussion and on paper, and equally at home in pursuing literary, historical and philosophical themes. These are skills which inspire and challenge the very best Sixth Formers in the country, and which naturally impress the most demanding employers.

Entry requirements

A grade 7 in Latin at GCSE.

More information

Please contact Mr Shepherd, Head of Classics
Henry.Shepherd@highgateschool.org.uk



"Maths has equipped me with lifelong skills ranging from critical thinking to problem-solving and communication skills. The Maths Department at Highgate truly is the centre of excellence; the teaching, guidance, and support I have been given are inspirational and motivating"

Sixth Form pupil

Highgate's Mathematics Department offers Friday Problem Solving during lunch for all ages, which has led to considerable success in mathematical challenges, Olympiads and team challenges.

Why study mathematics?

Our world is increasingly quantitative, so the study of mathematics is important across a range of academic disciplines and professions. However, mathematics is also a fascinating subject in its own right and, as with other A level choices, simply enjoying the subject is a perfectly valid reason to pursue it to A level.

What is our approach?

Our principle means of teaching is Socratic, with our aim being that you discover all new mathematics through exploration of new and interesting ideas or questions. Problem solving is at the heart of what you will do, with our aim being for you to become the best mathematician that you can be.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

All our A level mathematicians study compulsory content in pure and applied mathematics. Applied mathematics is split in equal proportion between mechanics and statistics, and the overall balance between pure mathematics and applications is 2:1.

In applied mathematics, you learn how to simplify the complexity of the real world without losing the ability to make accurate, justifiable predictions about its behaviour. As mechanics is the study of the laws that describe motion and stasis, you learn to apply Newtonian principles in order to answer questions like: at what angle should I kick a football to attain the greatest range? Why does my stomach lurch when a lift comes to a stop?

Statistics is the drawing of inferences in the presence of uncertainty. If you flip a coin ten times and it lands on tails every time, would you say the coin is biased? How certain can you be when making such a statement? You will learn to use probability to answer such questions and develop the statistics you have learnt at GCSE, discovering new ways of analysing data to compare populations.

There is no coursework and you sit all examinations at the end of Year 13. Your assessment takes the form of three papers - one in pure mathematics and mechanics, one in pure mathematics and statistics, and one in pure mathematics with comprehension.

We are keen to support you at all stages, so help with homework is always available and we run revision clinics, after school, during the run-up to examinations.

What skills will I gain?

You will learn how to be precise in your use of language and you will develop your problem solving skills and mathematical reasoning, and your communications skills and statistical literacy. Mathematics requires you to question the world around you, encouraging independent and critical thinking.

What co-curricular activities are available?

We offer mathematics extension classes to all, which cover a range of challenging and interesting problems. Many Sixth Formers enter the Senior Maths Challenge, we have various team competitions, and you can also deliver, or simply enjoy, talks at our Maths Society.

What can I do next?

The skills learnt in pure mathematics and mechanics will support future study in subjects like physics and the natural sciences, while statistics has many applications in economics, geography and the human sciences. That said, if you wish to pursue the most mathematically demanding courses after Highgate, then A level Further Mathematics is often desirable. Please do consider where you would like mathematics to take you when making your decision.

Entry requirements

This is a challenging subject, requiring commitment, enthusiasm and a strong grasp of the more advanced skills covered at GCSE level. If you have not achieved a 7, or preferably, an 8 or 9 at GCSE (or a high A or A* if you are joining from a school taking the unreformed IGCSE syllabuses) then you should seriously consider whether A level Mathematics is a feasible option.

It is not unusual for Sixth Formers to underestimate the challenge of A level Mathematics, which is a considerable step up from GCSE. Many also overestimate the necessity of mathematics for university courses, and you should check entry requirements of your chosen subject carefully. It is worth remembering that a high grade in a different subject will almost always be more advantageous than a low grade (less than a B) in mathematics.

More information

Please contact Mr Wright, Head of Mathematics
Jonathan.Wright@highgateschool.org.uk

Further Mathematics

OCR B (MEI) A level



Would you like to know how to play the Rubik's Cube like a piano, or how to prove (in only two lines) that you are the best? Our Mathematics Department hosts a hugely popular 'Maths Jam,' where Sixth Formers and teachers deliver mini-talks on such interesting pieces of mathematics.

"The further maths course really allowed me to deepen my understanding of how mathematicians design constructs which help in solving problems. It builds on the knowledge from GCSE in the wider context of logical reasoning as a whole, which I find immensely satisfying"

Sixth Form pupil

'I like that most Highgate teachers are not so much teachers of a subject but practitioner of a subject. For example, our Mathematics Department is made up of mathematicians, not teachers who can do maths'

Highgate Senior School pupil, 2019

Why study further mathematics?

Further Mathematics is a terrible name for our A level: it sounds like an entirely unconvincing euphemism for 'more hard sums' and thus utterly fails to describe this beautiful, powerful, valuable and stimulating subject. The transferable skills of logical thinking and clear expression are invaluable across the full range of academic subjects, and not just obviously quantitative subjects like physics and engineering. Further mathematics is undoubtedly a challenge but that is also one of the main reasons why it is so highly regarded, and the reason why those who have successfully completed the course are often so proud of their achievements.

It is worth noting that A level Further Mathematics is not a minority subject at Highgate: there are currently around 40 studying it in Year 12 alone.

What is our approach?

You cannot study A level Further Mathematics without studying A level Mathematics: you are simultaneously choosing two of the four subjects that you study. It is permissible to study mathematics, further mathematics and one other subject in Year 13, though many decide not to drop anything at the end of Year 12.

Further mathematicians are an individual group, taught separately from the single mathematicians. You have twenty-four lessons per fortnight with three teachers looking at different aspects of the subject. There are three small classes in each year, to maximise the attention and help that you receive from teachers.

Unlike single mathematics, where all the material is compulsory, you can specialise in either mechanics or statistics. For example, if you are more interested in statistical applications then you can choose to 'major' in statistics or, if you are veering towards physics or engineering, you can concentrate on mechanics and take the 'minor' paper in statistics.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

There are three strands to our course:

- In pure mathematics, you answer many intriguing questions. How can you solve the equation $x^2 = -4$? Why can't you solve $x^2 + 5y^2 = 10003$ in whole numbers? How does the calculator 'know' the values for sine and cosine?
- In mechanics, you study motion and change: why do you fall backwards when the tube carriage lurches forward? How do you kick a football over the goalkeeper and into

the net? Why can you predict solar eclipses next century but not the weather next Tuesday? Classical mechanics will be particularly fascinating if you are interested in physics and engineering.

- In statistics, you learn to make justifiable inferences despite the ineradicable presence of uncertainty. We are surrounded by data to an unprecedented degree, and the ability to accurately present and interpret data is increasingly important in both the natural and human sciences.

You sit all papers, for both A level Mathematics and A level Further Mathematics, at the end of Year 13. You take about six hours of examinations in total for both A levels.

What skills will I gain?

A level Further Mathematics equips you with the tools necessary to explore mathematics far beyond that of single mathematics, and you become much more mathematically literate as a result.

What co-curricular activities are available?

We offer mathematics extension classes to all, which cover a range of challenging and interesting problems. Many Sixth Formers enter the Senior Maths Challenge; we have various team competitions, and you can also deliver, or simply enjoy, talks at our Maths Society.

What can I do next?

A level Further Mathematics paves the way for many quantitative subjects such as mathematics, computer science, engineering or any of the sciences at university, but is also highly respected across all academic disciplines. For example, law and philosophy admissions tutors will be delighted by the prospect of teaching a further mathematician.

Entry requirements

If you like mathematics, if it interests you, and you are likely to get a 9, then you will enjoy A level Further Mathematics. You do not need to be the best in your class to succeed; interest and commitment are far more important than stellar performance in every test.

More information

Please contact Mr Wright, Head of Mathematics
Jonathan.Wright@highgateschool.org.uk

Modern Languages



Five major world languages are taught at Highgate and the department offers a remarkable fourteen foreign trips and exchanges each academic year. As Sixth Form linguists, you will be encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities and to immerse yourselves wholeheartedly in the linguistic and cultural heritage of these influential nations, not only in the classroom, but in these fascinating countries themselves too. Let's face it: being able to speak two or three languages is closer to the global norm, so empowering yourself at this stage with such skills is a must. By the end of your time at Highgate, you will have developed tremendously in terms of your language skills, and have the confidence and tools to go out into the world with very high levels of second (or third...) language proficiency both orally and in writing. As such, choosing advanced, Sixth Form studies in a foreign language will give you more than just a rich experience in itself. Combining elements from many different subject areas as you explore social and cultural perspectives you will also become equipped with a hugely marketable skill which will complement and enhance any academic profile, be it scientific, artistic, humanities-based or something else entirely. Of course, by studying a language you will deepen and broaden practical linguistic skills, but you will augment these by developing your capacity for critical and analytical thinking on the basis of a defined knowledge, plus an evaluative understanding of the language, culture and

society of the countries in which it is spoken. The close study of societies, history, current affairs and literature are central to our subjects at this level and your teachers will take you beyond the syllabus in interesting and surprising directions.

We ask you to commit to 30 days abroad over the course of your two years of study through exchanges, work experience, homestays and other opportunities. Many of these opportunities we provide, but we hope that as intrepid explorers, some you will seek out and plan (with our support, of course) yourselves. A hunger for adventure, boundless curiosity for experiences new, and a will to break down barriers are all attributes that we encourage and are key human characteristics that define the successful linguist. The department makes a certain amount of its budget available by way of travel grants to help support interesting foreign travel initiatives for its Sixth Formers.

You should be methodical and self-sufficient in acquiring new vocabulary, you should want to read widely and closely in the target language and be open to exploring some of the finest literary and cultural content the world has to offer, all the while developing skills in cogent essay-writing in the target language and in English, with accuracy, precision and focus in written and oral expression.

In 2019, nine Highgate linguists made their offers to study modern foreign languages at either Oxford or Cambridge. Approximately one third of all Oxbridge entrants from Highgate were modern linguists.

What is our approach?

The Pre-U run by Cambridge CIE offers intellectually challenging and linguistically robust programmes of study for four of our five languages.

In the case of French, German, Mandarin and Spanish, we believe that Pre-U modern languages are a better alternative to A levels, and consider that these courses differ in the following areas to name a few:

- There is a greater emphasis on immersion in authentic language and culture (be that through news media, radio, television or internet) and you will learn to engage with international current affairs and develop your critical response to them;
- There is far broader cultural content (literature, history and film);
- Independent learning is more explicitly encouraged and rewarded (especially in the oral examination, where you are able to choose your own topic to research);
- There is greater differentiation at the top end, with a grade D1 (achieved by an impressive 40% of Highgate linguists in 2019) beyond the A* of A levels.

Russian is now taught as an A Level, owing to the discontinuation of the Pre U course. However, we are confident that we have taken the best of the old Pre U and combined these aspects with the best A Level offering available.

Essays on cultural and discursive topics are longer than at A level, which is beneficial for those considering applying to Cambridge or Oxford or applying to study languages and any essay-based subject at university.

There is a literature essay written in English; this is in line with how literature is taught at most universities.

What skills will I gain?

Studying a modern language means getting to grips with how it is written and spoken at a very high level: precision and accuracy, pronunciation and intonation, vocabulary and idiom. You will also master the art of accurate, persuasive communication on paper, and face-to-face: modern linguists have to be talkers and listeners.

Most modern language lessons enable you to use all four language skills – listening, reading, speaking and writing – although longer writing tasks will not always be completed in class. You become fully involved by using the target language in lessons, giving opinions or offering developed answers to ethical questions. In addition to your timetabled lessons, you are afforded the privilege of a weekly one on one lesson with our language assistants (we have nine in total), as they help you develop your sense for authentic language as well as, later, prepare you for your oral exam.

Learning a language well should mean you spend time in a country where that language is spoken and where you meet new people. These encounters open our minds!

Through friendship and shared experience, we learn more about others and ourselves. Sharing a language means we see that there is more that we have in common than there is that divides us: learning a language is an exercise in global citizenship and studying one or many to this level, rather than narrowing future pathways, serves to open up a plethora of future opportunities for employment in a majority of sectors.

What can I do next?

Language study is not only immensely useful in a practical sense but intellectually rewarding too and complements any subject combination. Advanced linguists can read and study literature and film, and explore and debate history, politics and society, in an attempt to put into context the culture and people whose language they have studied.



What topics will I study and how will I be assessed

Here are some of the topics we study :

- Human relationships and family life
- The media
- Law and order
- Religion and belief
- Equality of opportunities
- Travel and tourism
- Education
- Cultural life/heritage
- War and peace
- Medical advances
- Scientific and technological innovation
- Environment

By following the Cambridge Pre-U course, you develop both a high level of fluency and the academic skills for research, essay-writing and analysis that leading universities value. We offer a thorough grounding in accurate and idiomatic language so that you can communicate effectively in a range of situations.

You will enjoy weekly individual tuition from one of our language assistants. This is an excellent opportunity to not only hone oral fluency but also to focus on challenging aspects of grammar or on improving discursive or literary essay techniques.

Independence is encouraged from the start, and you are offered the possibility of exploring areas of particular interest to you, such as literature or science. Engagement with French culture is systematically developed, from examining current political and social questions to key historical events, like World War Two or the end of France's colonial empire.

You are assessed by our French Department regularly and at the end of Year 12, in order to gauge your progress. At the end of your two years, you take four papers (Speaking; Reading and Listening; Writing and Usage; and Topics and Tests) that each make up 25% of your overall grade.

What co-curricular activities are available?

All our Sixth Formers attend a weekly news club, which is an opportunity to discuss and debate current affairs as they relate to the francophone world.

We run an exchange with our partner school in Paris, the Lycée Jean-Baptiste Say, and make funds and advice available to assist in organising and supporting work experience placements abroad during your two years.

We take great pride in the French play our Department puts on each year. Our Sixth Formers also participate in inter-school debating and drama competitions, as well as the prestigious UK Linguistics Olympiad. We also run classes in literary translation and help to guide independent research projects for publication in our annual Modern Languages Review.

The Extension Programme

The Pre-U course already stretches you to talk about history, politics, economics and the arts in French. The Extension Programme will push you even further. Over a course of seminars, you'll learn about French history and literary culture from medieval times right up to the present. You'll read extracts from France's most famous writers, such as Voltaire, Baudelaire and Sartre. This is not only a great chance to explore French culture, it's also excellent preparation for a strong application to a leading university. Over the last 3 years, 11 Highgate pupils have been offered places to read French at Oxbridge.

Entry requirements

A/A* in GCSE French (7 or above).

More information

Please contact Ms Hayes, Head of French
Cécile.Hayes@highgateschool.org.uk

For the last two years,
100% of Highgate
candidates have
achieved a Distinction in
Pre-U French



What topics will I study and how will I be assessed

The Pre-U course already stretches you to talk about history, politics and the arts in German. The Extension Programme will push you even further. Over a course of seminars starting in Year 12, you'll learn about literary culture from medieval times right up to the present. You'll read and discuss extracts from some of Germany's most famous writers, such as Goethe, Brecht, Böll and Mann. This is not only a chance to explore German culture beyond the confines of the syllabus, it's also ideal preparation for a strong application to a leading university. In addition, all Sixth Formers will be encouraged to compete at an annual inter-school German debating competition, in which Highgate have a strong record of success, and our native speaker German assistant will provide one-to-one support for the Oxford German Olympiad creative writing competition and the Stephen Spender poetry prize.

Our Cambridge Pre-U course gives importance to grammatical accuracy, which is key to mastering any language, and we also value the emphasis it puts on current affairs. We like the wide choice of topics and texts, and the fact that it encourages you to know your subject in depth.

You will enjoy weekly individual tuition from one of our language assistants. This is an excellent opportunity to not only hone oral fluency but also to focus on challenging aspects of grammar or on improving discursive or literary essay techniques.

You are assessed by our German Department regularly and at the end of Year 12, in order to gauge your progress. At the end of your two years, you take four papers (Speaking; Reading and Listening; Writing and Usage; and Topics and Tests) that each make up 25% of your overall grade.

What co-curricular activities are available?

We run an exchange trip with our partner school in Hannover, St Ursula Gymnasium, and provide support with organising work experience placements abroad during your two years.

Our comprehensive programme of lectures and speakers helps develop your cultural and literary awareness, and our Department visits the annual play performed by KCL's German Department. Our Sixth Formers participate in inter-school debating and drama competitions, and the prestigious Oxford German Olympiad. We also run classes in literary translation and help to guide independent research projects for publication in our annual *Modern Languages Review*.

Entry requirements

At least a grade 7 in GCSE German.

More information

Please contact Mr Creagh, Head of German
Gareth.Creagh@highgateschool.org.uk

Mandarin Chinese Cambridge Pre-U

Over the last 2 years, all of Highgate applicants to read Chinese at Oxbridge have received offers

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed

We follow the Cambridge Pre-U, which has been especially written for learners of Chinese as a foreign language, in order to provide the skills to thrive in a Chinese environment. We also provide you with language immersion opportunities to see and experience how Mandarin Chinese is used in both the UK and Chinese workforces.

Your fluency will develop quickly through lessons conducted in the target language, your speaking lessons with our Mandarin assistants, and sustained exposure to authentic reading and listening resources. Your knowledge of the diversity of the world's most spoken language will develop rapidly, ranging from idiomatic language for daily conversation to the ability to write elegant and precise academic essays. Alongside language work, you will delve in to the rich culture and history of China, ranging from Mao's politics, to current affairs and the changing face of modern China as it takes its place as a world superpower. You will also have the chance to read some literature, which will teach you about life in Maoist China.

In addition to the Pre-U syllabus, we run an extension programme that will develop your skills even further. You will be able to learn about the history and development of this unique language, as well as studying modern literature and even starting to make sense of Classical Chinese.

Our main syllabus is divided into the following topics:

- Family
- Young people
- Education
- Media
- Work and leisure
- Equality

The first three topics remain constant, while the last three change on a rolling basis.

Considering the characteristics of Mandarin Chinese character acquisition, you are given two years to develop your Mandarin without the interruption of external examinations. You take all four components together at the end of the course in the same examination session.

Results in the department are consistently excellent: last year, 90% of Highgate candidates were awarded D1-D2 grades, with 70% of those being D1.

Our syllabus also provides a stepping-stone for university courses in Chinese and Chinese Studies, allowing universities to offer successful Pre-U candidates alternative courses to the prevailing ab initio classes.

What co-curricular activities are available?

You are given the opportunity to visit museums, theatres and concerts, and to attend cross-curriculum seminars on topics like the history of China, Chinese economics, or Chinese art and music. We also run an Oriental Society on Thursday lunchtimes, which allows Sinophiles to share their especial areas of interest.

We run a Pre-U trip to mainland China and Hong Kong every year or every two years. On this trip, you have the opportunity for greater language immersion and the chance to work in a Chinese school. With China's economy booming, the merits of learning the language have never been clearer. Indeed, this year we welcomed a top investment banker with China Construction Bank to come and talk to our students at Highgate: he explained how his career had entirely depended upon having successfully studied the Chinese language and understanding its culture.

Entry requirements

A grade 7 in GCSE Mandarin Chinese, or the equivalent.

More information

Please contact Ms Wallis, Head of Mandarin
Qing.Wallis@Highgateschool.org.uk

You are given two years to develop your Mandarin without the interruption of external examinations

Russian Edexcel A Level

This new A level course has been developed to inspire all students to have an appreciation of the language, literature, film and culture of the Russian-speaking world. Pupils will develop advanced level knowledge and understanding of the Russian language, the culture of Russia and other Russian-speaking countries, and communities, as well as practical and valuable language and transferable study skills.

What topics will I study?

Тема 1: Развитие российского общества (set in the context of Russia only)

Жизнь российской молодёжи - Здоровье; отдых; новые технологии.

Образование - Система образования; жизнь российских школьников.

Мир труда - Отношение к труду; возможности для молодых россиян; равноправие.

Тема 2: Политическая и художественная культура в русскоязычном мире

Средства массовой информации - Свобода выражения; печатная и онлайн пресса; влияние на общество и политику.

Массовая культура - Музыка; цирк; танец.

Праздники, фестивали и традиции - Фестивали; праздники; обычаи; традиции.

Тема 3: Москва или Санкт-Петербург - Изменения в жизни большого российского города.

Изменение населения - Жизнь в городе; жизнь в пригородах.

Общественные проблемы - Бездомность; преступность.

Окружающая среда - Реконструкция и благоустройства города; загрязнение.

Тема 4: Последние годы СССР – М.С. Горбачёв (1985-1991)

Перестройка - Что вызвало перестройку; экономические изменения; исходы.

Гласность - Что вызвало гласность; общественные изменения; исходы.

1991 год - Проблемы для СССР к началу 1991 г.; путч в августе; распад.

Two works of literature and film will also be studied alongside the cultural content.

Literary texts

Пиковая дама, Александр Пушкин, 1834 (short story)

Ревизор, Николай Гоголь, 1836 (play)

Вишнёвый сад, Антон Чехов, 1904 (play)

Один день Ивана Денисовича, Александр Солженицын

Неделя как неделя, Наталья Баранская

Films

Крылья, dir. Лариса Шепитько (1966)

Утомлённые солнцем, dir. Никита Михалков (1994)

Левиафан, dir. Андрей Звягинцев (2014)

How will I be assessed?

There are three papers -

- i. Listening, reading and translation (40%)
- ii. Written response to works (literature) and translation (30%)
- iii. Speaking (internally assessed and externally marked) (30%)

The aim of our syllabus is to enable you to develop the language skills needed for effective, sophisticated communication in Russian, and to provide you with an insight into Russian societies around the world (from the Russian Federation, in all its cultural and linguistic diversity, to former Soviet Republics, Israel and any other areas with a distinct historical presence of Russian).

Your fluency will develop quickly due to your lessons conducted in the target language, your speaking lessons with our Russian assistant, and your exposure to authentic resources. Independent listening and reading is strongly encouraged. Alongside language work, you will learn much about the culture of modern-day Russia through the topics studied. Through the literature topic, for example, you learn about life under communism. You will be expected to research an aspect of Russian culture which particular interests you at the end of Year 12.

You are encouraged to engage personally in your learning and build up a portfolio of authentic articles, which can be obtained from a variety of free online sources. In this context, the Rambler website (www.rambler.ru), www.aif.ru, www.bbc.com/russian) might be useful, as it offers links to a number of Russian-language newspapers, journals, radio and television stations throughout the world.

You are assessed by our Russian Department regularly and at the end of Year 12, in order to gauge your progress. At the end of your two years, you take four papers (Speaking; Reading and Listening; Writing and Usage; and Topics and Tests) that each make up 25% of your overall grade

What co-curricular activities are available?

We run a Russian clinic for help and support with written and spoken work, or for further practice in the run-up to exams. We regularly visit the theatre and cinema to see the latest Russian productions and are members of Pushkin House, so frequently attend talks and seminars here. We run a comprehensive Russian Oxbridge extension programme during the Lent term.

In between Years 12 and 13, you are encouraged to take part in homestay visits in Moscow and St Petersburg through the excellent company Liden and Denz. (<https://lidenz.ru/>). We also run a cultural visit to St Petersburg for six days.

Entry requirements

A grade 7 or above in GCSE Russian.

More information

Please contact Mrs Newton, Head of Russian
Rebecca.Newton@highgateschool.org.uk

Spanish Cambridge Pre-U

Spanish is a first language in more than 20 countries, and there are over 450,000,000 native speakers of Spanish, making it the world's second most spoken language, behind only Chinese. Its importance for communication, business and travel means that it is now the world's third most studied foreign language, and its popularity is growing year on year.

Studying Spanish at Pre-U will give you a rich insight into the language and culture, not just of Spain, but of Latin America. We will explore the mosaic of Roman, Arabic, Jewish and Celtic cultures that have contributed to the Spanish language, its literature, and its architecture. As well as polishing your Spanish language skills up to fluency, you will engage with the multicultural legacy of the Hispanic world, ranging from the Basque corner of northern Spain to the diverse regions of Latin America. You will be able to delve into the history of dictatorships and political movements ranging from the rule of Castro in Cuba to the Mexican Revolution and Peronism in Argentina.

The Spanish Extension Programme will develop your linguistic and cultural skills even further. Through a series of interactive seminars, you will learn about the history and development of the Spanish language, and many of its most famous writers and cultural figures, such as Góngora and Quevedo in the Golden Age, and Magical Realism in the works of contemporary Latin American authors such as García Márquez. You will not only learn to read and discuss some of the most famous works of Hispanic literature, this course will also prepare you to make a competitive application to a leading university. Over the last 3 years, over 70% of Highgate applicants for Spanish at Oxford and Cambridge have received offers.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed

Our current topics are:

- Human relationships and family life
- Generation gap
- Young people
- Patterns of daily life
- Urban and rural life
- The media
- Food and drink
- Law and order
- Religion and belief
- Health and fitness
- Work and leisure
- Equality of opportunity
- Employment and unemployment
- Sport

- Travel and tourism
- Education
- Cultural life/heritage
- War and peace
- The developing world
- Medical advances
- Scientific and technological innovation
- Environment
- Conservation
- Pollution
- Contemporary aspects of country, or countries, where target language is spoken

Grammar exercises, reading, writing essays, regular vocabulary learning, preparing and researching for an oral presentation or reading/watching an excerpt from a book or film are the types of tasks that you can expect as homework. You will also carry out an independent piece of research on a topic of your choice on an aspect of Spanish or Hispanic culture at the end of Y12.

You are assessed by our Spanish Department regularly for the duration of the course in order to gauge your progress. At the end of your two years, you take four papers (Speaking; Reading and Listening; Writing and Usage; and Topics and Tests) that each make up 25% of your overall grade.

What co-curricular activities are available?

We are proud of our Society of Hispanic Studies, where our Sixth Formers expand their knowledge and share their interests of aspects of the Hispanophone world, from art, film, music or architecture. Our Spanish News Club allows you to keep up with current affairs, whilst developing your listening and speaking skills.

Our annual trip to the Almodóvar Day at the BFI (in preparation for your film studies topic) has become a tradition that all in Year 12 look forward to during their first term. Between Years 12 and 13, we encourage you to take part in work experience through the excellent company, Halsbury. Each year, our Department also organises essay and translation competitions.

Entry requirements

A grade 7 or above in GCSE Spanish.

More information

Please contact Ms Arosemano-Manso, Head of Spanish
Natalia.Arosemena-Manso@highgate.org.uk



For the last three years, Highgate's Music Department has sent at least one Sixth Former to study music at university; in addition, and at least two Sixth Formers have gained an Oxbridge choral scholarship each year.

"The whole music department is great at providing help and attention. It is a joy to study a great range of music in such depth"

Sixth Form pupil

Why study music?

We aim to provide opportunities for you to develop a range of skills, knowledge and understanding in music, embracing creative, interpretative, historical and analytical aspects of the subject. Our course provides a context for personal growth through the diversity of serious study in Music. It promotes academic independence and self-discipline, broadens intellectual and emotional responses, stimulates critical discrimination, and heightens social and cultural awareness.

What is our approach?

We believe that everyone is capable of being a musician, so we aim to build an aspirational and creative musical environment that is open to all. We want to inspire you to engage confidently and critically with music, thereby developing an independent and lasting love of musical learning.

We aim to promote musical awareness, which searches beyond the boundaries of the classroom to connect with the world. We want to foster the exploration of musical opportunities for all – both independent and collaborative – and to encourage you in confident musical risk-taking at whatever level, so that you may discover an independence of musical thought and style that allows you to express your individuality and pursue your ambitions, however great. Lastly, we want to promote musical relevance and authenticity, inspiring musical scholarship that dares.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

Each year, study is divided into three areas: performing, composition, and listening, analysis and historical study.

1. Performing

You are expected to do most of your practice with individual instrumental teachers and at home. Our Department allows you time to practice under supervised conditions, where our staff provide an independent view of and feedback on your pieces. You are also made aware of the requirements of the performance exam and prepared for it. Practice performances take place over the two years and you are expected to perform in the solo platform concerts every term.

Your performance is examined in a final recital of at least 10 minutes. Pupils should perform pieces of at least grade 7 standard. Pupils can perform through one of the following, or through a combination: Instrumental or vocal solo and/or in an ensemble; production via technology.

2. Composition

We begin with a thorough grounding in harmonic understanding and exploration of compositional techniques and styles from across the Western Classical tradition ranging from Bach Chorale harmonisation and two-part counterpoint to minimalist and expressionist techniques. Specific composition work is then tackled. Each pupil must compose two pieces. One composition must be in response to an externally set brief and the other composition is freely composed by the pupil in any style. Briefs may include different stimuli such as: a poem or a piece of text; photographs, images or film.

Together, the composition coursework must last a combined minimum time of four and a half minutes. Compositions can be written on traditional notation software such as Sibelius, or can be produced on music technology software such as Logic.

3. Listening, analysis and historical study

Our course is based around in-depth study of different historical periods, starting with Baroque, Classical and Romantic, with the option of extending the field of study to the twentieth century, exploring popular styles such as jazz or pop. Pupils also study either music for media or music for theatre during the course. As well as

studying the broad characteristics of a historical period, there is also the opportunity for you to study set works in greater analytical detail. Pupils have dedicated lessons for exploring more general musical matters where they learn to form connections between different areas of the course. Open and synoptic essay questions allow clarity of argument and quality of language to be developed. Listening, analysis and historical study is assessed in one exam which is split in to three sections: short answer listening questions where pupils will be assessed on their ability to analyse and evaluate the music heard in the exam; extended written analysis questions; and one essay where pupils will be assessed on their critical understanding across the genres, styles and traditions studied and their ability to show sophisticated connections between the music and its context.

Towards the end of Year 12, you are invited to embark upon an optional personal study. This allows you to choose a form of study that engages your interest and demonstrates your skills, knowledge and understanding. Options include a dissertation, a further recital, or further composition.

To support your study, all A level musicians are expected to attend advanced theory classes once a week and take part in at least one musical ensemble.

What skills will I gain?

You will develop the following skills: motivation, determination and perseverance; confidence in performing before an audience; teamwork; creativity; self-discipline and good time management; advanced composition skills; aural awareness; independence and self-directed learning; thinking laterally, critically and creatively; problem-solving; and interpretative and comparative thinking skills.

What co-curricular activities are available?

Our Department offers over 50 musical ensembles.

What can I do next?

A level Music is an excellent preparation for university, employment and life. You will develop the in-depth subject knowledge and understanding which are so important to universities and employers. Although our course of study is especially suitable for those who aspire to read music at university, it will also appeal if you wish to further your involvement and skills in music for its own sake. Many of the skills you will develop are not only relevant to further study in other disciplines, but are also valued as important skills for success in the modern world.

Entry requirements

A grade 7 or above in GCSE Music.

More information

Please contact Ms Harrison, Academic Head of Music
Catherine.Harrison@highgteschool.org.uk



Highgate's Sixth Formers attend talks by high profile speakers, such as Professor Laurie Zoloth of University of Chicago and Professor David Ford from University of Cambridge

Why study philosophy?

Philosophers use logic and reason to analyse the way in which we make sense of the world, and try to resolve the most enduring puzzles of human existence. Do our senses accurately describe reality? What can I know for sure? How do I know other people have are having thoughts? What makes me *me*? These are philosophical questions, and our students will explore the classic responses by the great philosophers in search of the most convincing answers.

Philosophy offers an exhilarating academic experience: it teaches critical thinking, close reading, clear writing, and logical analysis; it uses these to understand the language we use to describe the world, and our place within it. Although philosophical questions may seem abstract at first, students soon learn that philosophy helps to make society more rational, and is the intellectual foundation for progress in science, law, politics and economics.

What is our approach?

In Philosophy your teachers will never tell you the answers! Very often, there is no clear right and wrong. Rather, philosophy students are free to think for themselves and to work imaginatively and collaboratively to solve problems. In class we will give you opportunities to share your ideas, argue robustly, and debate others' views. We will train you to challenge assumptions, identify faulty logic, and above all to justify your views. We will also help you to write convincing arguments, which explain the nature of a philosophical problem, analyse philosophers' responses to these, and reach a logical conclusion.

Studying the history of ideas requires hard work but we believe engaging with the classic problems of philosophy is stimulating and enriching. No specific knowledge is required but it is a reading and writing-based subject, so extensive and independent research come as standard.

Should I chose philosophy or theology?

There is a good deal of cross-over between philosophy and theology and for that reason we do not recommend that you study both at A level. However, the texts we explore and the style of learning in the two subjects is very different. Theologians study communities in their historical contexts, exploring cultures, the nature of human desires, sources of wisdom, and patterns of liberation. By contrast, philosophy has a more abstract and technical focus on formal logic and argumentation, with an emphasis on questions about the nature of the human mind and knowledge.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

Epistemology: What is knowledge? Can I know anything for sure? What is the nature of reality? Do my senses accurately describe reality? How do I form ideas? Are humans rational? Classic philosophers: Plato, Descartes, Leibniz, Locke, Hume, Berkeley, Russell and Gettier.

Moral Philosophy: What are morals? How do we use the language of 'right and wrong'? Should I do whatever maximises pleasure (utilitarianism)? Is it my duty to obey moral absolutes (Kantian deontology)? How can human beings flourish (Virtue theory)? Is it justifiable to steal, lie, eat meat, and simulate killing (in games and films etc.)? Classic philosophers: Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Bentham, Mill, Moore, Ayer, Hare and Mackie.

Metaphysics of God: What is God's nature? What is the relationship between eternity and time? Is the idea of God incoherent? Is it rational to believe in God? Classic philosophers: Plato, Anselm, Aquinas, Descartes, Leibniz, Hume, Paley, Ayer, Hick, Swinburne and Plantinga.

Metaphysics of Mind: What do we mean by 'mind'? What is the relation between the mind and the body? Is reality only physical, or must we posit an immaterial mind to offer a full explanation of it? Classic philosophers: Descartes, Ryle, Jackson, Chalmers, Putnam, Churchland.

You are examined by two written papers that include a variety of short-format and essay questions.

What skills will I gain?

Attractive to university admissions officers, and employers alike, A level Philosophy trains you in a range of skills. Studying philosophy entails thinking problems through logically, closely analysing complex texts, applying reason to consider abstract problems (and then understanding the wider significance to society), and forming and sustaining an argument.

What co-curricular activities are available?

You can engage in relevant debate through our popular Philosophy and Theology Society, and our programme of extension seminars. Lectures are given by our Sixth Formers, plus Highgate staff and university professors.

What can I do next?

We prepare you to study Philosophy or any subject which requires rigorous thinking and the analysis of complex ideas at university. Philosophy may complement future study of History, English Literature, Mathematics, Physics, Politics, Economics, Law and Psychology.

Entry requirements

While no previous philosophical knowledge or training is mandatory, Year 10-11 Religion and Philosophy is a major advantage. Philosophy combines well with most other subjects and our Sixth Formers often find Mathematics and Physics helpful when it comes to logical analysis of argument, or that humanities disciplines (like English and history) are complementary when it comes to essay writing.

More information

Please contact Dr Leigh, Head of Religion and Philosophy
Robbie.Leigh@highgateschool.org.uk



In 2020 our Highgate student team came top in the world in the Physics Unlimited research competition run by Princeton



Why study physics?

Physics attempts to make sense of the world we live in by using Mathematics. It is often an extreme science: about the very big and the very small, or the very fast and the very slow. It is about how and why things work, and about what makes things appear and behave in the way they do. It deals with the historical development of ideas, as well as some of the most important technological and environmental issues of our time. It is the most fundamental and wide ranging of the sciences. In short, it is about everything.

What is our approach?

We build on your IGCSE knowledge and skills to satisfy you if you are intending to complete a full A level (with the aim, perhaps, of pursuing a career in science or engineering) or if you simply wish to continue studying this subject in order to broaden your curriculum.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

Our course develops two pillars of our understanding of the natural world: classical physics and quantum mechanics.

In your first year, our mechanics unit develops your understanding of vectors, forces, energy and waves, as well as introducing you to the properties of materials including density and elasticity. This is followed by thermodynamics and statistical mechanics, which applies our classical knowledge to the thermal properties of materials, ideal gases and the kinetic theory of gases.

In our other unit, we are zooming into the atom to explore the nucleus, radioactivity, nuclear instability and nuclear energy. Then we delve even deeper to introduce you to exciting new ideas in physics, such as quarks and quantum concepts, as well as developing in-depth knowledge about, and important applications of, electricity.

The initial part of your second-year splits into further mechanics and fields. We develop key ideas about force and energy, as well as key types of motion. In addition to a theoretical and quantitative study of electromagnetic fields, we study key applications of fields including satellite motion, capacitors, alternating current generators and transformers. The second half of your year consists of options that provide opportunities to develop deeper knowledge and understanding in one chosen area of the subject: astrophysics, engineering, medical physics or turning points in physics.

At the end, you sit three examinations. The first two are on the core material, while the final covers both your optional topic and experimental work. Experimental work is endorsed throughout to prepare you for your final exam.

Dedicated textbooks and revision guides are available and we provide lively home-grown materials to help you get to grips with what is generally held to be a challenging subject. There is plenty of practical work and use is made of our departmental iPads when it comes to data-logging, as well as your own phone.

What skills will I gain?

Whilst the core information you learn is vital, it's your ability to solve problems, model complex systems, and apply the scientific method that will arm you with the skills to tackle a huge range of tasks in all walks of life. Experimental work is fully integrated into our teaching.

What co-curricular activities are available?

Participation in the Physics Olympiad competition is encouraged, and use is made of Isaac Physics for both core and extension work. Our keen users have the chance to be selected for workshops in Cambridge.

Our science societies provide regular chances to hear outside speakers on topics ranging from 'the discovery of the gluon', to 'the black holes in our galaxy.' You are encouraged to take advantage of the outstanding opportunities that London offers to attend evening lectures at UCL, the Royal Institution, the Royal Society and the like. There may also be trips to see 'big' physics in action at close quarters at venues such as CERN.

And last, and by no means least, you may be able to participate in research project work with UCL and Queen Mary University of London.

What can I do next?

Physics prepares you for a wealth of university courses ranging from pure science, through engineering, Medicine and Veterinary Science to Business Studies, Architecture and Law, and opens doors to a wide range of careers.

Entry requirements

At least a grade 7 in Physics (or 77 in Double Award Science) and at least a 7 in Mathematics. Ideally, however, you will have scored higher in both subjects. You need to take A level Maths alongside A level Physics.

More information

Please contact Dr Whyatt, Head of Physics
William.Whyatt@highgateschool.org.uk



One of Highgate's oldest societies, Masaryk Society, hosts debates and talks with high-profile external speakers, such as Tim Shipman (Sunday Times Political Editor), Jon Lansman (founder of Momentum), and Nick Robinson (Presenter of the BBC Today programme)

Why study politics?

Politics is the study of power: how power is used and abused by our leaders, how power is distributed and amassed, and how decisions by those in power affect our lives.

What is our approach?

You primarily study the politics of Westminster and Washington, as well as developing your own ideas of how society should best be run through the study of socialism, liberalism, and conservatism. An optional ideology is also chosen in Year 13. In 2018-19, Sixth Formers opted to study feminism.

Wider international perspectives are brought in wherever possible. For example, the Trump presidency and the implications of Brexit have naturally formed part of our recent class discussions and analysis. At a time of political uncertainty and change, it is essential that you are interested in current affairs and ready to keep up-to-date with the latest global political developments.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

Our course develops two pillars of our understanding of the world. We follow the Edexcel syllabus, which is based on three main areas:

- UK government and politics - this introduces you to the policies of the main political parties, the impact of electoral systems used in the UK, the role of the media in elections, and pressure groups, plus the functioning of the key political institutions in the UK
- Political ideologies - you look at the traditional political ideologies of liberalism, conservatism and socialism, as well as studying an additional optional political ideology (such as feminism)
- US government and politics - you study the government and politics of the US, which is examined through both country-specific questions, as well as through comparison with the UK

Assessment is exam based, so there is no coursework. Most questions in your examination will require longer response essays.

What skills will I gain?

A level Politics not only adds considerably to your knowledge of current affairs but also develops your skills of analysis and evaluation, your ability to write well-structured essays, and your capacity to present your arguments in a logical and persuasive fashion.

What co-curricular activities are available?

Our very active Masaryk Society regularly attracts over 50 pupils and has been lucky in recent years to host high profile political figures. We also organise external evening trips to talks of political interest, like Guardian Live events. In addition, our Department runs activities around key political events (such as mock elections/referendums) and our departmental magazine, *The Arbiter*, gives you the opportunity to write and edit articles of personal political interest.

What can I do next?

Many of our Sixth Formers intend to study a politics-related discipline at university. However, this is by no means the only path, as politics will be a good base for any essay subject. While history, law and economics are unsurprisingly popular choices, we have also had Sixth Formers go on to study medicine, engineering, and languages. All have found A level Politics useful.

Looking further ahead, a number of our recent alumni have followed a political career in the civil service, political journalism or local government.

Entry requirements

To be successful with A level Politics, you should: have a strong interest in current affairs; be keen to participate in active debate; be able to articulate logical arguments, both when writing and speaking; and have the ability to analyse and evaluate both sides of an argument.

More information

Please contact Dr Reilly, Head of Politics
Jack.Reilly@highgateschool.org.uk



Highgate Sixth Formers attend talks by high profile speakers, such as Professor Laurie Zoloth of University of Chicago and Professor David Ford from University of Cambridge

Why study theology?

Theology invites students to confront the two questions that shape human beings' deepest commitments: 'what is the nature of reality?' and 'how can we live wisely?' Students who love theology enjoy exploring the meaning of life, studying ancient sources of religious and philosophical wisdom, debating the existence of God, and analysing a range of ethical theories in search of the good life. Every lesson in Theology forces students to wrestle with 'the big questions', to argue passionately, and ultimately to reflect on how we can become most fully ourselves.

What is our approach?

Your teachers will never tell you the answers. Very often, there is no clear right and wrong. You are free to think for yourself and develop your own views and we welcome students of all faiths, and none, to argue about religious and secular responses to the big questions. We passionately believe that academic theology is of vital significance for the modern world on the basis that religions give meaning to human life, influencing most other human endeavours – artistic, social and political – for good or ill. Owing to its historic influence on Western thought and life, our focus is on Christian Theology but there are plenty of opportunities to engage with other traditions including Judaism, Islam and Atheism.

We also take an inter-disciplinary approach to Theology, drawing on philosophy, history, literature and the arts, and social and human sciences to consider the classic debates in religion and philosophy. Studying some of the greatest thinkers in the history of Western thought – from Plato to Marx, Augustine to Bonhoeffer – we will examine the most enduring and fascinating questions about identity, truth, beauty, goodness and God.

What is the difference between Theology and Philosophy?

There is a good deal of cross-over between Theology and Philosophy and for that reason we do not recommend that you chose both at A level. However, the texts we explore and the style of learning in the two subjects is very different. Theologians study communities in their historical contexts, exploring cultures, the nature of human desires, sources of wisdom, and patterns of liberation. By contrast, Philosophy has a more abstract and technical focus on formal logic and argumentation, with an emphasis on questions about the nature of the human mind and knowledge.

What topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

Paper 1 – Philosophy of Religion

What is the nature of reality and what is our place in it? Is it rational to believe in God? What is the nature of God? Why is there evil and suffering in the world? Can human language speak meaningfully of the divine?

Paper 2 – Ethics

What is the meaning of life? What is the nature of morality? How can I make wise decisions? What should I desire? Is capitalism immoral? Should I be able to express my sexuality and gender as I please?

Paper 3 – Developments in Christian thought

What is a human being? How can we liberate the marginalised and vulnerable? What is the nature of time and space? Who was Jesus of Nazareth? Is Christianity compatible with feminism? Can religions co-exist peacefully?

All papers are assessed by examination essay questions. In recognition of this, much of the work along the way is also reading and essay-based.

What skills will I gain?

Attractive to university admissions officers, and employers alike, A level Theology trains you in a range of skills. Studying Theology helps you absorb and retain complex information, identify key issues, think logically, and express ideas clearly through writing and discussion.

What co-curricular activities are available?

You can engage in relevant debate through our popular Philosophy and Theology Society, and our programme of extension seminars. Lectures are given by our Sixth Formers, plus Highgate staff and university professors.

What can I do next?

Universities consider Theology to be a worthwhile and academically rigorous discipline and those who study it go on to wide variety of degrees, including: law, art, politics, philosophy, theology, geography, history, economics, psychology, anthropology, medicine, and archaeology.

Entry requirements

While no previous theological knowledge or training is mandatory, knowledge of Year 10-11 Religion and Philosophy is a major advantage. If you enjoy English, History, Art History, Classics or languages, you are likely to enjoy Theology.

More information

Please contact Dr Leigh, Head of Religion and Philosophy
Robbie.Leigh@highgateschool.org.uk

University Destinations

The majority of Highgate Sixth Formers chose to continue their education at university. Our staff will guide and support you in planning and preparing university applications, offering individually-tailored support regarding university admissions in the UK and abroad.

The table, below, offers suggestions for A level and Pre-U options that may be needed for future study. It is for general guidance only. Please check with the universities that you are thinking of, to ensure the most accurate and up-to-date information about admissions requirements.

University subject area	A level requirement or preference
Accountancy Business studies Management studies	Some require or prefer Mathematics. Economics not usually required.
Agriculture Forestry	Two science subjects. Chemistry often required. Biology often required.
Archaeology	Most courses have no specific requirements, although Latin and Greek preferred by a few. Some require a science (especially Chemistry).
Architecture	Some courses require Mathematics. Art is recommended while Design Technology or Physics can help. If you are considering architecture, you must have GCSE Art.
Biochemistry	Chemistry, Biology or Mathematics often required or preferred.
Biological Sciences: Biology Biotechnology Forensic Science Genetics Microbiology Zoology	Biology and Chemistry often required.
Chemistry	Chemistry required. Mathematics or Physics desirable but not essential.
Chemical engineering	Chemistry required with Physics. Mathematics often required.
Classical studies	Some require or prefer a language.
Classics Greek Latin	Latin or Greek required in some. It is now possible to start a classics degree with only GCSE Latin/Greek.
Computer science	Mathematics or Physics required by some. Top institutions prefer Further Mathematics.
Design	Art and Design, Interdisciplinary Design and Design Engineering.
Economics	Most require or prefer Mathematics. Top institutions prefer Further Mathematics too. Economics useful.

University subject area	A level requirement or preference
Engineering: Aeronautical Civil Design Electrical Electronic Marine Mechanical Production	Mathematics and Physics required. Top institutions look for Further Mathematics too. You may usefully take Design Engineering in order to demonstrate your application of engineering principles.
English	English Literature required by most.
Environmental science	Various science combinations.
Fine art	A level Art required by most. Art foundation courses often required.
Food science Food technology	Chemistry required. Design Technology can help.
French	French required. Second foreign language can help.
Geography	Geography required by most.
Geology	Two or three subjects required from: sciences, Geography and Mathematics.
German	German required. Second foreign language often desirable.
History Ancient history	History or Ancient History required or preferred.
History of art	A level History of Art is an advantage but not a requirement.
Law	The quality of A level/Pre-U results is much more important than the subjects in which they are gained.
Mandarin	Mandarin Chinese required by some. Second foreign language can often help.
Mathematics	Mathematics required. Top institutions require Further Mathematics.
Medicine Dentistry	Chemistry required by almost all and Biology by most. Physics or Mathematics desirable, although a contrasting arts subject can be regarded as a valuable fourth subject by some medical schools.
Materials science Metallurgy	Physics and Mathematics required. Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry often required.
Music	Music required by most.
Pharmacology Pharmacy	Chemistry required. Biology and/or Mathematics, and/or Physics, often required.
Philosophy	Most courses have no specific requirements.
Physics	Physics and Mathematics required. Top institutions prefer Further Mathematics.
Physiology	Chemistry often required. Biology, Physics, or Mathematics sometimes required.
Politics	Most courses have no specific requirements.
Psychology	One or two science subjects required by science faculties; no specific requirements by arts faculties. Mathematics and Biology useful.
Russian	Russian required by a few. Modern language required.
Social studies	Most courses have no specific requirements.
Spanish	Spanish required by many. Second foreign language often desirable.
Statistics	Mathematics required.
Theology	No specific requirements but Pre-U Theology would be useful.
Veterinary science	Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology required by most.





HIGHGATE