




Sixth Form

Prospectus

2024-26

HIGHGATE



"Highgate has helped me flourish and develop skills in the subjects I love."

Sixth Form pupil

Welcome to Highgate Sixth Form

Highgate Sixth Form offers a wide range of subjects, with teachers who are enthusiastic, experienced and well-qualified subject specialists. Emphasis is placed on working independently and developing advanced study skills.

Joining Highgate Sixth Form

The Sixth Form should provide two of the most exciting and challenging years of your education, as you choose the four subjects that inspire you most.

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 17, and in these groups 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'll have plenty of opportunities to mix with Sixth Formers from different Houses, in and out of lessons.

Staying at Highgate

If you are moving from our Senior School to Sixth Form, school life will change considerably. You 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 request subjects as a current Highgate pupil?

Your initial choices must be submitted via the on-line form towards the end of the Michaelmas term in Year 11. 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 stages in your life – from supporting you with university applications to careers advice for our rapidly changing world.

Our small classes enable you to discuss and debate issues with greater freedom and you'll spend more time working independently, and 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 attaining your qualifications. We offer a variety of co-curricular activities, including acting and directing, participating in 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 spaces and coffee bars, ensuring you can relax and work together with your peers. Our Library contains an excellent collection of books which are added to each year, and the top floor has a dedicated study space just for 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 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 who are happy to help.


For queries about Highgate Sixth Form, please contact:

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

Mr Dabrowski, Acting Deputy Head (Pastoral): Arthur.Dabrowski@highgateschool.org.uk

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

Ms Smith, Head of Sixth Form (Pastoral): Verity.Smith@highgateschool.org.uk



"It became clear to me in my GCSEs that sciences were the subjects I loved. When I got to study them at A level, the enthusiasm of my teachers really helped to encourage me to take the study of science further."

Sixth Form pupil

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 – plus 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. Most departments begin extension classes in January of Year 12 and we will set a minimum attendance expectation, either to help you decide what to study or to prepare you for it. Our classes aim to extend your studies far beyond your A level syllabuses.

What about talks, trips and visits?

Outside 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. 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 you will participate in an activity of your choice each term. While we have teams and competitions for you to join, we cater for all abilities and enthusiasms, from those who simply like to keep fit through to the keenest athletes who represent our School or the country! Information about the different sporting pathways is available from our SpEx Department.

“The depth and breadth of the teaching is impressive.”

Senior School parent





In 2023, 46.5% of all exam entries awarded A* at A level (or Pre-U equivalent).

83% of all Year 13 grades awarded A* or A.

Sixth Form Studies

What is the Highgate curriculum?

We run two-year linear 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 for Year 12 and internal practice examinations for Year 13 around February.

How many courses will I take at Highgate?

You study four courses in Year 12, and complete three or four full A levels 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 is the EPQ and Head's Prize?

In Year 12 you can choose to undertake an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), or the in-house Head's Prize. Both enable you to practise advanced independent research techniques on a topic of your choice, which may not be related to any A level syllabus.

Why does Highgate not offer a fifth A level?

Our preference is to teach well beyond the syllabus in four subjects, rather than attempt five subjects in a hurried specification-focused manner.

How do I choose my subjects?

Your choice should be determined by your academic potential to succeed and your

enthusiasm for your subjects. If either is absent, it is unlikely you will enjoy the course or make a success of it.

To qualify for an A level subject, you need to achieve a grade 8 at GCSE. The minimum threshold for Sixth Form entry, therefore, stands at four grade 8's overall. In the case of subjects where it has not been possible to take an I/GCSE, a different subject will act as a qualifier. Please note that if you opt for a subject and do not get at least a grade 8 at I/GCSE, it is likely we'll ask you to reconsider.

Why does Highgate not offer some subjects?

We will not run a course if we think the available specifications present the subject in a way which is conceptually mediocre or not sufficiently challenging. Our Heads of Departments choose which subjects (from the available examination boards) allow them to teach in the way that best suits our ambitious and academically-able Sixth Formers.

Which common A level/Pre-U subjects does Highgate not offer?

We don't offer Business Studies as it is not academically rigorous enough to stretch our able Sixth Formers.

Likewise, Law is too narrow and content-driven at A level and no Law degree, at any university, requires this subject. University admissions tutors list more analytical subjects like History, Classics or English, as useful preparation for a Law degree.

Currently, Psychology does not emphasise the scientific principles underpinning this interesting subject and the A level syllabuses appear quite oriented towards rote-learning. Again, no Psychology degree, at any

university, requires this subject. We offer co-curricular activities in Psychology and have had well-supported EPQs on psychology-related topics.

The most robust elements of Sociology are better covered in A level Geography or Economics, or any of the humanities.

What tips can you give me on choosing my subjects?

Please use this booklet for guidance. Then speak to your teachers and ask any questions about the courses you are interested in studying. As already mentioned, the most important thing to remember is to pick subjects you are good at and that you enjoy.

When will I confirm my subject choices?

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

How do I apply from another school?

We recommend attending our Sixth Form open evening in the first term of your Year 11. You will see what Highgate has to offer, as well as talk to staff and current pupils. Your parent/carer will then need to complete and submit an online application form by the deadline noted on the form. We run an assessment day in mid-November, with offer letters posted out subsequently. For more information, including the application process and open evening information, please visit our website.



Fieldwork, visits and trips form an integral part of Highgate life.

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 pupils assigned a university mentor.

- The Year 12 Extension Programme
- Higher Education talks
- Visits to universities
- A Higher Education event with representatives from most Russell Group universities
- Bespoke support for North American applicants

Your mentor will guide and support you in planning and preparing your university application. We also have four 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, and medicine.

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

How will Highgate help me develop my employability skills?

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 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:

- One-to-one conversations with our Careers and Employability Specialist to offer impartial and independent guidance, explore individual career options, develop your CV, and work on applications for apprenticeships, volunteering and gap year opportunities.
- The compulsory four-week carousel of PSHE lessons in Year 12, delivered by specialist teachers, starts you thinking about future employability.

- Our annual Higher Education & Careers Fair features professionals from a range of industries.
- Mentoring opportunities with industry figures allow you 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, help you with job applications and interviews.
- Employability days offer advice about writing cover letters, preparing for interviews and finding work experience.

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.

University Destinations

Every pupil at Highgate is assigned a university mentor who will guide and support you in planning and preparing university applications, offering individually- tailored support regarding university admissions in the UK and abroad.

2022-23 Sixth Form Results

81%
of Sixth Formers secured their first choice of university, in addition **10%** received their second choice

82%
of pupils are going to Russell Group Institutions

30
Sixth Formers received places at Oxbridge

11
pupils are going to international universities

10
pupils are going to study medicine or veterinary science

Top 10 University Choices




Edinburgh	23
Bristol	20
Cambridge	20
Manchester	17
Oxford	10
Leeds	10
UCL	10
Imperial	9
Durham	7
Warwick	7

The table, below, offers suggestions for A level 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. Interdisciplinary Design is recommended while Maths 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.

University subject area	A level requirement or preference
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	One of Product Design, Art and Design, Interdisciplinary Design or Design Engineering.
Economics	Most require or prefer Mathematics. Top institutions prefer Further Mathematics too. Economics obviously very useful.
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/Product Design in order to demonstrate your application of engineering principles. For Engineering degree apprenticeships, being able to show practical work created in Design Engineering or Product Design is helpful.
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 almost always 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 by most, though some ab initio courses available. 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	No specific requirements; the quality of A level 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, A level Philosophy would be useful.
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. Ab initio common. A modern language is normally required.
Social Studies	Most courses have no specific requirements.
Spanish	Spanish required by many; though ab initio courses available. Second foreign language often desirable.
Statistics	Mathematics required.
Theology	No specific requirements, A level Theology would be useful.
Veterinary Science	Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology required by most.

A young man and woman are looking at a book together. The man is on the left, wearing a light blue checkered shirt and a red tie. The woman is on the right, wearing a grey sweater. They are both looking down at a book that is open on a desk. The book has a red cover with white text that reads "Access to History" and "Race Relations in the 1960s-1980s". The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a library or study area with bookshelves.

“Extremely high quality of teaching and pupil engagement and encouragement – positively inspirational, thank you.”

Sixth Form parent

Highgate A level Subjects

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 Art	28
Geography	30
Classical Greek	32
History	34
History of Art	36
Interdisciplinary Design	38
Latin	40
Mathematics	42
Further Mathematics	44
Modern Languages	46
French	47
German	48
Mandarin Chinese	49
Russian	50
Spanish	51
Music	52
Philosophy	54
Physics	56
Politics	58
Product Design	60
Theology	62



Ancient History

OCR (H407) A level

Several Highgate Sixth Formers have gone on to read Classical Archaeology and Ancient History at university 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:

Greek

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

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 and visits 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, now in 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

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 require a grade 8 in an essay-writing subject at GCSE. 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 Morrow, Head of Classics:

James.Morrow@highgateschool.org.uk



Biology

Cambridge International A level (9700)

All Highgate biologists take part in the full Biology Olympiad competition, with almost half of our Year 12 pupils being awarded a medal in 2023.



"Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen, among the beauties and mysteries of the earth, are never alone or weary of life."

Rachel Carson

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 the course, and class sizes tend to not exceed 12 pupils. Lessons take various forms including seminars and presentations in well-resourced and modern laboratories. Practical work is an integral part of the subject, where you will 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 topics: 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.

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 8 in GCSE Biology, or 8,8 in Double Award Science. Sixth Formers looking to study A level Biology would ideally also be looking to study A level Chemistry.

More information

Please contact Mr Liebman, Head of Biology:

PhilipA.Liebman@Highgateschool.org.uk



Chemistry

OCR A level

In 2022, Highgate Sixth Form chemists achieved 13 golds and 21 silver certificates in the RSC Chemistry Olympiad.



"Many unknown aspects still remain in chemistry. Environmental problems provide the greatest challenges, a chance for young researchers to become world heroes."

Akira Yoshino, 2020 Nobel Laureate for Chemistry

Why study Chemistry?

Chemistry today is fascinating and far reaching. The newest of the scientific disciplines, 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 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. It occupies a central position among the sciences, having important interfaces with mathematics and physics, with engineering, biology and medicine.

What is our approach?

We aim to inspire our pupils to be curious about the physical world by enabling them to discover the elegance and power of scientific explanation.

Our pupils are encouraged to work together to solve problems that develop their thinking skills and resilience, as well as their chemical understanding.

We deliver a rich and diverse curriculum that builds on what you learnt at IGCSE, delving deeper into the complex world of the atom, looking at previously uncovered areas of the Periodic table and applying more complex mathematical models to chemical phenomena. We study the OCR Chemistry A level specification, which provides an excellent preparation if you hope to study Chemistry, or a related subject, at university. Regular practical work demystifies chemistry and brings topics to life.

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 study organic chemistry via hydrocarbons, alcohols and derivatives, including modern analytical techniques used to identify them, such as mass spectrometry, chromatography and spectroscopy. On the physical side of the course, you look at energetics, reaction rates and green chemistry.

In Year 13, you concentrate on the core organic chemistry with one of your teachers, studying aromatic molecules, 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, you'll 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 spacial awareness: key skills for an undergraduate chemist.

What co-curricular activities are available?

We offer weekly extension classes in Year 12 and university preparation classes in Year 13. There is an active STEM Society, and opportunities to take part in the International Chemistry Olympiad and Cambridge Chemistry Challenge competitions. Each year, we enter a team of Year 12 pupils to the Schools' Analyst competition and to the Chemistry Race at the University of Cambridge.

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 Chemical Engineering or Environmental Sciences.

Entry requirements

At least a grade 8 in GCSE Chemistry or 8,8 in GCSE Double Award Science. Strong mathematical skills are important, and A level Mathematics is helpful, though not essential. There are no A level subjects that are required to be studied with A level Chemistry.

More information

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



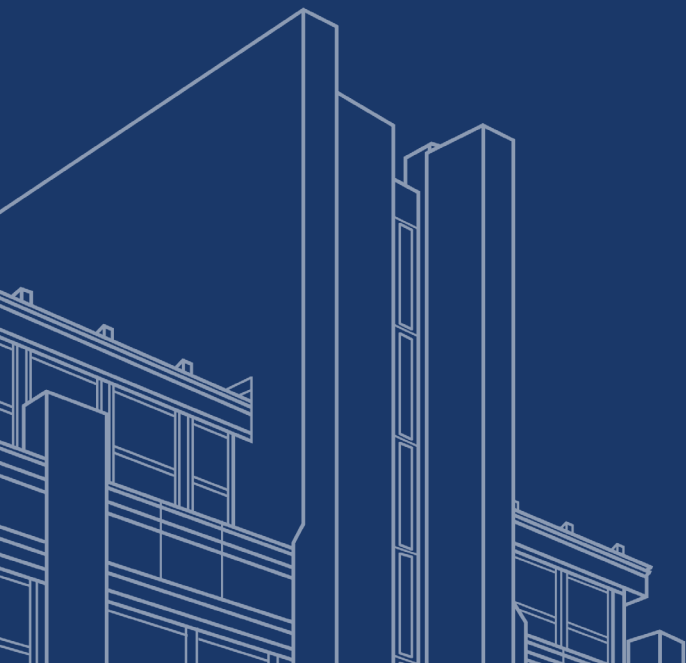
Classical Civilisation

OCR (H408) A level

Highgate Sixth Formers take the lead in editing and producing *Kleos*, our Classics journal.

"The walls he builds will be the walls of Mars and he shall give his own name to his people, the Romans."

Virgil Aeneid I



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%)

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, now in 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 Morrow, Head of Classics:
James.Morrow@highgateschool.org.uk



Computer Science

AQA A level

Computer Science has become a popular choice for Highgate Sixth Formers, with many pupils going on to choose a computing-related degree at university.

"Part of what made the Macintosh great was that the people working on it were musicians, poets, and artists, and zoologists, and historians. They also happened to be the best computer scientists in the world."

Steve Jobs

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. A level Computer Science also provides a good grounding for other subjects that require programming, computational thinking and analytical skills.

What is our approach?

At Highgate you will learn largely by doing, with much of the course content being illustrated by programming and working with Computer hardware. You will learn how to write efficient algorithms and how to analyse data for Scientific discovery. Another aspect of Computing is related to design – how can we build well-designed programs and hardware that are a pleasure to use. Computing is also about getting things to work and you will find out how both computer software and hardware are engineered and improved. Finally, we look at how computers are changing the world and examining some of the legal, ethical and cultural implications of rapid technological advance in areas such as data science and artificial intelligence.

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

Pupils studying Computer Science will sit the AQA Computer Science A level. The assessment is in three components.

Paper 1 – Online Paper (40% of qualification)

This paper tests a pupil's ability to program, as well as their theoretical knowledge of the fundamentals of programming, data structures and algorithms. Firstly, you will answer short theory questions in an online answer sheet. Secondly, you will be asked short programming questions based on unseen information. Finally, before the exam, you will be issued with a skeleton program preliminary material. During the exam, you will be asked questions about this material and will be required to write Python code that will extend and modify the skeleton program.

Paper 2 – Written Paper (40% of qualification)

This paper tests your knowledge of Computer Science theory. It consists of both short and long answer questions.

Non-exam assessment (20% of qualification)

This is a long-term project that allows you to develop your practical and programming skills in the context of solving a realistic problem or carrying out an investigation. You will have a dedicated teacher throughout Year 12 and Year 13 to help you develop your skills, plan your project, and write it up. You will need to demonstrate your programming skills as part of your write-up, with 42 of the 75 available marks being awarded for your technical solution.

What Programming Languages will I use?

The principal language for programming instruction is Python and we would expect most pupils to use Python for their programming project. You will also be exposed to programming features from Haskell, JavaScript, SQL, C and Assembly Languages.

What co-curricular activities are available?

Our Sixth Formers regularly enter national programming competitions, including the British Informatics Olympiad and Cyber Centurion. In December, Pupils will be invited to use their coding skills to compete against peers and teachers in the Highgate Advent of Code Challenge. Sixth Form pupils can choose co-curricular computing options such as the Euler Club which challenges pupils to solve problems through writing Computer algorithms and Tech Club which is a forum for discussing computing and technical issues. In Year 12, pupils are also encouraged to attend our regular classes of extension activities.

What can I do next?

There is a huge variety of university courses available for Computing pupils ranging from academic Computer Science degrees to more practical courses, combined honours and degree apprenticeships. Computing graduates are in high demand from employees in areas such as financial services, machine learning and data science as well as specific computer-related jobs such as 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 grade 8 in GCSE Computer Science.

More information

Please contact Mr Dales, Head of Computing:
Andrew.Dales@highgateschool.org.uk



Design Engineering

OCR A level

“The key engineering principles, design process and invaluable practical experiences that Highgate’s DTE Department gave, provided me with a solid foundation, not only for my degree in engineering but ultimately for my career in research, design and development at Dyson and Joseph & Joseph”

Highgate Alumna, Hugo Wilson - Lead Designer at Joseph & Joseph

“Enjoy failure and learn from it. You can never learn from success.”

James Dyson



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 life, both 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 bi-annual 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 our state-of-the-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 has a focus on upcycling. Pupils visit 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 pupils go on to patent their ideas and prototypes. Some pupils 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 changing 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 pupils go on to be entrepreneurs and start up their own tech companies, Litho is one example of this.

Entry requirements

A grade 8 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: Ms Taylor, Director of Design, Technology and Engineering: Megan.Taylor@highgateschool.org.uk





Drama and Theatre Studies

Edexcel A level

In 2023, Highgate's Drama Department took pupils to perform at the world renowned Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Highgate offers a cycle of concerts, recitals and drama performances across the year, involving over 500 pupils of all ages.

"I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms. The most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being."

Oscar Wilde



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 this course. Whether you want to perform, direct or design, you need to be a good team player 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, written and practical assessments.

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

Component 1: Devising (40% of qualification)

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)

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 qualification)

This two and a half hour written examination is divided into:

• Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation

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

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

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 Festival. 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 8 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



Economics

Eduqas A level

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

"Economics is a method rather than a doctrine, an apparatus of the mind, a technique of thinking which helps its possessor to draw correct conclusions."

John Maynard Keynes



Why study Economics?

Economics is a wide-ranging discipline that provides a logical and rigorous framework for answering questions that are fundamental to society. What level of inequality should be tolerated? Can we address climate change by creating markets for carbon? Does the financial system need greater regulation and are we headed for another 2008-style crash? What should be our priority – keeping inflation under control or promoting economic growth?

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 our pupils gain a deep understanding of the building blocks of the subject. We draw broadly on current affairs to develop 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 Eduqas syllabus, which covers the following main topic areas:

- **Markets and Market Failure:** the nuts and bolts of microeconomics – how markets work, why some markets may not always work perfectly and how they can be fixed. We also look in depth at the labour market.
- **The UK Economy:** an essential course in macroeconomic literacy, covering how we evaluate the overall health of the economy and how the government can influence key indicators like growth, unemployment, inflation and inequality through policy tools.
- **Market Structures and Business Behaviour:** 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.
- **International Economics:** an analysis of how economies interact with each other – trade wars, currency manipulation and exchange rate movements; we also study development economics.

There is no course work and all assessment takes place through examinations. Pupils sit three papers, and each assesses the full course content, designed to test a particular set of skills. Component 1 is a knowledge-based paper with a heavy focus on multiple choice questions and calculations (30%). Component 2 requires you to draw on information given in extracts, tables and charts to write short-answers and mini-essays (30%). Component 3 is an essay-based paper (40%).

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. Even if not pursued beyond A level, it will give you a deeper appreciation of how the world we live in works and fails.

What co-curricular activities are available?

In conjunction with the Politics Department, two societies offer opportunity for spirited discussion and engagement with political and economic current affairs. The Masaryk Society provides a forum for pupil talks and debates on topical and controversial issues. In our weekly Politics & Economics Discussion Group, pupils lead round-table discussions on a range of carefully selected articles from news and comment journals. Extension classes throughout Year 12 and 13 offer the opportunity to explore undergraduate level theory, the history of economic thought and contemporary applied case-studies. For those who want to explore technical economics in even more detail, Econometrics Modelling Society offers enthusiasts the chance to learn statistical and modelling techniques using Excel and specialist modelling software. Finally, our Personal Finance Club lets you learn about personal saving and investment decisions, giving pupils a broader understanding of financial products and exposing them to principles such as spreading risk and diversification, with a number of industry professionals visiting each year to share their knowledge and experience of different financial sectors.

What can I do next?

Almost anything, and certainly not just finance! Economics pupils 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, and a minimum of grade 8 at GCSE is required. Although you never deal with complicated algebra in the A level course, 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 unique cases, A level Further Mathematics) is necessary to take the subject to degree-level. A proficiency in forming balanced arguments is also essential, and essay-writing is a significant component of the course, so a grade 8 in English or a humanities subject is also required.

More information

Please contact Mr Goddin, Head of Economics:
Tom.Goddin@highgateschool.org.uk



English Literature

Eduqas A level

“I still miss Sixth Form English lessons, because you knew that you might end up talking about anything and it would be the most interesting conversation of the day.”

Highgate Sixth Form English Literature alumnus

“Words. They’re innocent, neutral, precise, standing for this, describing that, meaning the other, so if you look after them you can build bridges across incomprehension and chaos... I don’t think writers are sacred, but words are. They deserve respect. If you get the right ones in the right order you can nudge the world or make a poem which children will speak for you when you are dead.”

Tom Stoppard, Playwright



Why study English Literature?

If you are interested in ideas, imagination, independent thought, in argument, words, critical engagement, how the world is shaped, and how it is shaping you, then you should study A level English Literature.

What is our approach?

English Literature 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 coursework. Taught in a seminar style, as a whole, English Literature is both challenging and accessible to all.

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

You will prepare one piece of coursework (20%) and complete three exams, each are two hours long. Poetry (30%), allows you to take your books in; drama is closed-text (30%) and the final exam is on two unseen texts (20%).

One unit of your course will focus on Poetry, and your teachers will choose one from each section of the current set texts:

Pre-1900: Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Merchant's Tale*, John Milton's *Paradise Lost Book IX*, or Christina Rossetti's *Selected Poems*.

Post-1900: One of the following pairings: Thomas Hardy and T.S. Eliot; Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath; or Seamus Heaney and Owen Sheers.

The second unit will focus on Drama, and your teachers will choose one of the following Shakespeare plays: *King Lear*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Hamlet*, *Henry IV Part 1*, or *The Tempest*.

In addition, you will also study John Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* and Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Throughout the course, you will explore the full range of English Literature as part of the Unseen unit. For Unseen prose, you will focus on the period of 1918-1939, exploring topics such as Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance through the writing of authors such as Virginia Woolf to Zora Neale Hurston. For Poetry, you will explore examples from all periods.

In addition to these units, you will also study two novels as part of your coursework preparation. One will be a post-2000 text, and in the past teachers have chosen texts such as Bernadine Evaristo's *Girl, Woman, Other* and Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. The second will be a pre-2000 novel; popular choices in recent years have included Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*, Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day*. Following your study of two novels, you will devise your own coursework title and essay, based on your own thematic and stylistic interests.

In your first term, all English Literature Sixth Formers enter the T.S. Eliot essay writing competition, in which you write an essay based on your choice of any two texts that you have read independently. This essay competition prepares you for your independent coursework and is an opportunity for you to develop your skills of independent research, with support from your teachers.

What skills will I gain?

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?

Every year, we offer a residential trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, where pupils watch Shakespeare plays, and learn more about his life and works.

Our course is also supported by regular theatre trips and day trips to places of literary significance. In the past year, trips and visits have included a day trip to Milton's Cottage; an unseen literature conference; and theatre trips to see plays by Shakespeare, Webster, Williams, Churchill, Stoppard and more. Throughout the year we also screen filmed productions of plays in our school auditorium.

Our Senior English society, Hopkins Society, hosts regular talks delivered by pupils and visitors. Many of our Sixth Form pupils also write for *The Windhover* (the school's creative writing magazine) and enter the Lyttelton Poetry Competition.

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. They also develop your analytical skills and critical thinking abilities.

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 English Literature. The subject is also a wise fourth A level choice for anyone wishing to study a STEM course at university, as these courses typically involve report and essay writing. Our alumni regularly win places to read English at Oxford, Cambridge and other leading universities.

Entry requirements

Either:

GCSE grade 8 or above in English Literature and GCSE grade 6 or above in English Language.

Or:

GCSE grade 8 or above in English Language and GCSE grade 7 or above in English Literature.

More information

Please contact Mr Powell and Ms Orlans, Co-Heads of English:

Roland.Powell@highgateschool.org.uk;

Odette.Orlans@highgateschool.org.uk.



Fine Art

Edexcel A level

“I find Art at Highgate such an engaging and interesting subject because of the community of pupils and teachers that constantly inspire and encourage the exploration of different artistic methods and styles”

Sarah, Year 12

“Art addresses itself to the mind, and not to the eyes. Art is a language, instrument of knowledge, instrument of communication.”

Jean Debuffet



Why study Fine 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?

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, installation, 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 project requires you to 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 defining 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, for our A level pupils to work independently or with support from an Art teacher.

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, Architecture, or go directly onto an Art or Design degree.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 8 or above in Art and Design.

More information

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

Please contact Ms Keay, Acting Director of Art:
Susannah.Keay@highgateschool.org.uk



Geography

AQA A level

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

"Geography is a subject which holds the key to our future."

Michael Palin



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.

Our 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?

The course is comprised of three components:

- Physical Geography – topics covered include water and carbon cycles, glacial systems and landscapes, and hazards. Assessment is via short answers and extended prose. The unit is worth 40% and assessed by exam.
- Human Geography – topics covered include global systems and global governance, changing places, and resource security. Assessment is via short answers and extended prose. The unit is worth 40% and assessed by exam.
- Geographical Investigation – you will carry out an individual investigation based on a question or issue defined and developed by you with teacher 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?

The course will help you develop 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?

Geography builds skills and knowledge that are desirable for a number of university courses, including Earth Sciences, Geography, Geology, Archaeology, Oceanography, and more. It is also helpful for a number of careers including, but not limited to, roles in research, science and the environment.

Entry requirements

A grade 8 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



Classical Greek

OCR A level

Recent Highgate A level Greek pupils have applied for degrees as diverse as Philosophy, Politics & Economics, Theology and Physics.

"The Classics are like the longitude and latitude of consciousness in the West: they establish the first lines of thought and feeling."

Seamus Heaney,
poet & translator



Why study Classical Greek?

Classical 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 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 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 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:

- Herodotus, Book 1: In the opening to the first narrative history in Western literature, Herodotus explores the origins of conflict between Greece and Persia and tells some colourful tales of the early kings of Lydia along the way.
- Plato, *Republic*: In Plato's hugely influential work, Socrates and his companions discuss the nature of justice: is it anything other than 'the interest of the stronger?'.

Verse literature includes:

- Homer *Iliad* XVI: Patroclus persuades Achilles to lend him his armour, then fights a doomed battle before the walls of Troy.
- Euripides *Hippolytus*: Aphrodite spins a terrible web for Hippolytus, whose rejection of the goddess sets in motion a catastrophic chain of events.

Assessment is by examinations (50% language and 50% literature) with 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 staged regularly in London, and there should be at least one tour to Classical sites abroad during your two years. Classics Society allows pupils to discuss the intersection of the ancient and modern worlds, with recent debates on gender in Roman elegy ('Was Ovid a feminist?') and perceptions of ethnicity in Greek and Roman society. A Classics play is performed once every two years and Sixth Formers lead the editing of our Classics Journal, *Kleos*, now in 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 8 in GCSE Classical Greek (or equivalent).

More information

Please contact Mr Morrow, Head of Classics:
James.Morrow@highgateschool.org.uk



History

AQA A level

In 2022 a Year 12 Highgate historian was highly commended in the Foundation for the History of Totalitarianism's national essay competition.

"...to be without historical training ... is to leave citizens desperately ill-equipped to confront a world in which information is increasingly disseminated without historical perspective..."

Michael D Higgins, President of Ireland



Why study History?

History is intellectually exciting and challenging: you read the work of leading historians 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 two options you can choose from allow you to develop a strong 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 two history options: Early Modern and Modern. Whichever you choose, the coursework option is the same: Black civil rights in the USA. 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 for discussion and analysis in which you are expected to contribute. Class debates and presentations will frequently feature. We also expect well-researched and well-argued extended writing. On average, you should expect to write an essay every two weeks.

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

Early Modern History, Unit 1: 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

Early Modern History, Unit 2: 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

Modern History, Unit 1: The British Empire, c1857–1967

Commerce, Control and Civilisation: The Development of British Imperialism, c1857–1890

The Pinnacle of Power? Imperial Consolidation and Liberal Rule, c1890–1914

Rebellion and Reconstruction: The Challenges to Imperialism, 1914–1947

The Winds of Change: De-colonisation and the Re-ordering of Empire, 1947–1967

Modern History, Unit 2: 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

Regardless of period, you will take three assessments:

- **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.
- **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.
- **Unit 3** is a non-examined assessment of one extended essay of up to 4,500 words, from a list of questions on Black civil rights in the USA, 1877–1984.

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 in 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. 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 8 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



History of Art

Pearson/Edexcel A level

“Through looking at art you get a window into history. It’s the most powerful way of learning.”

Year 13 pupil

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



“Everything is art.
Everything is politics.”

Ai Weiwei, artist

Why study History of Art?

You should study History of Art if you are genuinely interested in art and design and the ideas and contexts behind it, rather than an appreciation! You learn to look and to think critically about social, political, philosophical, and aesthetic questions. Many of our pupils who consider a career in the arts continue studying Art History at university. This is an excellent choice to combine with Fine Art or Interdisciplinary Design, and for anyone who wants to study an academic arts-related subject, or complement with other subject choices. History of Art is highly regarded by universities and makes you stand out from the crowd.

What is our approach?

Our course has global scope. The works of art and architecture you will study are from Europe, Africa, the Americas and Asia. They range from ancient temples like the Parthenon or Angkor Wat to contemporary art by Tracey Emin or Ai Weiwei. You learn to combine visual analysis with the study of historical contexts, wider cultural ideas, and art historical concepts.

The sheer variety of material we cover means that this subject is enjoyed by all pupils. Our style of teaching is very much that of a university seminar. We expect you to be self-driven and to prepare well for our lessons which are based on discussion and debate. This is not a textbook subject so you will work with many different books in our extensive department library. We give our pupils a lot of individual support and small class sizes mean that we will get to know you very well. There is a good rapport between teachers and pupils and our classroom is always a safe space.

You will study many works of art and architecture first- hand during lesson time, visits and day trips to museums and galleries in and around London, and during a visit abroad. You have ample opportunity to develop your spoken language skills to a high standard through presentations in class, during visits and as part of ARTiculation, the national public speaking competition we take part in every year.

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

Our subject content is divided into three areas:

• Visual Analysis:

In Year 12 you develop the ability to undertake effective visual analysis and build knowledge and understanding of key terminology. You study painting, graphic works, sculpture, designed objects and architecture from 500 BCE to the present.

• Themes:

In Year 12 you also explore two themes: Nature and Identities, relating global works of art and architecture to issues like environment, class, gender, nationality or ethnicity.

• Periods:

In Year 13 the study of a historical 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 will study The British and French Avant-Garde (1848-1899) and Modernism in Europe (1900-39).

You will sit two, three-hour written examinations, each worth 50% of your qualification.

What skills will I gain?

This course gives you specialist skills and knowledge but you will also gain key transferable skills that are highly prized by employers, like visual literacy, problem solving, critical and contextual thinking. You develop effective written and oral communication skills and become adept at analysing and interpreting information from a range of sources.

What co-curricular activities are available?

You are encouraged to take an active part in our Art History Society, give presentations, collaborate with other clubs, and arrange 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?

About half of our pupils read History of Art at university. Some choose a joint honours degree. You may also consider an apprenticeship route into the arts and heritage sector, art dealing, advertising etc. History of Art is a good A level to apply for any Humanities subject, but many pupils find as a fourth A level it helps them stand out with their application for seemingly unrelated subjects.

Entry requirements

No previous knowledge is required. An interest in visual art and design is essential and good English language skills are desirable. Intellectual curiosity and open-mindedness, plus a readiness to read widely and to 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 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, former pupil

“Design can be art. Design can be aesthetics. Design is so simple, that’s why it is so complicated.”

Paul Rand, graphic designer



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, screenprinting, photoshop, fashion skills, graphic design and collaborative tasks.

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%)

This project requires you to 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 piece of jewellery, an architectural scheme, a garment or an advertisement campaign.

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 open from 4pm-6pm, so that Sixth Formers can continue to make work.

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 end point. 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

GCSE grade 8 or above in Art and Design. Please note: you are unable to take both A level Interdisciplinary Design and Fine Art.

More information

Please contact Ms Keay, Acting Director of Art:
Susannah.Keay@highgateschool.org.uk



Latin

OCR A level

In recent years, Latin A level pupils have made successful applications for courses as wide-ranging as mathematics or medicine.

"Remember, Roman, that this is your particular genius: to rule the peoples in your power, to impose your customs in peace, to spare the humble and to war down the proud."

Virgil Aeneid VI.851-853



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 your 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 Caelio: 56 BC – In Cicero's landmark defence of his friend's son from an accusation of murder he takes ruthless aim at an important witness, Clodia (possibly the inspiration for Catullus' Lesbia).

Tacitus Annals XIV: 59 AD – Tacitus describes the plots of an increasingly unhinged Nero against his own mother, Agrippina.

• Verse Literature

Juvenal: Satires VI – In advising his friend Postumus against marriage, Juvenal rages against the lapsed morality of Rome.

Virgil Aeneid II: Aeneas describes the fall of Troy to Dido, Queen of Carthage.

Language lessons will focus on building your confidence in tackling a wide range of Roman authors, reading both prose and poetry; 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 recent debates 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*, now in its fourth issue.

What can I do next?

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, 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.

There is no stereotypical Latin 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 8 in Latin at GCSE is required.

More information

Please contact Mr Morrow, Head of Classics:

James.Morrow@highgateschool.org.uk



Mathematics

OCR B (MEI) A level

Our Mathematics Department offers weekly lunchtime Maths Extension for Sixth Formers from September, which sits alongside one-to-one mentoring from December, for pupils who may choose to sit mathematical university admissions tests.

Mathematics is typically essential for studying scientific courses at university, and viewed as a “facilitating subject” for many others.



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 at 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 of 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 such as: ‘at what angle should I kick a football to attain the greatest range?’ or ‘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 10 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 course work 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 four weekly Maths clinics at lunchtime and after school, every week of the year.

What skills will I gain?

You will develop your problem-solving skills and mathematical reasoning, your communication 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, an annual ‘Maths Jam’ of five-minute presentations 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. Last year, 15 pupils went on to read mathematical degrees, six of whom went to Oxford or Cambridge. Other destinations included Bath, Bristol, Durham, LSE, St. Andrews, Warwick and UCL.

Entry requirements

Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics is required.

More information

Please contact Mrs Murphy, Head of Mathematics:
Martha.Murphy@highgateschool.org.uk



Further Mathematics

OCR (A) 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 interesting pieces of Mathematics.

"If I feel unhappy, I do mathematics to become happy. If I am happy, I do mathematics to keep happy."

Alfréd Rényi, mathematician



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 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 pupils studying it in Year 12.

What is our approach?

You can't 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 interpret data is increasingly important in natural and human sciences.

You sit all papers, for both A level Mathematics and 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 and you are likely to get a grade 8 or a 9 at GCSE, 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 Mrs Murphy, Head of Mathematics:
Martha.Murphy@highgateschool.org.uk

Modern Languages



Why study Modern Languages?

Five major world languages are taught at Highgate and the Department offers 14 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.

By the end of your studies, you will have developed your language skills and have the confidence and tools to go out into the world with very high levels of a second (or third) language proficiency both orally and in writing. 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.

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, home stays and other opportunities. Many of these opportunities we provide but we hope that as intrepid explorers, you will seek out and plan (with our support) for yourselves. A hunger for adventure, boundless curiosity for new experiences 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 for 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.

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-to-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. 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.

French

Pearson Edexcel A level



Why Study French?

This A level course has been developed to inspire an appreciation of the language, literature, film and culture of the French speaking world. Pupils will develop advanced level knowledge and understanding of the language and culture of France, as well as practical language and transferable study skills. By opting to study French beyond GCSE, you develop both a high level of fluency and the academic skills for research, essay-writing, and analysis that leading universities value.

What topics will I study?

This is a non-exhaustive list of the language topics we study:

- Human relationships and family life
- The media
- Law and order
- Equality of opportunities
- Education
- Cultural life/heritage
- War and peace
- Immigration
- Colonialism and Post-colonialism
- Feminism
- Charles De Gaulle and the French Resistance
- Contemporary French politics

Beyond these, you will be trained and encouraged to follow your own interests and to form opinions on a wide range of topics.

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, and the speaking exam at A level is an independent project which allows pupils to study any area of francophone interest. In addition, you will enjoy weekly individual tuition from one of our language assistants. This is an excellent opportunity not only to hone your oral fluency but also to focus on current affairs, challenging aspects of grammar, or any other topic you would like to discuss.

The course is also designed to encourage and teach an appreciation of French literature and film. Throughout the course you can expect to read extracts from novels and plays, and to analyse cinematic extracts. You will study two texts in full as part of the course, contemporary writer Annie Ernaux's autobiographical social commentary, *La Place*, and the classic play *Le Tartuffe*, by Molière – an acerbic and hilarious satire of contemporary religious hypocrisy and duplicity.

How will I be assessed?

You are assessed by our French Department regularly and at the end of Year 12 to gauge your progress. At the end of your two years, you take three papers (Speaking, Reading, Listening and Translation, Texts and Translation) that each make up a third of your overall grade.

What co-curricular activities are available?

All our Sixth Formers attend a weekly French Society, which is an opportunity to discuss and debate current affairs as they relate to the francophone world, to present on a cultural topic of their choosing, or to hear a talk from one of the French teachers or French assistants.

We run a trip to Bordeaux, taking lessons in a language school in the city and exploring the culture of this fascinating region. In Year 13 we also organise a day trip to see a play in a Parisian theatre, before hopping back on the Eurostar, via a café or two!

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

What can I do next?

Our approach will stretch you to talk about history, politics, economics and the arts in French and 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

Grade 8 in GCSE French is required.

More information

Please contact Mr Flowers, Head of French:
Jack.Flowers@highgateschool.org.uk

German

Pearson Edexcel



Why study German?

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

Which topics will I study?

- Sustainability, recycling and the use of renewable energy in Germany
- The German school system, further education and vocational training
- The world of work, living and working in Germany
- Trends in German music, the influence of music on popular culture
- Digital and traditional media, the influence of media on German society
- The role of traditions in Germany
- Immigration, integration and the modern multicultural society
- Society in the GDR prior to reunification
- The collapse of communism and the fall of the Berlin Wall
- Reunification and its effects on society

In addition to the above themes, pupils are required to study two works from a list of either two literary texts or one literary text and one film.

Examples of literary texts on the specification:

- *Der Besuch der alten Dame*, Friedrich Dürrenmatt, 1956 (play)
- *Der Vorleser*, Bernhard Schlink, 1995 (novel)
- *Die Entdeckung der Currywurst*, Uwe Timm, 1993 (novella)

Examples of films on the specification:

- *Almanya – Willkommen in Deutschland*, dir. Yasemin Samdereli (2011)
- *Das Leben der Anderen*, dir. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (2006)
- *Der Untergang*, dir. Oliver Hirschbiegel (2004)

How will I be assessed?

There are three papers at the end of the two-year course:

- Listening, reading and translation (40%)
- Written response to works (film and literature) and translation (30%)
- Speaking – internally assessed and externally marked (30%)

Your fluency will develop quickly due to lessons conducted in the target language, weekly one-to-one speaking lessons with our German assistant, as well as regular exposure to authentic resources. Independent listening and reading are strongly encouraged.

Alongside language work, pupils learn in-depth about the culture of modern-day Germany through the topics studied. In addition, you will be expected to independently research an aspect of German culture in Year 13.

There are regular assessments by the German Department through grammar and vocabulary tests and at the end of Year 12, in order to gauge progress, you are assessed in all four of the core skills: reading, listening, speaking and writing.

What co-curricular activities are available?

We run an annual exchange with our German partner school, Essen Werden Gymnasium and provide support with organising additional time abroad during the two years. Our comprehensive programme of workshops, seminars and speakers helps pupils to develop cultural and literary awareness, and we have close ties with KCL's German department. Our Sixth Formers participate in an inter-school debating competition, as well as the Oxford German Olympiad, KCL's *Königspost* essay competition, and the Spender Poetry Prize. We also help to guide independent research projects and creative writing for publication in our annual *Modern Languages Review*.

Entry requirements

Grade 8 in GCSE German is required.

More information

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

Mandarin Chinese

Edexcel A level



Why study Mandarin Chinese?

This A level has been developed to inspire all pupils who have an appreciation of the language, literature, film and culture of the Chinese-speaking world. Pupils will develop an advanced level knowledge and understanding of the Chinese language, the culture of China and other Chinese-speaking countries, as well as practical and valuable language and transferable study skills. It will help to prepare pupils for higher education and enhance their employability profile. Over the last two years, all Highgate pupils applying to read Chinese at Oxbridge received offers.

What topics will I study?

The four inspiring and engaging themes provide clear links to some of the most fundamental and interesting aspects of the culture of the Chinese-speaking world. The themes address a range of social issues and trends, as well as political and artistic culture. Each theme is broken into two sub-themes.

Theme 1: Changes in Contemporary Chinese Society

Family: family structure and generation gap; family planning and population aging.

Education and Work: school life and pupil issues; job opportunities; work-life balance.

Theme 2: Chinese Culture

Traditions: festivals (the Chinese New Year, Dragon Boat Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival, Tomb Sweeping Festival) and customs.

Cultural Activities: film, TV, music, and reading (related to Chinese culture).

Theme 3: The Evolving Chinese Society

Communication and Technology: the internet and social media.

Economy and Environment: economic development, environmental protection.

Theme 4: The Impact of the Reform and Opening Up in 1978 on China

Social Change: wealth disparity, super megacities, urban migration.

Sino-British Relations: trade, cultural interchange, educational interchange.

Alongside the four themes, two works are studied (either two literary texts or one literary text and one film) and assessed through two externally examined papers (Papers 1 and 2) and one teacher-examiner conducted speaking assessment (Paper 3). The choice of literary texts and films that includes contemporary and more classical titles, together with authentic source materials from China and the wider Chinese-speaking world.

How will I be assessed?

The assessments place an emphasis on spontaneity and grammar, as well as providing plenty of opportunities for pupils to apply their knowledge independently and creatively. Clear mark schemes encourage pupils to develop ideas and use language to persuade and analyse and give critical responses in their writing and speaking.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation (40%)

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation (30%)

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

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 art and music.

We run an Oriental Society on Thursday lunchtimes, which allows Sinophiles to share their special areas of interest.

Over a course of fortnightly Extension Programme seminars, you'll explore Chinese classics, philosophy, history and literature. It's also excellent preparation for a strong application to a leading university.

We run an A level 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.

Entry requirements

Grade 8 in GCSE Mandarin Chinese, or the equivalent.

More information

Please contact Ms Wang, Head of Mandarin:

Yan.Wang@highgateschool.org.uk

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

Russian

Edexcel A level



Why study Russian?

This A level course has been developed to inspire all pupils 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?

Topic 1: Development of Russian society

Theme 1 is set in the context of Russia only.

- Young people in Russia: health; leisure; new technologies.
- Education: the education system; student life.
- World of work: trends and attitude towards work; opportunities for young Russians; equality and equal opportunities.

Topic 2: Political and artistic cultures in the Russian-speaking world

Theme 2 is set in the context of the Russian-speaking world.

- Media: freedom of expression; print and online press; media influence on society and politics.
- Popular culture: music; circus; dance.
- Holidays, festivals, and traditions.

Topic 3: Moscow and St. Petersburg – urban life

Theme 3 is set in the context of Russia only.

- Population change: life in the city; life in the suburbs.
- Social issues: homelessness; crime; insecurity.
- Environment: urban development; pollution and the city environment.

Topic 4: The final years of the USSR - M.S. Gorbachev (1985-1991)

Theme 4 is set in the context of Russia only.

- Perestroika: restructuring; economic change; legacy.
- Glasnost: social change; legacy.
- 1991: problems facing the USSR by 1991; August putsch; the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Literature:

The Queen of Spades, Alexander Pushkin, 1834

The Government Inspector, Nikolai Gogol, 1836

How will I be assessed?

Listening, reading and translation.

Written response to works (literature) and translation.

Speaking (internally assessed and externally marked).

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. You will be expected to research an aspect of Russian culture which particularly interests you at the end of Year 12 in preparation for the speaking exam in Year 13.

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) offers links to a number of Russian-language newspapers, journals, radio and television stations throughout the world.

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 Russian productions and Pushkin House to attend talks and seminars. We run a comprehensive Russian extension programme during the Lent term and a trip to Tallinn where pupils take lessons at a Russian language school as well as experience a variety of cultural activities.

Entry requirements

Grade 8 in GCSE Russian is required.

More information

Please contact Mr Justin Watts, Head of Modern Languages:
Justin.Watts@highgateschool.org.uk

Spanish

A level (AQA)



Why study Spanish?

Spanish is a first language in more than 20 countries, and there are over 450 million native speakers, making it the world's second most spoken language, behind 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 A level 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 learn to read and discuss some of the most famous works of Hispanic literature, as well as prepare to make a competitive application to a leading university.

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

Our current topics are:

- Modern and traditional values
- The cyberspace
- Equal rights
- Immigration
- Integration
- Racism
- Modern day idols
- Spanish regional identity
- Cultural heritage
- Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens
- Monarchies and dictatorships
- Popular movements
- *Como agua para chocolate*, a novel by Laura Esquivel
- *Volver*, a film by Pedro Almodóvar

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 Year 12.

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 three papers that assess all four skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening.

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 in 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 trips to the Almodóvar Day at the BFI and the trip to Cervantes theatre have become a tradition that Year 12 look forward to during their first term. We also organise an annual trip to Spain for our Sixth Formers. 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

Grade 8 or above in GCSE Spanish is required.

More information

Please contact Ms Arosemena-Manso, Head of Spanish:
Natalia.Arosemena-Manso@highgateschool.org.uk



Music

AQA A level

For the last five years, Highgate's Music Department has had at least one Sixth Form pupil study music at university or music college. In addition, at least two Sixth Formers have gained an Oxbridge choral scholarship each year.

"Without music, life
would be a mistake."

Friedrich Nietzsche



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.

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.

• Performing

You will do most of your practice at home, supplemented with individual instrumental teachers. Workshop-style performance lessons allow you to experiment with approaches to performance and gain feedback from your teachers and peers. You will also be supported in your preparation for the performance exam. 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 8 standard. Performances are through one of the following, or through a combination: Instrumental or vocal solo and/or in an ensemble; production via technology.

• 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 poetry 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.

• 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 in Year 13, exploring either Art Music since 1910 or Pop Music. Pupils also study Music for Media in Year 12. 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 and analysis 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; essay writing; 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

Grade 8 or above in GCSE Music. Grade 7 standard on your first instrument or music production.

More information

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



Philosophy

AQA A level

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.

"Philosophy is the highest music."

Plato



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 are having thoughts? What makes me me? These are philosophical questions, and our pupils 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, pupils 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 pupils 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 choose 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, you will need a grade 8 in a GCSE essay subject and GCSE Theology 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 Harkin, Head of Theology and Philosophy:
Daniel.Harkin@highgateschool.org.uk



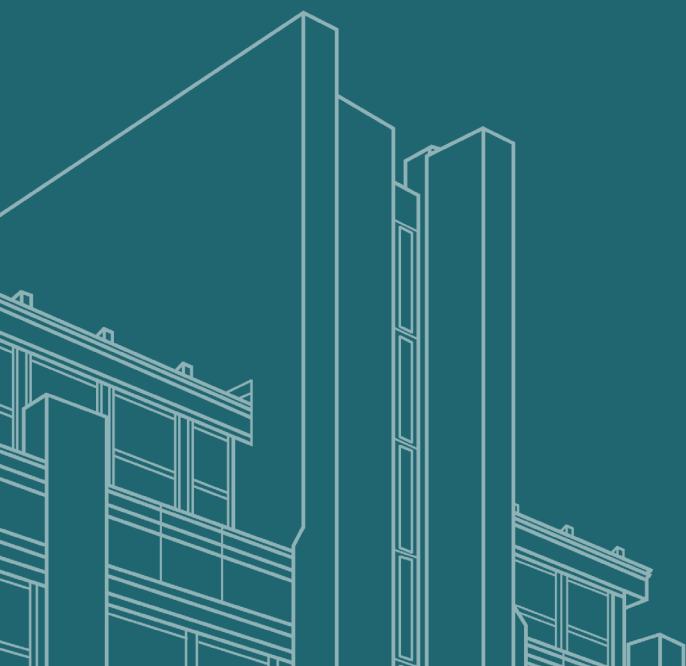
Physics

AQA A level

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

"I was the kind of kid that liked to play with Lego and just sort of build things, and I still ask my pupils that come in if you're that kind of person."

Donna Strickland, Nobel Prize winner



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, whether you intend 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.

You may also 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, opening doors to a wide range of careers.

Entry requirements

Grade 8 in Physics (or 8,8 in Double Award Science) and at least an 8 in Mathematics. Ideally, you will have scored higher in both subjects. You will need to take A level Mathematics alongside A level Physics.

More information

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



Politics

Edexcel A level

One of Highgate's oldest societies, Masaryk Society, hosts debates and talks with high-profile external speakers, such as Tim Shipman (Chief Political Commentator, Sunday Times), Nick Robinson (BBC Presenter), Russ Feingold (former US Senator) and John Bercow (former Speaker of the House of Commons).

"We need enthusiasm, imagination and the ability to face facts, even unpleasant ones, bravely. We need to correct the faults in our economic system from which we now suffer. We need the courage of the young. Yours is not the task of making your way in the world, but the task of remaking the world which you will find before you."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

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, conservatism, and feminism.

Wider international perspectives are brought in wherever possible. For example, the legacy of the Trump presidency and the implications of Brexit for the UK Constitution 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?

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 ideologies of liberalism, conservatism and socialism, as well as feminism as an additional ideology.
- 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?

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 active Masaryk Society regularly attracts over 30 pupils and we have been lucky 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. For pupils wishing to pursue Politics or a related degree at university, our Year 12 Extension Programme will provide a grounding in the disciplines of Politics, International Relations, Anthropology and Law. We provide four sessions for each discipline, with each series delivered by members of the Department with expertise in the relevant discipline.

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

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. You will need a grade 8 in a GCSE essay writing subject.

More information

Please contact Dr Reilly, Head of Politics:

Jack.Reilly@highgateschool.org.uk



Product Design

OCR A level

Design is concerned with how things work, how they are controlled, and the nature of the interaction between people and technology. When done well, the results are brilliant, pleasurable products.

"A design isn't finished until someone is using it."

Jony Ive, designer



Why study Product Design?

The course develops your creative design skills and gives you the technical ability you need to use production methods and materials creatively, including general and specialist IT skills, such as computer-aided design (CAD). Studying Product Design makes you proficient in these areas and prepares you for Higher Education, industry, entrepreneurship, and careers in many related areas.

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 life, now and in the future.

Our Department participates in many national Design and Engineering competitions and runs a biannual residential trip, 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 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'. Pupils visit an aeroplane salvage company, where they take parts from a range of aircraft and are tasked with upcycling them into marketable products, which are then hopefully sold. Another is a user centred design project where you work with less abled individuals and develop a product which will help them. In Year 13, you will spend most of your time working on an individual project, where you will apply the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the course.

• NEA: Iterative Design Project (50%)

A non-examined 'Iterative Design Project' is a substantial design, make and evaluate project centred on the iterative processes of Explore, Create, and Evaluate. You will be required to identify a design opportunity or problem from a context of your own choice, and create a chronological portfolio supported by real-time evidence of your project development. Innovative approaches will be required resulting in a final prototype that can be tested against the user and the market.

• Written Exam 1: Principles of Product Design (26.7%)

This paper assesses your ability to analyse existing products, your technical knowledge and understanding of materials, product functionality, manufacturing processes and techniques. This paper also allows you to demonstrate your understanding of design thinking and wider social, moral, and environmental issues that impact on the design and manufacturing industries.

• Written Exam 2: Problem Solving in Product Design (23.3%)

This paper focuses on the application of your knowledge, understanding and skills of designing and manufacturing prototypes and products to given situations and problems. You will be required to demonstrate your higher thinking skills to solve problems and evaluate situations and the suitability of design solutions.

Some pupils enter their creations into national competitions or go on to patent their ideas and prototypes.

What skills will I gain?

Product Design strengthens your critical thinking and problem-solving skills within a creative environment, enabling you to develop and make prototypes and products that solve real world problems. This course will prepare you for today's and tomorrow's rapidly changing world and teaches you to be a problem solver.

What co-curricular activities are available?

Our Department offers a wide range of activities, from Robotic and Drone Club to Automobile Society, which uses our pit and garage. There are also several 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?

Sixth Formers can combine Product Design with a variety of subjects including: Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Economics, Geography, Biology, Art and Design, and Languages. Candidates can opt for university courses ranging from every type of Engineering course, Computer Science, Augmented Reality, Industrial Design, and Architecture.

We have also had pupils apply directly to industry and do degree apprenticeships and many of our former pupils now work for design and engineering companies, such as Dyson, Rolls-Royce and Aston Martin.

Entry requirements

Grade 8 in GCSE Design Technology is required. You should also be practically confident and be willing to build and test your ideas.

More information

Please contact: Ms Taylor, Director of Design Engineering:
Megan.Taylor@highgateschool.org.uk





Theology

OCR A level

"Theology is doubtless the most difficult of all subjects, making immense demands upon our spiritual and mental powers."

T.F. Torrance, Theologian



Why study Theology?

Theology invites pupils to confront the two questions that shape human beings' deepest commitments: 'what is the nature of reality?' and 'how can we live wisely?'. Pupils 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 pupils 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 pupils 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 choose 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 philosophical knowledge or training is mandatory, you will need a grade 8 in a GCSE essay subject and GCSE Theology 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 Harkin, Head of Theology and Philosophy:
Daniel.Harkin@highgateschool.org.uk



"I really enjoy teaching employability skills to Sixth Formers – they're so engaged, interesting and dynamic, which makes our lessons a pleasure."

Highgate Teacher

"The whole Sixth Form admissions process was warm and open. The team's support and help via email and in person was fantastic and a real highlight."

Parent



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