



King's College
The British School of Murcia

Sixth Form Prospectus

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Preface by the Headteacher



The transition from IGCSE courses to Sixth Form studies represents a major hurdle, but it is a challenge which has been accepted confidently by King’s College students in the past. Record results at IGCSE, AS and A Level have been achieved in recent years. The very considerable ability of our students and the high quality of the advice which they receive from January to September and beyond will contribute hugely to the impact they can make in the Sixth Form. This booklet represents a significant part of this advice and I recommend that you study it in detail over the coming weeks.

I am confident that our pupils’ years in the Sixth Form will represent the culmination of the school careers for all of our students, and give them an excellent platform for higher education and their future careers. The high achievement of A Level students from King’s is a source of considerable pride as they leave to take up their places in the world’s leading universities in the UK, Spain, the USA and elsewhere. At the same time, they are enjoying the wide diversity of activities and interests that the school encourages, as well as the opportunity to take on leadership roles. I am sure that next year’s Year 12 will have appropriately high aspirations as they look forward to the opportunities offered to them over the coming two years.

A few things to remember:

- You must choose AS and A Level subjects that you like and which you are good at. If you don’t, you are not going to enjoy the Sixth Form.
- Usually, we would expect students to have at least a B grade (Grade 6) at IGCSE in any subject they choose for AS or A Level. In some subjects, such as

Mathematics and the Sciences, an A★ or A grade at IGCSE is strongly recommended.

- For certain university courses and careers particular A Levels are essential. For example, if you want to study Engineering, you must study Mathematics and Physics; if you want to study Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry, you must study Chemistry and probably Biology.
- Most subject combinations are possible, but in a small number of cases we may not be able to accommodate your choices. If this happens we will discuss your options individually with you and come up with a solution to suit your needs.

Stefan Rumistrzewicz
Headteacher

An introduction from the Head of Teaching and Learning



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Sixth Form at King’s College Murcia. You are now moving into a phase in education that will shape your entire future and the next two years will be the most important in your life thus far. Obviously, this means the academic requirements and expectations of studying at King’s are very high – we demand a lot from you as a student and you will receive a lot in return. We pride ourselves on developing mature and effective relationships that allow you as a student to flourish, progress and achieve your goals – most probably to enter university. An important part of my role is to offer guidance and support through the university application process to ensure your future after Sixth Form will be a successful one.

As well as the academic rigours of studying, life in the Sixth Form will allow you greater independence but also opportunities for greater responsibility. As the oldest students in the school, you will be role models for all other pupils in the school. Whether you become Head Boy or Girl, apply to become a Prefect or play a pivotal role in your House, Sixth Form life will open many opportunities to lead and inspire others. We organise events for younger pupils in the school at Halloween, Christmas and Valentine’s day which are highlights of the younger pupils’ experience at school.

As a Sixth Form student, you will have certain advantages and privileges. The common room is an excellent facility with sofas, a kitchen and toilets allowing Sixth Formers greater independence and privacy from the rest of the school. We have a large study room meaning you are always able to work in peace when you need to. We promote the ideas of

collective responsibility to ensure a harmonious and family environment enriches the experience.

Being a young and still small Sixth Form, we are always wanting to improve the opportunities and experiences you have. We currently offer Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Work Experience in Year 12, as well as Cambridge English Certificates and are looking to develop a range of other qualifications you could take to enhance your future prospects. We aim to ensure that by the time you come to move on from the school, not only will you have the grades to open doors, but that you will be prepared for the life that awaits you.

I hope that you enjoy your experience in the Sixth Form and embrace all of the opportunities that will come your way over the coming two years.

Robert Snowden
Head of Teaching and Learning

Careers Guidance

The members of the Sixth Form team have a wealth of experience of working with the finest universities in the United Kingdom, Spain and the USA. Every year, King's College students receive offers from, and go on to study in, many universities belonging to the UK's elite Russell Group. From the past two years alone, the range of destinations includes world famous names like Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Imperial College, UCL, London School of Economics, St Andrew's, Bath, Manchester and Bristol.

In addition to the UK university entrance, King's College has also, over many years, built up valuable experience of how to apply for higher education in countries like the USA, Ireland, Canada, France, Switzerland, Germany, Italy and Japan (to name just a recent selection of our leavers' destinations). Currently, King's College alumni are studying at prestigious universities such as Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Berkeley, New York University, Brown and Georgetown in the USA, Trinity College Dublin, EHL in Lausanne Switzerland and Tokyo University.

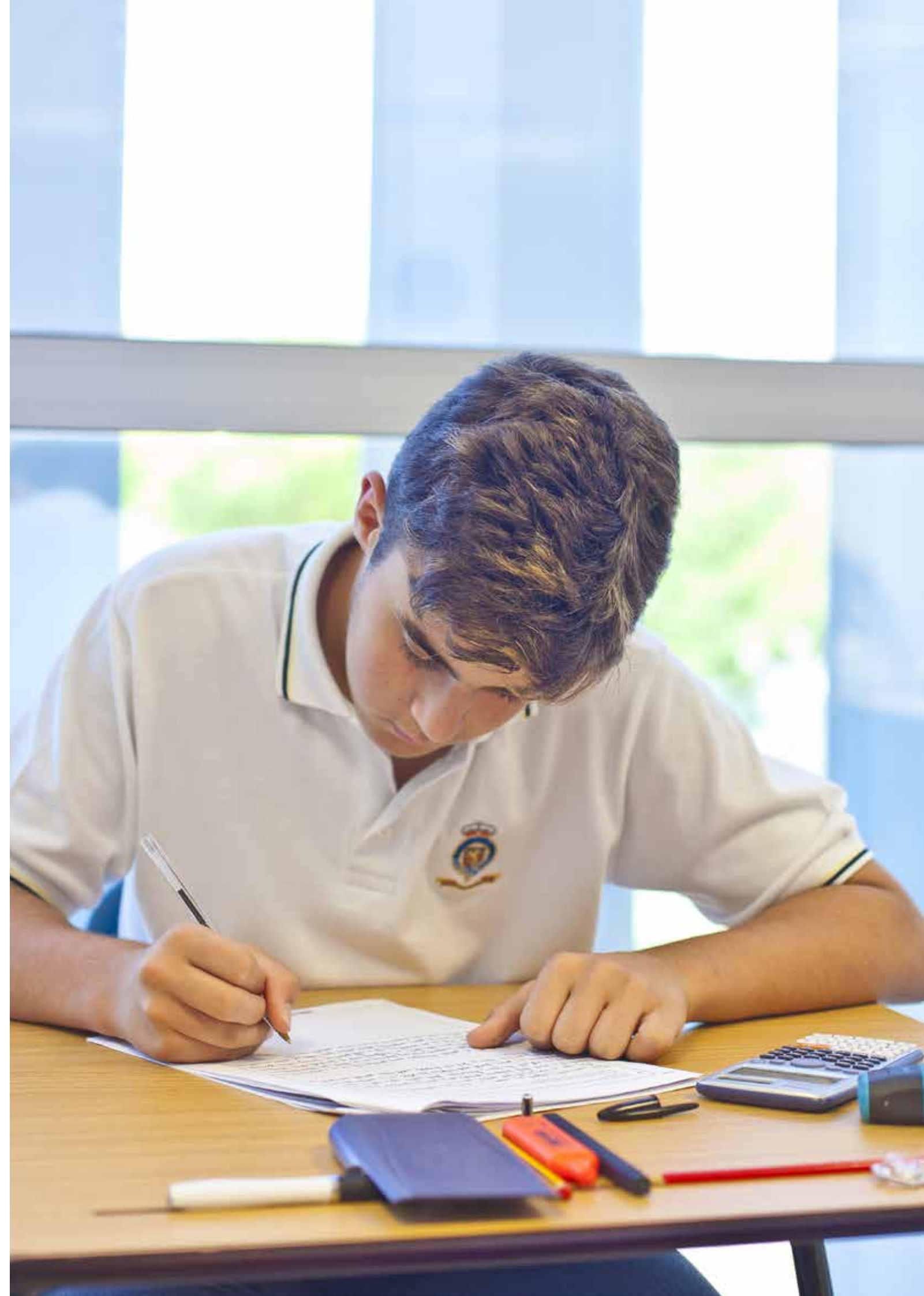
The Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) time we have available in Years 12 and 13 is delivered by subject specialists and frequently devoted to careers education and university guidance matters. We host talks by representatives from Universities in Spain and attend major international University fairs hosted within the Murcia and Alicante regions. As part of the enrichment opportunities we work in partnership with the Oxbridge Academic program, an organisation who offer University Summer School programmes in the UK, France and America.

All students in the Sixth Form receive personalised guidance interviews with the Head of Sixth Form to ensure that they are achieving their goals academically which will enable them to progress onto the next level of education, employment or vocational training. All students have access to the Morrisby careers service and their online resources and the BridgeU software which supports the University decision making process.

If there are any concerns regarding the welfare of a student, please contact the student's Form Tutor or Subject Tutor in the first instance in order to raise the matter. Thereafter our Head of Sixth Form will be able to meet with you to discuss any specific ongoing concerns.

“While studying at King's, I had the support which allowed me to apply for an unusual degree in an unusual country, allowing me to do what I love: Travel, meet people and work in hotels. In February 2013 I gained a place to study a Bachelor of Science degree in International Hospitality Management at Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne in Switzerland, which is named the world's top hospitality management school.”

[Alumnus 2013](#)



Life beyond King's College

In 2017, dozens of students at King's College received offers from 12 universities which are ranked in the top 50 in the world by the QS ranking: Cambridge, Oxford, UCL, Imperial, National University of Singapore, Michigan, King's College, Edinburgh, Berkeley, Manchester, LSE and Bristol. Of these, the first eight are ranked in the world top 25 and the first four are universities ranked in the world top 10. Excellent examination results and a place at a prestigious university are just part of what we strive to deliver.

To complement the array of advice that our pupils receive from the dedicated university entrance team, at King's College we also nurture strong links with professionals and our alumni to ensure a continuous stream of support can be offered to our Sixth Formers. The College also facilitates the organisation of work experience placements and opportunities in Years 10 and 12.

Our alumni network is now flourishing, with over 858 active members, regular reunions both held in our schools and also in other venues around Spain and further afield; our pupils demonstrate just how keen they are to remain part of the King's College family throughout their lives.

For more information, visit:
alumni.kingscollegeschools.org

“Exposure to students from so many different countries at King's College stirred a curiosity in me about how people live in different parts of the world.”

Tony Sáez,
King's College, Soto Alumnus 1980

“In all honesty, I believe that if I hadn't attended King's College Saint Michaels, I wouldn't have been accepted into Harvard. Everyone at the school was very supportive throughout the application process. My teachers and tutors spent many hours with me writing my recommendation letter, filling forms, sending my grades and even speaking to the Harvard admissions office on the phone.”

Abdel S

KING'S *College* LONDON

Alba Morgan

King's College, Murcia Alumnus
French and Management, King's College London





**Making your
Choices**

Entry into the Sixth Form

In Years 12 and 13 our students are prepared for A Level examinations that allow direct access to university in the UK, Spain and the rest of the world. A Levels are academically challenging courses and our entrance requirements are designed to ensure that students wishing to study with us will be able to do so successfully.

Entry Requirements

Although the requirements detailed below are the normal requirements there may be special circumstances where they are not rigidly applied. The sole criterion overall is that the individual student studying a particular AS/A Level subject should seem likely to benefit from the course and achieve a pass grade at the end. Obviously, when places are limited, priority has to be given to students who have met the requirements.

The minimum IGCSE requirements for entrance to Year 12 fall into two categories: general requirements and subject-specific requirements.

“After my Sixth Form admissions interview with Mr. Snowden I felt empowered to make the correct A Level choices for me. The subsequent support and advice from my subject teachers has really allowed me to focus on my strengths.”

Tim S, Alumnus

General requirements

- A minimum of 5, 9–4 (A*– C) grades at IGCSE, which should include Mathematics and English
- A good academic and behavioural record prior to entry over previous years.

Subject-specific requirements

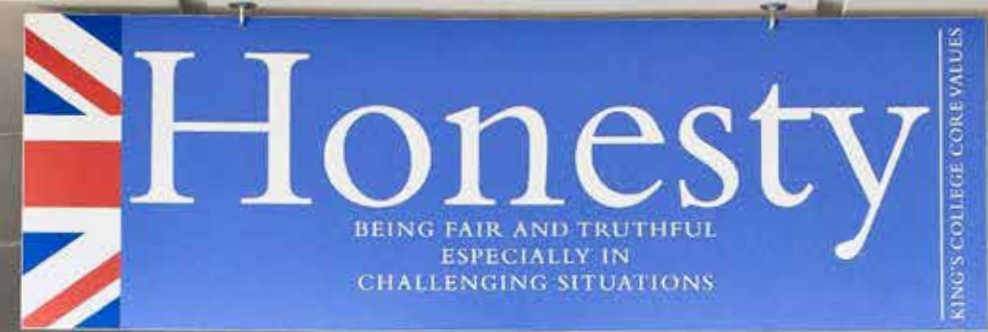
- 9–6 (A*–B) grade in the subjects students wish to take at AS/A level

External applicants will also require:

- End of Year 10 report and most recent Y11 interim report from their current school.
- Reference from their current school.
- A personal interview with the Head of Sixth Form
- In some cases they may also be asked to sit an entrance examination.

Level of English

In order to access A Level qualifications a good command of both written and spoken English is essential. Many A Level examinations require candidates to write extended pieces of work and poor language skills can hinder success at A Level. A student's level of English will be assessed by the school at the enrolment interview and in examinations.



About AS & A Levels

The General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (A Level) is a school leaving qualification offered by King’s College throughout Year 12 and 13. A Levels consist of a rigorous programme of study and are recognised worldwide as an excellent means of entry to a university. Many students finish with four or five full A Levels. Most British universities require the equivalent of three good A Level passes for entry.

A Level subject choices and implications for university courses

There are particular subjects which may be required or expected for entry to certain degree courses. These requirements may change as universities adjust their expectations, and only the university’s website should be considered authoritative. At present the following guidelines should be borne in mind:

“My A Levels have prepared me for life at Edinburgh University. In particular, the analytical and evaluative skills I learnt during my final years at King’s have given me a head start.”

Junichi U, alumnus

Degree	Essential subjects	Preferences
Architecture	Often Maths/Phys Art Portfolio	Maths/Phys/Art
Art	Art Portfolio	Art
Biochemistry	Chemistry + 1 science/maths	1 more Science
Biology	Bio + Chem	1 more Science
Business Studies	Maths	
Chemical Eng	Chem, Maths, Phys	1 more Science
Chemistry	Chem + 1 science	Physics
Computing (not ICT)	Maths	1 more Science
Dentistry	Chem, Biology	
Engineering	Maths + Phys	1 more Science
Environmental Science	2 from Geo and Sciences	
French	French	
Geology	2 Sciences	Geography
ICT	ICT + Maths	
Journalism	History or English	
Law	History or English	
Medicine	Chem, Biology, Shadowing experience	1 more Science
Physics	Maths and Physics	
Psychology	1 science	



Entrance to university in the UK, Spain and other parts of the world

The British Curriculum

There are more than 300 universities or colleges in the UK, offering tens of thousands of course combinations.

Applications are made in the first term of Year 13 through UCAS: www.ucas.com (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) . These are completed online and you can apply to a maximum of five Universities/Institutions. As well as your details and a personal statement, the UCAS form will carry details of your IGCSE and AS results, plus a reference about you from the school, which includes predictions of the grades you are likely to obtain at A Level.

King’s teachers help applicants at every stage of the process with completion of forms and personal statements, plus interview practice if necessary.

If an institution is impressed by your UCAS form, it will send you an ‘offer’ of a place conditional upon obtaining certain stated A Level grades. You are allowed to accept and hold a maximum of two offers, placed in order of preference. The final decision regarding which institution you actually attend will be taken when A Level results are published in August and is made by the institution. Degree courses start in late September or early October.

“15 of the world’s top 20 universities have accepted King’s College students in the past four years.”

Robert Snowden,
Head of Teaching and Learning

Spanish University Entrance

Under Spanish Law, A Level examinations entitle students to direct access to Spanish universities, furthermore they can still use the results of a maximum of two ‘parte específica’ exams to increase their final score in high demand degrees. The relevant scoring chart set out by each university should be checked by the applicants in order to ascertain the value of each exam result. For example, in most state universities Biología and Química count towards 2 points each for Medicina according to their scoring charts.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Grado en Ingeniería Electrónica Industrial y Automática
Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena - NOTA DE CORTE: 8,643

A2 Maths	Grade B	40 UCAS points
A2 Physics	Grade C	32 UCAS points
A2 Spanish	Grade A*	56 UCAS points

Total UCAS Points	120
Spanish Equivalent	7,27

PCE		
Matemáticas	5 out of 10	1
Física	5 out of 10	1

Credencial Final	9,27
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The system for access to Spanish university has changed recently and is constantly under review. A Level examinations on their own are sufficient for our pupils to be able to access Spanish universities. If they are planning to apply to university in Spain, or even think there is a small chance they may want to, preparing for two of these subjects is compulsory. The Spanish authorities convert A Level and AS results and predictions into a grade that is the equivalent of the EvAU (Evaluación para el Acceso a la Universidad) ie. up to a maximum of 10. In order to differentiate between applicants for particularly popular courses, whether they have direct access through a foreign



system or study and pass the Spanish Bachillerato, students are able to take optional exams and use the results of these to increase their final score. Currently, we are able to prepare students for a limited number of subjects for ‘parte específica’. These relate to the subjects that may be required for courses needing more than 10 points in Spanish universities, e.g. Medicina. Additionally, students could study these independently and this has proved to be a successful combination. These grades can potentially lift all applicants up to a maximum score of 14. Nevertheless, a significant number of Spanish universities are already converting the results of A Levels straight up to 14 points.

Mrs Balsalobre, the school’s directora técnica, will provide the students with the necessary advice and help through the process for Spanish university entrance. The students will be able to apply to the Spanish university by submitting a provisional certification issued by the UNED institution.

If you are taking AS or A Level exams the minimum requirements to access universities in Spain are:

GCSE	5 GCSEs Grade A*-C
‘A’ Level	2 ‘A’ Levels Grade A*-E
UCAS points	Minimum of 140 UCAS points

The U.S. System

There are approximately 3,300 Universities or Colleges in the U.S.A. that offer degree studies. Some of these Institutions are funded by State Governments but most are private institutions. There is a very wide variation in the quality of education offered by these institutions and so the requirements for obtaining a place (as well as the prestige of the degree awarded at the end of the course) also vary widely. There is no centralised system of application. The deadline dates for U. S. University or College applications vary widely, but for the very best institutions application procedures should be well under way during the first term of the Year 13 (assuming you are going to the U.S.).

U.S. University ‘decision dates’ also vary widely but in most cases you will know whether you have been accepted by about Easter of your Year 13.

Our Head of Sixth Form, provides school reports, references and transcripts; teachers provide subject specific recommendations and help with interviews and essays.

Other Systems

These are dealt with on a need-by-need basis by the Sixth Form team members.

Helpful Information

An introductory guide to the principal foreign higher educational systems for King's College students and parents.

Seeking the advice of the Head of Sixth Form is a good place to start when you are thinking about university in the UK or the US. There is also a great deal of information available via the internet which will help you and your family think not only about which courses suit you but also what it is like to live in different parts of Great Britain, how much it all costs, transport, culture and even basic things like whether you'll be able to use your Spanish mobile phone in the UK and if your electrical equipment will work there or not.

The first section of this guide is specific and technical.

THE BRITISH SYSTEM

Entrance Procedures

A Bachelor's Degree (BA, BSc, BEng, etc) can be obtained by a minimum of three years of study at more than 300 universities or colleges. Some degree courses last four years, the extra year being spent in paid practical training (sandwich programmes) or as a year abroad if studying a Modern Language. Degrees in Scotland take a minimum of four years.

Applications are made in the first term of Year 13 through UCAS (www.ucas.com). These are done online and you can apply to a maximum of five Universities/Institutions. As well as your details and a personal statement, the UCAS form will carry details of your IGCSE and AS results, plus a reference about you from the school, which includes predictions of the grades you are likely to obtain at A level.

If an institution is impressed by your UCAS form, it will send you an offer of a place conditional upon obtaining certain stated A level grades. You are allowed to accept and hold a maximum of two offers. The final decision regarding which institution you actually attend will be taken when A level

results are published in August.
Degree courses start in late September or early October.

www.ucas.com
<http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/>
<http://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2014/jun/02/university-league-tables-2015-the-complete-list>
<http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>
<http://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings>

Financial Considerations

In England Wales and Northern Ireland, students who are European Union citizens receive a loan from the UK government to pay the £9,250 per year contribution to tuition. This loan is repaid after graduation when the student begins to earn over £25,000 per year at the rate of 9% on earnings beyond £25,000, which is not touched.

Students from EU member states (apart from those from the United Kingdom) do not pay tuition fees if they attend University in Scotland.

Students from outside the EU are classed as private applicants and must pay the whole cost of tuition.

Universities estimate that living and travelling expenses are about £7,700 to £11,500 per 9-10 month academic year depending on your lifestyle and, most importantly, where you live (central London is most expensive).

Very few sponsorships or scholarships are available to help students to finance their first year at a British university. Universities and colleges publish information about possible sources of financial support.

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>
<https://www.saas.gov.uk/>
<http://international.studentcalculator.org/>

Studies

Some British degrees cover one subject (eg. BSc in Chemistry), but there are many dual subject degrees and, increasingly, triple and even liberal arts combinations are offered. The Erasmus Programme is very popular, and many degree courses have links to non-EU countries (eg. USA) too.

Class sizes at British universities and colleges are relatively small and a mixture of lectures, seminars and tutorials are commonly given, plus practical work where relevant. Many language, engineering and certain other degree courses also involve practical experience outside the University itself which may extend the length of the course from the normal three years to four. (NB. Medicine and certain other subjects will take even longer).

Repeating a year of study, or transferring from one institution to another, are both comparatively rare. Some universities, however, are changing their attitudes about this.

Most British universities have their own optional halls (student residences) and for a student coming from overseas to have a room in a hall of residence is the ideal way to meet people and make new friends in the first year. You may then prefer to make your own living arrangements for your other years of study. Life at a British university is very rich in terms of social, sporting, cultural and political clubs and societies.

The U.S. SYSTEM

Initial explanation of terms

Transcript - A list of school grades you have obtained in every subject each term since the start of Year 10. This is prepared by Mr. Snowden on behalf of the school.

SAT - Scholastic Aptitude Test. Divided into two sections: Mathematics and Verbal (ie. English). This test can be taken at the American School of Madrid on various dates throughout the academic year. The tests can be taken more than once. There are coaching courses in Madrid designed to improve your SAT score, though many King's College pupils find that practice via books, websites, past papers, etc, is enough.

Subject SATs - Some prestigious and competitive universities require applicants to take additional exams in specific subjects. These are also taken in the American School of Madrid. NB. Many US universities do not require A Level or Bachillerato students to take SATs.

www.collegeboard.org
www.fairtest.org

Entrance Procedures

There are approximately 3,300 universities or colleges in the USA that offer degree studies. Some of these institutions are funded by State Governments but most are private institutions. There is a VERY wide variation in the quality of education offered by these institutions and so the requirements for obtaining a place (as well as the prestige of the degree awarded at the end of the course) also vary widely. There is no centralised system of application. The deadline dates for US university or college applications vary widely, but for the very best institutions application procedures should be well under way during the first term of the Year 13 (assuming you are going to the US). Therefore it is convenient to write to Universities to ask for application forms in the last term of Year 12 or at the latest in September of Year 13 – see the Sixth Form Team for university choices, addresses etc.

U.S. university 'decision dates' also vary widely but in the case of the most competitive institutions you will know whether they have accepted you or not by about Easter of Year 13. Less competitive, less prestigious institutions may be willing to accept you later in your last year at school.

Financial Considerations

Non US citizens (and many US citizens) will probably find it very difficult to obtain any form of financial aid at first. However, there are a few institutions that provide financial aid to non-US citizens. Most universities have a financial aid calculator on their websites for guidance. It is risky however to assume that financial aid will come through, and so unless you can afford the full fees it is best to think twice about applications to the USA.
www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/Pages/Default.aspx

Studies

In general studies tend to be broader at a US university than in a British counterpart.

Transfer from one university or college to another is quite common in the US system.

Perhaps the most important factor which needs emphasising yet again is that the standards and prestige of U.S. universities and colleges vary tremendously from one institution to another. Similarly, admissions requirements vary wildly. It is vitally important that individual students explore these fully as teachers cannot keep track of the details of the thousands of institutions involved.
<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
<http://www.usnews.com/rankings>



Subject Choices at King's College

English Literature

Examination Board	Pearson Edexcel
Entry Requirements	Grade A*-B in IGCSE English Literature and Language
Course(s) Offered	A Level

This subject requires a real love of reading and offers an opportunity to explore our rich literary heritage. From Shakespeare to the Victorian era and modern day Afghanistan; this course will take you on a journey of discovery and exploration. You learn to write mature essays, explore different contexts and compare related texts.

You also research critics’ opinions and have the opportunity to choose your own coursework texts.

Component 1: Drama

- Students study:
- One Shakespeare play (Othello) and one other drama by Tennessee Williams (A Streetcar Named Desire)
 - Critical essays related to their selected Shakespeare play. Students’ preparation is supported by Shakespeare. A Critical Anthology – Tragedy

Component 2: Prose

- Students study:
- Two prose texts are from the chosen theme “‘ Women in Society”. Students will study “Tess of the D’Urbervilles” by Thomas Hardy and “A Thousand Splendid Suns” by Khaled Hosseini.

Component 3: Poetry

- Students study:
- Poetic form, meaning and language a selection of post-2000 specified Poetry, and unseen poetry
 - Poetry from Christina Rossetti

Coursework

Students have a free choice of two texts to study and will produce an extended essay of up to 3000 words. Chosen texts:

- Must be different from those studied in Components 1, 2 and 3 Must be complete texts and may be linked by theme, movement, author or period
- May be selected from poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction

“I study literature because I believe there is power in stories. Literature is both intensely personal as well as a communal experience.”

Hannah M

Mathematics

Examination Board	Pearson Edexcel
Entry Requirements	AS Level: Grade A*-B in IGCSE Maths A2 Level: Grade A-E in AS Maths
Course(s) Offered	Compulsory AS Level, leading to A Level

The word “Mathematics” is of Greek origin and means something that has been learned or understood. Bertrand Russell once said that “Mathematics may be defined as the subject in which we never know what we are talking about nor whether what we are saying is true.” This comment may be hyperbole but does illustrate that in the Sixth Form and beyond, Mathematics begins to become much more generalised and abstract. Although to a philosopher Mathematics may seem abstract, to those who study it Mathematics contains provable truth and is the bedrock of all sciences.

A Level Mathematics is a completely different subject from the one you studied at IGCSE. In the latter you were expected to remember numerous facts, and gained marks in examinations for doing so. In A Level Mathematics you learn, practise and refine skills. You will progress from someone who can do sums to become a Mathematician, a high accolade. As well as being interesting in its own right, continuing with mathematics beyond IGCSE provides an excellent basis for those who are studying Chemistry and Physics, or intend to

study subjects such as Accountancy, Economics or Engineering at University.

Mathematical understanding is also essential for Medicine, Business and many other career areas.

Content: A Level Mathematics is split into Pure Mathematics which accounts for 67% of the course and Applied Mathematics (Statistics and Mechanics) which accounts for 33% of the course. The new specification has removed any optional modules so all students study the same content.

A Level Further Mathematics consists of 50% core content of Pure Mathematics and 50% optional content which is made up of two modules chosen from Further Pure, Further Statistics, Further Mechanics and Decision mathematics.

“Maths isn’t only a universal language. It’s a creative subject.”

Maxim M

Further Mathematics

Examination Board	Pearson Edexcel
Entry Requirements	AS Level: Grade A* in IGCSE Mathematics (standard route) A2 Level: Grade A-C in AS Further Mathematic
Course(s) Offered	Compulsory AS Level, leading to A Level

If you are thinking of reading Mathematics at university we recommend that you take A Level Further Mathematics. Likewise, if you are thinking of studying Engineering or Computer Science at a top university, then we recommend that you study Further Mathematics. In Further Mathematics we study topics such as imaginary algebra which is the keystone of many control circuits and feedback loops that appear in even the simplest intelligent devices. For example, without these the modern car or washing machine would not function. The Oxbridge universities favour an offering of Further Mathematics in their selection procedures for some subjects. There is a wide range of university courses open to those studying Mathematics, which lead to an extremely wide range of career choices. Some may continue in the world of Mathematics, or in careers involving a high level of Mathematics, such as actuarial work or finance. But many will find their communication, presentation and interpretation skills in demand in non-mathematical areas such as Management, Marketing and Law. A Mathematics

degree is excellent training in problem solving and this skill is highly prized across a very wide range of professions.

Content

A Level consists of four units, each of which contribute 25% to the overall grade.

The two compulsory units are:

Core Pure Mathematics 1
Core Pure Mathematics 2

Students also study two optional units chosen from:

Further Pure Mathematics 1
Further Statistics 1
Further Mechanics 1
Decision Mathematics 1
Further Pure Mathematics 2
Further Statistics 2
Further Mechanics 2
Decision Mathematics 2

“This course will extend and deepen your knowledge and understanding beyond the standard A level.”
Jorge S

Biology

Examination Board	Pearson Edexcel
Entry Requirements	AS Level: Grade 9-6 in GCSE Seperate Biology A2 Level: Grade A-E in AS Biology
Course(s) Offered	Compulsory AS Level, leading to A Level

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to develop:

- Essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- A deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- Competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills
- Their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
- An understanding of how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society

IAS - International Advanced Subsidiary(IAL)

Unit 1: Molecules, Diet, Transport and Health
Unit 2: Cells, Development, Biodiversity and Conservation. Both papers 1& 2 are a written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes, and 80 marks.

IA2: International Advanced Level (IAL)

Unit 4: Energy, Environment, Microbiology and Immunity

Unit 5: Respiration, Internal Environment, Coordination and Gene Technology

Both papers are a written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes. Total of 90 marks

There is an opportunity to sit unit exams in January, June and October of each academic year.

Unit 6: Practical Skills in Biology II
Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes. Total of 50 marks.

“Put simply, Biology is the scientific study of life. What could be more important?”
Elisa M

Chemistry

Examination Board	Pearson Edexcel
Entry Requirements	AS Level: Grade 9-6 in GCSE Chemistry/Combined Science A2 Level: Grade A-E in AS Chemistry
Course(s) Offered	Compulsory AS Level, leading to A Level

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to develop:

- Essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- A deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- Competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills
- Their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
- An understanding of how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society

International Advanced level Chemistry

IAS Unit 1: Structure, Bonding and Introduction to Organic Chemistry

IAS Unit 2: Energetics, Group Chemistry, Halogenoalkanes and Alcohols.

Both papers 1&2 are: Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes. 80 marks

IAS Unit 3: Practical Skills in Chemistry I

Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes. 50 marks

IA2 Unit 4: Rates, Entropy, Equilibria, Further organic chemistry.

IA2 Unit 5: Transition metals, Organic Nitrogen Chemistry

Both papers 4 & 5 are written papers of 1hr 45 minutes. 90 marks.

IA2 Unit 6: Practical Skills in Chemistry II

Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes. 50 marks

The IAL has a flexible modular structure that allows examinations to be sat in January, June and October.

“Chemistry helps you to understand current events, including news about petroleum, product recalls, pollution, the environment and technological advances.”

Vivian L

Physics

Examination Board	Pearson Edexcel
Entry Requirements	AS Level: Grade A*-B in IGCSE Physics/Additional Science A2 Level: Grade A-E in AS Physics
Course(s) Offered	Compulsory AS Level, leading to A Level

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to develop:

- Essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- A deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- Competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills
- Their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
- An understanding of how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society

International Advanced Level Physics

IAS Unit 1: Physics on the Go. This unit involves the study of mechanics (rectilinear motion, forces, energy and power) and materials (flow of liquids, viscosity, Stokes’ Law, properties of materials, Young’s modulus and elastic strain energy)

IAS Unit 2: Physics at Work. This unit involves the study of waves (including refraction, polarisation, diffraction and standing (stationary) waves), electricity (current and resistance, Ohm’s law and non-ohmic materials, potential dividers, emf and internal resistance of cells, and negative temperature coefficient thermistors) and the wave/particle nature of light.

IAS Unit 3: Exploring Physics. This Unit will assess students’ knowledge and understanding of the experimental procedures and techniques that were developed in Unit 1 & 2.

IA2 Unit 4: Physics on the Move. This unit involves the study of further mechanics (momentum and circular motion), electric and magnetic fields, and particle physics.

IA2 Unit 5: Physics from Creation to Collapse. This unit involves the study of thermal energy, nuclear decay, oscillations, astrophysics and cosmology.

IA2 Unit 6: Experimental Physics. This Unit will assess students’ knowledge and understanding of the experimental procedures and techniques that were developed in Unit 4 & 5.

The IAL in Physics has a flexible modular structure that allows January and June examinations.

“Physics is the basis of many other sciences, including oceanography, seismology, astronomy, all types of engineering.”

Celia F

Spanish

Examination Board	Pearson Edexcel
Entry Requirements	AS Level: Grade A*–B in IGCSE Spanish A2 Level: Grade A–E in AS Spanish
Course(s) Offered	Recommended AS leading to A Level

Spanish is the most popular modern language being studied in the English-speaking world. Not only is it spoken by millions of people around the globe, but it is considered a joy to learn and to use. Living in Spain is obviously a great advantage, helping you to develop and improve your knowledge of Spanish on a daily basis outside the classroom. In addition to learning the language, on this course you will explore the culture and society of Spain and other Spanish speaking countries. While you are developing linguistic skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) you will also be enhancing your cultural sensitivity.

Why study A- Level Spanish?

An A level in a language is a highly regarded qualification by universities and employers because it develops and demonstrates written and verbal communication skills and your ability to be analytical with information. It supports a number of different pathways including business, teaching, customer services and tourism.

Units:

- Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation (Spanish to English)
- Paper 2: Written response to works (film and/or literature) and Translation (English to Spanish)
- Paper 3: Speaking.
Based on topics studied and an independently researched topic in the second year.

“Spoken by an estimated 400 million people worldwide, Spanish is currently the 4th most spoken language in the world. A qualification in that language is vital for my future.”

Ben S

French

Examination Board	Pearson Edexcel
Entry Requirements	AS Level: Grade A*–B in IGCSE French A2 Level: Grade A–E in AS French
Course(s) Offered	Recommended AS, leading to A Level

The study of French in the Sixth Form aims to give you the ability to use the language well in real contexts. You will find yourself building on your GCSE skills, but also moving into topic areas that are stimulating and challenging, where you are no longer just talking about yourself, but about France and the French-speaking world.

The jump from AS to A Level is a considerable one, and an integral part of the course is a rigorous revision and extension of your knowledge of French grammar. This will be done quite formally, through the use of grammar books and websites, but you will find that it can still be fun. Above all, the grammar is not acquired as an end in itself, but to allow you to express yourself clearly and accurately in discussing the topics on (and sometimes off) the syllabus. In Year 13 an appreciation of tone, nuance, style and register becomes increasingly important, as you engage with a wide range of different text types.

Units:

- Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation (French to English)
- Paper 2: Written response to works (film and/or literature) and Translation (English to French)
- Paper 3: Speaking.
Based on topics studied and an independently researched topic in the second year.

“French is the language of love and reason.”

Alex B

German

Examination Board	Pearson Edexcel
Entry Requirements	AS Level: Grade A*-B in IGCSE German
Course(s) Offered	Recommended AS leading to A Level

Why study A Level German?

The A Level course is designed to encourage students to develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for language learning. They will learn to become effective and confident communicators, clearly using German for a range of purposes. Over the two year course they will develop an awareness and understanding of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of countries or communities where German is spoken.

How is the course structured?

In Year 1 topics students will prepare for oral assessments, during which they are expected to defend and justify their opinions and respond to a range of questions. There are also listening and writing exams. In Year 2 students will be examined on their translation skills as well as their essay writing skills, linked to an area of interest of the student.

Taking A Level German further

Learners should recognise that their linguistic knowledge, understanding and skills help them to take their

place in a multilingual global society and also provide them with a suitable basis for further study and practical use of German. Students will also find German A Level useful if they progress to careers or course in internal relations, development and many areas of media.

Units

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation (German to English)

Paper 2: Written response to works (film and/or literature) and Translation (English to German)

Paper 3: Speaking

Based on topics studied and an independently researched topic in the second year.

Business

Examination Board	Pearson Edexcel
Entry Requirements	Grade A*-C in IGCSE Business Studies
Course(s) Offered	A Level

This specification in Business provides students with a broad introduction to the business sector and should encourage students to develop skills, knowledge and understanding in realistic business contexts, such as discovering the problems and opportunities faced by local businesses and/or organising an enterprise activity. It provides opportunities for students to develop sufficient depth of understanding to inform their choices between further study or training.

This course aims to develop knowledge and understanding of:

- The practices and techniques used within marketing, finance, operations management, human resource management and the links between them
- The processes, attractions and risks of setting up an enterprise
- The relationship between the business and the changing external environment
- Social and ethical issues in business

The specification encourages students to:

- Contribute to the development of the skills required for success as an entrepreneur, manager or employee

- Apply numerical and written business techniques to a variety of business contexts
- Explore business problems and learn to identify possible solutions

There are four Assessment Objectives assessed through the course. These are:

A01 Knowledge, skills and understanding

Students demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the specified content and relevant business skills.

A02 Application of knowledge, skills and understanding

Students apply knowledge and understanding of the specified content and relevant business skills.

A03 Research and analysis

Students use appropriate methods in order to obtain and select information from a range of sources to analyse business problems.

A04 Evaluation

Students evaluate evidence to reach reasoned judgements. The quality of written communication is assessed in all assessment units where students are required to produce extended written material.

“I have been given a structured insight into the theoretical and practical dimensions of organisations and management and the changing external environment in which they operate by studying this course.”

Alba M

Art & Design

Examination Board	Pearson Edexcel
Entry Requirements	AS Level: Grade A*-B in IGCSE Art & Design A2 Level: Grade A-E in AS Art & Design
Course(s) Offered	Compulsory AS Level, leading to A Level

This A Level challenges students to develop personal, creative and confident independent thought through visual form and imagery. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to record primary observations and learn to analyse and make links with appropriate contextual issues and ideas. They will learn new skills and experiment with media and processes at an advanced level. Each unit of work will culminate in a resolved outcome, realising their intentions.

Aims and objectives of Art and Design at GCE is to enable students to develop:

- Intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive capabilities investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and critical judgement
- Independence of mind in developing, refining and communicating their own ideas, their own intentions and their own personal outcomes
- An interest in, enthusiasm for and enjoyment of art, craft and design their experience of working with a broad range of media

- An understanding of the interrelationships between art, craft and design processes and an awareness of the contexts in which they operate
- Knowledge and experience of real-world contexts and, where appropriate, links to the creative industries
- Knowledge and understanding of art, craft, design and media and technologies in contemporary and past societies and cultures
- An awareness of different roles, functions, audiences and consumers of art, craft and design

For those wishing to study Art, Architecture or Design at university, a portfolio demonstrating a broad range of artistic skills and creative exploration is essential. Students must also realise that the development and production of artwork takes time and they must be enthusiastic and self-disciplined enough to work outside teaching periods. Trips, gallery visits, drawing sessions and art clubs form part of this intensive course. On-going assessment is necessary to ensure work is meaningful and shows development. There will also be an increased emphasis on self-assessment throughout each course.

Students must be able to explain the purpose and direction of their development, making informed links to references and how they have modified, reviewed and refined their development.

“I am a naturally creative person. In Art I can express myself.”

Caitlin B

Music

Examination Board	Pearson Edexcel
Entry Requirements	AS Level: Grade 9-7 in GCSE Music in addition to Grade 4 in an instrument or voice A2 Level: Grade A-E in AS Music
Course(s) Offered	A Level with an option to submit for AS Level at a reduced standard

Component 1: Performing (AS)
A total performance time of 8 minutes is required. This component gives students the opportunity to perform as soloists or as part of an ensemble. Teachers and students can choose music in any style. Any Instrument or voice are acceptable as part of the externally assessed performance. The requirement for AS is a six minute performance. This forms 30% of the qualification. The performing component is externally assessed.

Component 2: Composing (AS)
2 original compositions. This component encourages students to develop their compositional skills leading to the creation of music for a minimum of 6 minutes. The first composition is in response to a given brief set by the exam board. This brief is based on assessing compositional technique and responding to them.

The second composition is free choice and can be in any style. The second free choice composition must be at least 4 minutes in duration. For AS the minimum requirement is 4 minutes 30 seconds. This component forms 30% of the total qualification.

The composing component is externally assessed.

Component 3: Appraising
This focuses on listening to familiar music and understanding how it works. Set works from the anthology provide the focus through listening and studying score. It is recommended that students familiarise themselves with each set work before learning to identify important musical features and their social and historical context. There are 6 Areas of Study with 3 set works for study in each making a total of 18 pieces. For AS level the requirement is the study of 12 set works. The areas of study are:

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Music for Film
- Popular Music and Jazz Fusions
- New Directions in contemporary music.

This component is externally assessed and consists of a 2 hour examination (1 hour 30 minute exam for AS Level.) and forms 40% of the total qualification

“It’s great to have my musical ability recognised by the chance to perform.”

Silvia N

Geography

Examination Board	Pearson Edexcel
Entry Requirements	AS Level: Grade A*–B in IGCSE Geography A2 Level: Grade A–E in AS Geography
Course(s) Offered	Compulsory AS Level, leading to A Level

The students who have completed the IGCSE exam will already have an excellent grounding for the international A Level course.

Geography is a Science as well as an Art, and can be counted as either for University entry. It is an excellent background to many careers. It is widely recognised that geographers have specific numeracy and literacy skills which enable them to investigate and collate information and then present it in a coherent manner.

Geography is an integrated study of the complex relationships between human societies and the physical components and processes of the Earth. It attempts to identify interrelationships and significant regional patterns, recognising the differences and links between cultures, political systems, economies, landscapes and environments across the world.

Geographers develop their knowledge through fieldwork and research. This helps to promote curiosity about social and physical environments, develops observation skills and an understanding of scale.

As such we make wide use of IT and internet resources to backup the more traditional discussion, reading, lectures and essays. Students must be able to write essays, as only the first unit has some short questions; all the others are 10 marks or more. The final A2 paper, is a 1.5 hour research essay.

The A Level is made up of four units; two at the end of year 1 and two in the second year.

The AS year has two units. In Unit 1 there are compulsory topics, including natural hazards, climate change, globalisation, and migration. In Unit 2 there are two compulsory topics: coastal environments and urban places. Compulsory fieldwork will be in Cartagena to study the impact of transport on the environment.

Within the A2 year, students will study compulsory topics of atmospheric and weather systems, biodiversity and then choose two others: water or energy and superpowers or the development gap. The last unit is a research essay and the students can choose between Natural Hazards, Feeding the world’s people, Cultural Diversity or Health and Disease.

“I enjoy learning about people and their societies, economies, cultures and the environment. Geography was always going to be my forté!”

Timothy S

History

Examination Board	Pearson Edexcel
Entry Requirements	AS Level: Grade A*–B in IGCSE History and Grade A*–C in IGCSE First Language English A2 Level: Grade A–E in AS History
Course(s) Offered	A Level

Knowledge of the past is essential to modern society. What happens in the present and what will happen in the future are very much governed by what happened in the past. The focus of History can vary from individuals – rulers, thinkers, activists, inventors, etc. – to governments, societies, economies or cultures. In fact, History can be said to embrace virtually all aspects of humanity for which there is an evidence trail, however fragmentary. The subject can be appreciated on a number of levels from those who seek ways of understanding the present, to those who see the study of a historical period as an end in itself, providing a stimulating contrast with contemporary life. History is cast in a literary medium and good historians will be able to communicate clearly and effectively, using well-structured and precise language.

As a Sixth Form subject, History complements the entire range of Arts subjects and can be combined successfully with Mathematics or a science. It provides an essential academic background for those who intend to study Law, Politics or International Relations at university. It also creates a contextual

understanding for English, Foreign Languages and Economics. History is a rigorous academic subject that is highly valued by Russell Group universities, and is regarded as one of the most demanding A Levels in terms of the need to understand and explain changing concepts. History equips students to be independent learners, critical and reflective thinkers and to have the ability to analyse and make judgements as relevant to the modern world as to the past. These skills and outcomes are invaluable in the contemporary world.

A level students will be required to study the history of more than one country or state.

A level students will be required to study topics from a chronological range of at least 200 years. A level students will be required to study at least 20 percent British history. The A level will have a 20 percent non-examination component to assess independently researched historical enquiry.

“To gain access to the laboratory of human experience, you should choose History.”

Helen Y

Information & Communication Technology

Examination Board	Pearson Edexcel
Entry Requirements	IGCSE ICT at Grade B or above
Course(s) Offered	IAS in Information Technology (XIT11) IAS in Information technology (YIT11)

This qualification consists of two externally- examined units. The International Advanced Subsidiary is the first half of the International Advanced Level qualification and consists of two IAS units: Unit 1 and Unit 2. This qualification may be awarded as a discrete qualification or may contribute 50 per cent to the International Advanced Level qualification

Unit 1
This is an externally assessed unit which is a 2 hour written examination. Students must study all of the following topics:
Topic 1: Hardware and software
Topic 2: Networks
Topic 3: The online environment
Topic 4: IT systems
Topic 5: Data and databases
Topic 6: Wider issues. Students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the concepts of information technology
- Apply knowledge and understanding of the concepts of information technology
- Analyse and evaluate information technology problems
- Use analysis and evaluation to design solutions.

Unit 2
This is an externally assessed unit which is a 3 hour written examination. Content overview:
Students must study all of the following topics:

- Topic 7: Understanding the functionality of HTML
- Topic 8: Understanding the functionality of CSS
- Topic 9: Understanding the functions of Javascript
- Topic 10: Designing web pages
- Topic 11: The semantic web.

Students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the concepts of information technology
- Apply knowledge and understanding of the concepts of information technology
- Analyse and evaluate information technology problems
- Use analysis and evaluation to design solutions.

“At the end of 2014 there were more advertised vacancies for IT professionals than there were candidates to fill them. I study ICT to guarantee my future employment.”

Emily F

Physical Education

Examination Board	
Entry Requirements	AS Level: Grade A*-B in GCSE PE A2 Level: Grade A-E in AS PE
Course(s) Offered	Physical Education AS Level, leading to A Level

The A-Level PE course is an ideal opportunity for those students who wish to develop their knowledge of both the theoretical and practical aspects of the subject. Continuing from GCSE, the subject explores in more detail the physiological, psychological, social, technical and mechanical aspects of the sporting world. It also allows students to specialise in their specific sport so they can really focus on developing their skills and understanding.

The course consists of four components . Component 1 focuses on Anatomy and Physiology, with Component 2 on Sports Psychology and socio-cultural issues. Components 3 and 4 are the practical and coursework aspects and focus on developing skills in a student ‘s chosen sport, as well as devising and evaluation a training plan. Whether selecting AS or A Level, students will complete all components with some details only covered in the second year of the course. Bellow is a brief outline of each component:

Component 1
The focus here is one anatomy and physiology in the first year with a heavy focus on energy systems injury

prevention/treatment in the second. Throughout both years, there is a large section on the principles of training, fitness testing and training methods. All aspects are applied to specific sporting examples.

Component 2
This area focuses on skill acquisition and sports psychology. This is essential how we coach in sporting situations, as well as how to apply psychological theories to specific examples. Both the AS and A Level course are similar, with some more advanced theories covered in Year 2.

Component 3
Students will select their main sport to be assessed in. This will be both in skills and drills, as well as competitive situations.

Component 4
Initially, students will analyse skills and fitness components in their chosen sport. Students will then plan and undertake a 6 - 8 week training program. They will focus on a component of fitness of their sing, and will be assessed on their planning and analysis of their program.

The ideal candidate to study GCE PE should have an extensive background in sport. They should have studied GCSE PE and regularly participate in sport both in and out of school. Much of the GCE programme involves the students needing to train effectively so being self-motivated to develop performances is essential. A passion for the subject and sport is a key facilitator for students to achieve well in this subject. A good level of written English and the ability to synthesise opinion from evidence is important to access the top marks.

“Studying PE has allowed me to follow my dream of doing a degree in London where I hope to become a physiotherapist.”

Isaac R



Beyond the Curriculum

Sixth Form Enrichment

In an increasingly competitive world, we understand the importance of helping to develop well rounded individuals who can set themselves apart from the crowd, and who will be able to achieve and surpass their ambitions. The process of preparing for life after King's College begins at the start of Year 12. Students are encouraged to seek opportunities to demonstrate their skills, abilities and personal strengths through engagement in activities outside the classroom.

All students in Years 12 and 13 are expected to participate in our Activities Programme. Students will be able to choose from a range of activities which in the past have included a variety of sports, Duke of Edinburgh International Award, volunteering, practical activities and workshops covering a variety of skills and topics. They will all also be expected to undertake some work experience during their time in our Sixth Form.

We hold or attend talks on and by universities and invite speakers to talk about careers or topical issues. Enrichment activities are one thing that admissions tutors at university all agree help them differentiate between otherwise excellently qualified students. By putting our students into contact with other excellent schools, top universities and leading national and international enterprises, we aim to reinforce their confidence so that they can aim high in whatever career and life choices they decide upon.

In an ever increasingly competitive field, universities are looking for students with extra and additional qualities beyond that of their A Level results. It is very important that all Sixth Form students take part in voluntary community work, work placements, enrichment activities and school events. All of these can be added to their personal statements for application through UCAS and other organisations.

It is with this in mind, that we provide the opportunities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The Head of Sixth Form also provides regular careers and university guidance programmes on an individual and group basis throughout the two years.

Duke of Edinburgh

Participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme continues to grow among our student body, with multiple D of E training weekends and expeditions across all three levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold) scheduled to take place this academic year.

“Doing your D of E is the best way to learn about the most important thing... you!”

Mrs Bengtsson
D of E Coordinator



Leadership

The school House System affords students the opportunity to display leadership and organisational qualities. Each of the four houses (Churchill, Cervantes, Gaudí & Newton) has House Captains. They are elected by peers and staff and have responsibility to organise and lead teams for House events and competitions. In addition students from Year 13 are elected as Head Boy/Girl. There will also be the opportunity to apply for a position of a prefect which will give the opportunity to contribute to the school community.

At the start of each academic year we hold an election process for our prefect body and positions of leadership within the Pupil Voice structure. All Sixth Form candidates go through an application process, culminating in students and teachers voting on their joining the prefect group.

Pupil Voice meetings provide a discussion forum for school community issues. Academic support and primary assistance is invaluable to students lower down the school, as are the Buddy and House systems. The Sixth Form organise fundraising events for the school's designated charities, and there are also opportunities to help in the organisation and direction of our yearly stage shows. Student leaders are also attached to the younger year groups so that all pupils can contribute to our thriving school community.

“Attitudes to learning are excellent and pupils take increasing responsibility for their own learning.”

ISI Inspection, 2015

Frequently Asked Questions

What if two of my subject choices are in the same column?

We aim to enable as many students as possible to take their first choice subjects. Students are asked to make provisional choices before option blocks are drawn up, in the second term of Year 11. This allows option blocks to be created in response to student choices. Obviously it is impossible for every student to be guaranteed their first choice but, on the whole, most students are happy with their final AS options at the beginning of Year 12.

How can I choose my subjects when I don't know what I want to do in the future?

Many students claim that they know what degree course they want to pursue only to change their minds the following year. Although it is useful to have a clear idea it is much better to study subjects that you enjoy and that you can do well at. Knowing your strengths and weaknesses and making decisions that are informed and realistic is part of being a Sixth Form student. If you are not good at Maths and Science then aiming for a career in Medicine would be foolish, however attractive the prestige of being a doctor seems. In short, know your strengths and play to them!

Can I do an extra AS course in Year 13?

It may be possible to pick up an AS subject in Year 13 depending on the timetable. However, you must think carefully about your suitability to begin a new subject, and you must also consider that Year 13 is a pressurised final year in which you not only have to complete your A2 courses, but also make informed decisions about your future plans. Consequently, you will need to ask yourself whether you have the time to pick up another subject and whether your A2 grades will suffer as a result.

Can I take an A level in a subject I have not studied at GCSE?

Some students have successfully completed A-Level subjects that they have not studied previously, although the decision to do so is one which must be considered carefully in consultation with the appropriate Head of Department. The final outcome, however, is decided at your enrolment interview.

Can I change courses during the academic year?

Making informed and carefully considered choices before you choose your A Level courses is crucial and that is why you will be asked to attend an interview with your parents before the term begins. Any change beyond this stage is not recommended.

How much harder are A levels than (I)GCSEs?

The 'A' in A Level stands for advanced, so all subjects at this level are challenging. Many students undergo a period of transition in the first couple of months of Year 12. All staff, however, are aware of this and can help you develop your expertise within that subject. Obviously the higher your GCSE result the easier you will find an Advanced Level course. Having to cope with disappointments is something that we have to face sometime in our lives. Crucially all students are encouraged to have a 'plan B'. If this fails, careers staff will be able to advise you regarding possible options.

If you have any questions that are not answered here, please contact us and we will be happy to answer them for you.

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