



**ST NICHOLAS  
CATHOLIC  
SIXTH FORM**

# YOUR FUTURE FIRST

**SIXTH FORM 2024 ENTRY  
COURSE INFORMATION**



## **ART & DESIGN**

### **A- Level - AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Art Grade 4 or above.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

##### **YEAR 1 - AN INTRODUCTORY COURSE**

Students are introduced to research skills and how to independently develop ideas to form the foundation of later work. Work will be developed in response to a theme, issue, interest or concern.

##### **YEAR 2 - COMPONENT 1 - PERSONAL INVESTIGATION.**

This is a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material of between 1000 and 3000 words. The focus of the investigation is identified independently by the student and will lead to a finished outcome. The investigation must be informed by an aspect of contemporary or past practice of artists, designers or craftspeople - 60%

##### **YEAR 2 - COMPONENT 2 - EXTERNALLY SET ASSIGNMENT**

Students will select a starting point from a choice of eight questions set by the exam board. They will then complete a preparation period of work which may include mounted sheets, design sheets, sketchbooks, journals, models and maquettes. Following the preparatory period, students will complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time, in which they will produce a finished outcome. Students complete the unit of work plus a 15 hour exam - 40%

For further information, contact Mrs V McEvoy

**"I'M SO GLAD I CHOSE ART FOR A-LEVEL. I TOOK IT FOR GCSE AND INITIALLY I WAS SCARED I WOULDN'T FEEL THE SAME ABOUT IT!! IT'S SO MUCH FUN AND EVERY LESSON WE EXPLORE A NEW TYPE OF ART WORKSHOP. IT IS REALLY STRENGTHENING MY CREATIVE SKILLS AND KEEPING ME REALLY INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT."**

**GABRIEL GRAINGE TO YEAR 13 STUDENT**

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

One to one support provided every lesson in a nurturing learning environment. Our Sixth form are invited to work during their free periods in their own work space within the art room. Our students work is prominently displayed around the Art department showcasing their skills. Art students have the opportunity to get involved in running clubs, mentoring younger students and assisting with our open evenings; therefore developing their communication and leadership skills.



## **BIOLOGY**

### **A-Level - AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Biology Grade 5 or GCSE Combined Science Grade 5 with a Grade 5 GCSE Mathematics.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

##### **YEAR 12**

Biological molecules, cells, organisms exchange substances with their environment and genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.

##### **YEAR 13**

Energy transfers in and between organisms, Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments, genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems and the control of gene expression.

**Paper 1** - Year 12 content (2 hours)

**Paper 2** - Year 13 content (2 hours)

**Paper 3** - Content from both years, including a synoptic essay (2 hours)

The practical content is examined on all papers & **10%** of the marks require mathematical skills.

For further information, contact Mrs C Thomas

**"I HAVE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED BIOLOGY A-LEVEL AS IT IS AN ENGROSSING SUBJECT WHICH HAS ALLOWED ME TO EXPLORE A VARIETY OF TOPICS RANGING FROM GENETICS TO ECOSYSTEMS. WE LEARN ABOUT ALL LIVING THINGS IN GREAT DEPTH WHILE BUILDING SKILLS IN RESEARCH, ANALYSIS, AND APPLICATION OF BIOLOGY TO REAL LIFE."**

EVE GAVIN, MEDICINE STUDENT

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

- Opportunities to help run dissection clubs for younger students.
- Compete in the Biology Olympiad.
- Field work day.
- Scheduled drop-in sessions to benefit from extra support and challenge from their experienced A Level Biology teachers.



## **BUSINESS STUDIES**

### **A-Level – AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Grade 4 or above in a Business related subject.  
If not studied previously, GCSE English Language or Literature at Grade 4 or above.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

- Understanding of the nature and purpose of business
- Understanding of different business forms
- Managers, leadership and decision making
- Understanding of the role and importance of stakeholders
- Marketing and analysing marketing performance
- Operations and analysing operational performance
- Finance and analysing financial performance
- Analysing the strategic position of a business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- Managing strategic change

There are three external examination papers, all equally weighted at 33% each. The examination consist of multiple choice, short answer and data response questions based on stimuli and longer answer essay questions.

For further information, contact Mrs M Smart

**“EVERY JOB YOU GET WILL BE A BUSINESS OF SOME SORT, NO MATTER WHAT THE INDUSTRY. WE HAVE VERY SUPPORTIVE TEACHERS THAT PROVIDE ENGAGING LESSONS THAT PUSH YOU. YOU WILL BE GIVEN THE SKILLS REQUIRED AND MORE TO SUCCEED IN YOUR CHOSEN CAREER.”**

EVAN MITCHELL - DEGREE LEVEL APPRENTICESHIP WITH MORRISONS

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

Students have the opportunity to take part in the following:

- Student Investor Challenge – you can buy and sell shares on the stock exchange.
- Educational visits - such as Bentley.
- Guest lectures from industry speakers.



# CHEMISTRY

## A-Level - AQA

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Chemistry Grade 5 or GCSE Combined Science both Grade 5 with a Grade 5 GCSE Mathematics.

### WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

#### YEAR 1

**Organic Chemistry** - 'Introduction to organic chemistry, alkanes and halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols, organic analysis.

**Physical Chemistry** - Atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria & Le Chatelier's principle and oxidation, reduction and redox

**Inorganic Chemistry** - Periodicity, Group 2- the alkaline earth metals and Group 7 (17), the halogens

#### YEAR 2

**Organic Chemistry** - Optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and esters, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis, nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and chromatography.

**Physical Chemistry** - Thermodynamics, rate equations, equilibrium constant  $K_c$ , electrode potentials & electrochemical cells and acids & bases

**Inorganic Chemistry** - Properties of period 3 elements and their oxides, transition metals and reactions of ions in aqueous solutions.

There will be three, two hour examinations covering the content and practical skills learned during the course.

For further information, contact Mr T Brown

**"I HAVE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED STUDYING A LEVEL CHEMISTRY AT ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM. A LEVEL CHEMISTRY HAS ALLOWED ME TO STUDY THE WORLD AT A MOLECULAR LEVEL. THE APPLICATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT CHEMISTRY GIVES SEEMS TO BE ENDLESS AND THE SKILLS LEARNT CAN BE APPLIED TO A PLETHORA OF INDUSTRIES."**

LUKE DEEGAN, YEAR 13 STUDENT

#### ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:

- Visits to a chemical facility where they experience how Chemistry is used on a large scale in industry.
- UK Chemistry Olympiad; this is a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further, develop critical problem-solving skills, learn to think more creatively and get a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations.
- Scheduled drop-in sessions to benefit from extra support and challenge from their experienced A Level Chemistry teachers.



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

## A-Level - OCR

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Computer Science at Grade 4 or above. If not studied previously, GCSE Mathematics at Grade 4 or above. In addition to these basic entry requirements all students looking to take Computer Science at A Level would benefit from deepening their computer programming skills in preparation for the course.

### WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

#### YEAR 1

**Computing principles** - This serves as an introduction to computer science covering a variety of topics allowing students to understand the basics of how computers work.

**Algorithms and problem solving component** - This relates principally to problem solving skills and will cover elements of computational thinking Problem solving and programming and Algorithms.

#### YEAR 2

**Computer systems** - This builds on the topics studied in computing principles in Year 1, allowing the students to gain a deeper understanding of the topics. (Years 1 and 2 – external examination).

**Algorithms and programming** - This builds on algorithms and problem solving studied in year 1. Students will further develop their problem solving skills learning to think algorithmically. (Years 1 and 2 – external examination).

**Programming project** - Students undertake a programming project to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have gained. Students are able to set their own brief for the project. (Internally marked and externally moderated project).

For further information, contact Mr I Hanson

**“ALL OF MY FRIENDS WHO HAVE YOUNGER SIBLINGS WHO ARE GOING TO COLLEGE OR HIGH SCHOOL - MY NUMBER ONE PIECE OF ADVICE IS: YOU SHOULD LEARN HOW TO PROGRAM.”**

MARK ZUCKERBERG

#### ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:

Students will have the opportunity to visit an organisation that uses Computer Science as part of their daily operations. This allows the students to see where the qualification could take them. In the past we have visited the Jaguar Land Rover factory.



## **DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (PRODUCT DESIGN)**

### **A-Level AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Product Design Grade 4.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

Product Design encompasses the science behind materials, maths behind basic engineering as well as core practical skills. Within this course you will learn about the social, ethical and moral decisions designers and engineers face as well as investigating materials and their properties. There is a substantial design and make project within year 13 and students will refine their practical skills throughout year 12.

#### **STUDENTS WILL BE EXAMINED BY:**

**Exam (1):** Based upon technical principals. It is a 2.5 hour exam and is worth 30% of the A-Level

**Exam (2):** Based upon design and make principals. It is a 1.5 hour exam and is worth 20% of the A-Level

**Non-Exam assessment:** Substantial design and make project. It is worth 50% of the A-Level.

For further information, contact Mrs R Pacitti

**“IN A VERY REAL WAY, DESIGNERS CREATE THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT; THEY MAKE THE THINGS WE USE, THE PLACES WE LIVE AND WORK, OUR MODES OF COMMUNICATION AND MOBILITY. SIMPLY PUT, DESIGN MATTERS. AND AT A MOMENT IN OUR HISTORY IN WHICH THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY HAS ISSUED SERIOUS WARNINGS ABOUT THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF OUR FLAWED DESIGNS-FROM GLOBAL WARMING AND WATER POLLUTION TO THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES-DESIGNERS HAVE A CRITICAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THE CREATION OF A MORE JUST, HEALTHFUL AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD.”**

**WILLIAM MCDONOUGH**

**IN OMNIBUS LABORA**

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

Students are given one-to-one help during lunch time and after school sessions as well as access to extensive workshop and IT facilities.



## **ECONOMICS**

### **A-Level - AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Grade 4 or above in a Business related subject. If not previously studied, GCSE Maths Grade 4 or above.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

- What is economics and the economic problem?
- Price determination in a competitive market
- Production, costs and revenue
- Competitive and concentrated markets
- The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets
- Economic performance
- Macroeconomic policy
- The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
- The national and international economy

There are three externally assessed exams each worth 33% of the overall grade. Across all of the exam papers there are a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, data response and essay questions. There are also extended writing questions based on an unseen case study.

For further information, contact Mrs M Smart

**“ECONOMICS ALLOWS YOU TO GAIN AN INSIGHT INTO THE OPERATIONS AND METHODS BEHIND THE TRANSACTIONS OCCURRING DAILY IN OUR SOCIETY, AND THE EFFECT THAT THEY HAVE ON BOTH US AS INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE”**

CHARLOTTE LANGTON - DEGREE LEVEL APPRENTICESHIP WITH DELOITTE

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

Students have the opportunity to take part in the following:

- Student Investor Challenge – you can buy and sell shares on the stock exchange.
- Educational visits - such as The Institute of Economic Affairs.
- Guest lectures from industry speakers and the Bank of England.





# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

## A-Level – AQA

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE English Language Grade 4 or above.

### WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

#### IN YEAR 1, STUDENTS WILL LEARN:

- How meaning and representation are conveyed through language in a variety of texts
- How language theories and frameworks can be applied to different texts
- How language changes in different contexts, including spoken and written contexts, and across different social groups
- How to write in a journalistic style; how to write in a formal, academic style
- How to conduct a language investigation

#### IN YEAR 2, STUDENTS WILL LEARN:

- How meaning and representation are conveyed through language in a variety of texts
- How language changes over time
- How babies and children acquire both spoken and written language
- How language changes across the globe
- How to write in a journalistic style; how to write in a formal, academic style

The course is assessed by terminal examination (80% of the marks; two 2 ½ hour examinations in year 13) In Year 2 students will also collect data on a language-related subject, chosen independently, and create their own language investigation as well as produce a piece of original writing, which together make up the Non-Examined Assessment, worth 20% of the A Level.

For further information, contact Mr D Huws

**“LANGUAGE SHAPES THE WAY WE THINK, AND DETERMINES  
WHAT WE CAN THINK ABOUT.”**

**BENJAMIN LEE WHORF – 20TH CENTURY LINGUIST**

#### ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:

We arrange trips outside school, for example, to Manchester, to attend Sixth Form Study Days. The English Department offers theatre trips, as well as the opportunity to hear visiting speakers and take part in speaking competitions like the Rotary's Club's "Youth Speaks". Students studying A Levels in the English Department are also invited to mentor younger students and help them to develop their reading and writing skills.



## **ENGLISH LITERATURE**

### **A-Level - AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE English Literature Grade 4 or above.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

##### **IN YEAR 1, STUDENTS WILL STUDY:**

- A play by Shakespeare, such as Othello or Measure for Measure
- An anthology of pre-1900 poems
- A modern novel, such as The Great Gatsby or Atonement
- A range of extracts from novels, learning how to apply an analytic framework to them

##### **IN YEAR 2, STUDENTS WILL STUDY:**

- A prose text, such as The Handmaid's Tale or Regeneration
- A drama text, such as A Streetcar Named Desire or The Wiper's Times
- A poetry text, such as collections by Sylvia Plath or Wilfred Owen

The course is assessed by terminal examination (80% of the marks; one 3 hour exam and one 2 ½ hour exam in year 13). In Year 2, students also write their Non-Examined Assessment, an extended essay comparing two texts from a point of view in which the students themselves are particularly interested worth the final 20%.

For further information, contact Mr D Huws

**"LITERATURE IS WHERE I GO TO EXPLORE THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST PLACES IN HUMAN SOCIETY AND IN THE HUMAN SPIRIT, WHERE I HOPE TO FIND NOT ABSOLUTE TRUTH BUT THE TRUTH OF THE TALE, OF THE IMAGINATION AND OF THE HEART."**

**SALMAN RUSHDIE**

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

We also arrange trips, for example, to Manchester, to attend Sixth Form Study Days. The English Department offers theatre trips, as well as the opportunity to hear visiting speakers and take part in speaking competitions like the Rotary's Club's "Youth Speaks". Students studying A Levels in the English Department are also invited to mentor younger students and help them to develop their reading and writing skills.

**"FRENCH A-LEVEL IS A REALLY INTERESTING COURSE; IT COVERS A WIDE RANGE OF ENGAGING TOPICS FROM MUSIC TO FRENCH POLITICS." THE INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT GIVES YOU SO MUCH FREEDOM TO DIVE DEEP INTO YOUR FAVOURITE TOPICS. THE BOOK THAT WE STUDY, 'NO ET MOI', IS FANTASTIC, AND THE FILM, 'LA HAINE', GIVES A THOUGHT-PROVOKING AND FASCINATING INSIGHT INTO HIDDEN FRENCH SOCIETY."**



**ST NICHOLAS  
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WILL ROBERTS STUDYING MODERN LANGUAGES AND MUSIC AT UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

## **FRENCH**

### **A-Level – AQA**

Languages are all around us, we live in a multilingual global society. Choosing an A Level language is a really good decision if you want a fascinating subject that offers you a range of career options and a lot of fun along the way. Language courses are interesting and varied and they give you a broad range of knowledge and transferable skills.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE 5 or above in GCSE French. If not previously studied at GCSE but French is a second language to you and/or you are at the equivalent level to GCSE 5 or above, this would also allow you access to the course.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

Course content: The following themes will be covered:

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends: The changing nature of family, Cyber society, The place of voluntary work.
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues: Positive features of a diverse society, Life for the marginalised, How criminals are treated.
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world: A culture proud of its heritage, Contemporary Francophone music, Cinema: the 7th art form.
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world: Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment, Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power?, Politics and immigration.

#### **SPEAKING ASSESSMENT (30%) 16-18 MINUTES.**

**Task 1** is a presentation of an independent research project (2 minutes) followed by a discussion (9-10 minutes).

**Task 2** is a discussion based on a stimulus card (5 minutes preparation followed by 5-6 minutes discussion).

#### **LISTENING, READING AND TRANSLATION – (50%) 2HRS 30 MINUTES**

#### **CRITICAL RESPONSE IN WRITING (20%)**

Two hour examination comprising of two essay questions, one based on the novel No et Moi and one based on the film La Haine.

For further information, contact Mrs L McAleenan

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

- There are opportunities to do work experience in France and we offer a study tour to Paris.
- Links with Manchester University are in place and enrichment days are offered



## **GEOGRAPHY**

### **A-Level - Edexcel**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Geography Grade 4 or above, If not studied previously a Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

##### **YEAR 1**

- Tectonics Processes and Hazards
- Coastal Landscapes and change
- Globalisation
- Superpowers

##### **YEAR 2**

- Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
- Diverse Places
- Migration, Identity & Sovereignty.

Unit 1 Dynamic Landscapes	2 hours 15 mins exam	30%
Unit 2 Dynamic Places	2 hours 15 mins exam	30%
Unit 3 Synoptic Investigation	1hr 45mins exam	20%
Unit 4 Coursework (Year 2)	3-4000 word report	20%

For further information, contact Mrs L Bashford

**"STUDYING GEOGRAPHY AT ST NICHOLAS WAS ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS OF MY LIFE. THE ATTENTION TO DETAIL TAKEN BY TEACHERS, ESPECIALLY AT A LEVEL, MAKES STUDENTS FEEL ON TOP OF THEIR WORK. ALSO, THE LESSONS TAUGHT ARE ENGAGING AND MAKE YOU THINK CRITICALLY, ALLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRANSFERABLE SKILLS WHICH CAN BE USED OUTSIDE OF THE SUBJECT TOO. IF YOU FEEL OUT OF DEPTH OR DON'T UNDERSTAND A CONCEPT, MEMBERS OF STAFF ARE EASY TO APPROACH AND WILL ALWAYS TRY TO AID YOU TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITY."**

BELLA MANFREDI CURRENTLY STUDYING GEOGRAPHY AT CAMBRIDGE

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

**Fieldtrips** - there is a minimum of 4 days of fieldwork in a local area required as part of Unit 4 (NEA). The skills you learn will then be applied to your own data collection for your independent investigation.

**Subject Enhancement Lectures** – as we are members of the Geographical Association we are regularly invited to attend subject enhancement lectures at Manchester Metropolitan University.



# HISTORY

## A- Level – AQA

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE History Grade 4 or above. If not previously studied, GCSE English Literature Grade 4 .

### WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

#### YEAR 1

**Component 1** - Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603 – 1649.

Absolutism challenged 1603-1649

**Component 2** - Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia, 1917 – 1929

The Russian Revolution and the Rise of Stalin 1917 – 1929

**Component 3** - Start Historical investigation on a topic of your choice on African American History

#### YEAR 2

**Component 1** - Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1649 – 1702

Monarchy restored and restrained 1649-1702

**Component 2** - Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia, 1929 – 1953 Stalin's Rule 1929-1953

**Component 3** - Complete Historical investigation on a topic of your choice on African American History

**Component 1** = Written exam, 2 hours 30 minutes

**Component 2** = Written exam, 2 hours 30 minutes

**Component 3** = 4,500 word max. teacher assessed essay

For further information, contact Mr D Whipp

**"A LEVEL HISTORY HAS HELPED ME TO LEARN ABOUT THE PAST AND HOW IT AFFECTS US TODAY. THE SMALL CLASS SIZES ALLOWS INTERESTING DEBATES, IMPROVING MY CONFIDENCE WITH SPEAKING IN PUBLIC. THE COURSEWORK ENABLES ME TO INDEPENDENTLY DELVE INTO A TOPIC I ENJOY, HELPING ME BETTER PREPARE FOR UNIVERSITY EXAMS AND ESSAYS."**

POPPY HAZLEHURST - FIRST YEAR HISTORY STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HULL

#### ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:

We have a specialist A Level room and a departmental library. We offer one to one Oxbridge preparation. We have our own History society, and provide guidance and advice about going on to study at University. We give you the choice of which historical enquiry to study. We have built the course to ensure that you are a rounded Historian, and not repeating what you have done at GCSE makes you more attractive to admissions tutors.



## **LAW**

### **A-Level - AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE English Language or Literature at Grade 4 or above.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

Law affects virtually all aspects of our lives and regulates much of our every day activity. During the course students will study criminal and civil law and develop their ability to analyse legal rules and principles and factual issues. Students will construct persuasive legal arguments to offer answers to problems and evaluate the strength of those arguments. Success in the subject will require students to take an interest in current legal affairs, to read widely and write in a clear and concise manner. A good memory is essential because there are a lot of cases to remember. A commitment to progress your study outside the classroom must also be assumed.

#### **COURSE OUTLINE**

**English Legal System** - this includes a study of:

- The criminal courts and the role of magistrates and the jury in criminal trials.
- The way judges interpret Acts of Parliament, e.g. are prostitutes soliciting "in" the street if they are calling out of a window?
- Delegated legislation e.g. is a local authority allowed to try to stop people singing obscene songs in private?
- Legal personnel including barristers, solicitors, legal executives and judges.

**Criminal Law** - general elements of liability including:

- The offences of assault, battery and grievous bodily harm, together with sentences a defendant may receive.
- The offences of murder, manslaughter and defences which could be raised, e.g. self-defence, consent.
- The offences of theft and robbery.

**Civil Law** - knowledge and understanding of private law including:

- Liability in negligence for injury to people and damage to property.
- Topics such as nuisance, vicarious liability and medical negligence.
- The rules of the law of contract, including warranties and conditions and breach of contract.

#### **ASSESSMENT**

No Coursework

Examination (100%) – There will be 3 papers at the end of the course which will include multiple choice questions, short answer questions and questions requiring students to construct persuasive legal arguments to answer a problem scenario.

For further information, contact Mrs M Smart

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

Students take part in mock trials and have met with Magistrates. Students are fully supported in reading around the subject.

**"TAKING MATHS HAS HELPED IN NOT ONLY MY SCIENCE SUBJECTS, BUT HAS GIVEN ME A SUBJECT WITH A DIFFERENT STYLE OF LEARNING TO BREAK UP ALL MY OTHER SUBJECTS."**

RACHEL PULLAN YEAR 13 STUDENT



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## **MATHEMATICS**

### **A Level Mathematics Edexcel**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** A Level Mathematics Edexcel - Students will need a grade 6 or above at GCSE.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

##### **YEAR 1/AS PURE MATHEMATICS**

**Topics include:** Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, vectors

##### **YEAR 1/AS APPLICATIONS**

**Section A: Statistics** - Statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, statistical hypothesis testing

**Section B: Mechanics** - Quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws

##### **YEAR 2 PURE MATHEMATICS**

Extend the methods of year 1, with the addition of numerical methods, modulus functions, inverse and composite functions, parametric equations, arithmetic and geometric sequences, advanced trigonometry, advanced calculus, vectors in three-dimensions.

##### **YEAR 2 APPLICATIONS**

**Section A: Statistics** - Extension of year 1 methods, with the addition of conditional probability, normal distribution, non-linear regression and further hypothesis testing.

**Section B: Mechanics** - Extension of year 1 methods, with the addition of projectiles, friction and moments.

Three exams at the end of Year 13 each 2 hours long. Two papers will cover the pure maths content and the third paper will cover the applications.

For further information, contact Mrs H Yeates

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

Students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities. These include UKMT Senior Challenge, UKMT Senior Team Challenge and University of Southampton Cipher Challenge. Lunchtime clubs are available for Problem Solving and there is a comprehensive program of support for students sitting MAT or Step exams for Oxford or Cambridge entrance.



## **FURTHER MATHEMATICS**

### **AS/A Level –Edexcel**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Edexcel Students will need a grade 8 or above at GCSE. They also need to take A Level Mathematics.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

##### **YEAR 1/AS CORE PURE MATHEMATICS 1**

Proof by induction, complex numbers, matrices, series, further calculus, vectors and planes.

##### **YEAR 1/AS OPTIONAL MODULES**

There are a number of optional modules in A level further maths. At St Nicholas' we study the following.

**Decision 1** - Algorithms and graph theory, algorithms on graphs, critical path analysis, linear programming

**Further Pure 1** – Vector products, conic sections, t-formulae, numerical methods for differential equations.

##### **YEAR 2 CORE PURE MATHEMATICS 2**

Further complex numbers, method of differences, further calculus, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations.

##### **YEAR 2 OPTIONS**

**Decision 1** - The planarity algorithm, the travelling salesman problem, the simplex algorithm, further critical path analysis.

**Further Pure 1** – Further conic sections, Taylor series, further methods in calculus and limits, numerical integration, reducible differential equations.

Four exams at the end of Year 13 each 90 minutes long. Two papers will cover the Core Pure maths content and there is one paper for each of the optional modules.

For further information, contact Mrs H Yeates

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

Comprehensive program of support and preparation for students sitting University entrance exams, including Mathematics Aptitude Test (MAT – Oxford), Test of Mathematics for University Admission (TMUA – Warwick + others) or Sixth Term Examination Paper (STEP – Cambridge), as well as for other maths related courses such as the Physics Aptitude Test (PAT) and BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT). Students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities. These include UKMT Senior Challenge, UKMT Senior Team Challenge and University of Southampton Cipher Challenge.





## **MUSIC**

### **A-Level - EDUQAS**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** 4 or above at GCSE level or an equivalent standard on your instrument.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

##### **PERFORMING:**

**YEAR 1 -** Working towards a performance of 2 pieces (Grade 5 standard or above) Year 2 Working towards a performance of 3 pieces (grade 6 or above).

##### **COMPOSITION**

**YEAR 1 -** Studying a variety of composition techniques and devices and completing one composition to a brief set by the candidate.

**YEAR 2 -** One further composition completed during this year (if choosing 25% composition) OR two further compositions completed this year (if choosing 35% composition).

##### **APPRAISING EXAM**

**YEAR 1 -** Study of the Development of the Symphony and a choice of Rock and Pop, Musical Theatre or Jazz. **This second option will be chosen according to the strengths of the students.**

**YEAR 2 -** Further in depth study of areas outlined above and either **Into the 20th Century** or **Into the 21st Century**.

**Component 1: Performing (35% or 25%)** - Non-exam assessment, externally assessed between March and May by a visiting examiner.

**Component 2: Composing (35% or 25%)** - Non-exam assessment, externally assessed.

**Component 3: Appraising (40%)** - Listening and appraising exam - 2 hours 15 minutes.

For further information, contact Mrs H McKenna

**"MUSIC IS TRULY THE MOST DIVERSE DISCIPLINE OF STUDY; THROUGH ITS EYES YOU LEARN ABOUT PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY AND ECONOMICS...BY STUDYING MUSIC, YOU STUDY HUMANITY."**

CHARLIE POTTS SNCHS 2012-2019, CURRENTLY STUDYING MUSIC AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

Students will be offered the opportunity to perform in both small recitals and larger scale concerts throughout the year in a variety of venues. We will encourage A level students to take part in our Music Tour abroad and perform in a completely different setting. We will arrange visits to concerts by professional orchestras and ensembles which will help secure the understanding of the variety of styles studied for the appraising exam.



## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **A-Level – OCR**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Grade 4 at GCSE Sports Science. If not previously studied students need at least a Grade 4 in Additional Science. Students must be proficient in ONE practical area from the Department for Education list of approved sports. Please ask if you are unsure.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

- 70% - External examination based upon the theory.
- 30% - Practical Assessment.

#### **COMPONENT 1: PHYSIOLOGICAL FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE**

Focuses on key systems of the human body involved in movement and physical activity and the changes within these systems prior to, during & after exercise.

#### **COMPONENT 2: PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE**

Focuses on the psychological factors affecting physical activities and sports, including: theories that affect learning and performance in physical activities; training and feedback; group dynamics and goal setting. Students will gain an understanding of the psychological factors that influence performance in sport.

#### **COMPONENT 3: SOCIO-CULTURAL AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES**

Focuses on the sociological and contemporary factors that influence and affect physical activity and sport including: society & culture; the Olympic movement and modern technology.

#### **COMPONENT 4: PERFORMANCE WITHIN PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Candidates** perform or coach a sport or activity from the approved DfE list  
Candidates complete an Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement (EAPI) where learners will identify and justify the major area of weakness within the performance to prioritise for improvement. This will include a proposed long term (2-3 months) development plan to improve the area of performance identified.

For further information, contact Mrs N Simms

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

The Physical Education Department is a successful and vibrant part of the school. It offers all sixth formers the opportunity to take part in both competitive and recreational sport every Wednesday afternoon. Sixth formers can contribute to the school and wider community through leadership, officiating and organisation roles with the lower school in a variety of sports. This can add tremendous value to any applications such as UCAS Forms, apprenticeships, internships and personal statements.



## **PHYSICS**

### **A-Level – AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Physics Grade 5 or GCSE Combined Science both Grade 5, GCSE Maths 5 or above.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

##### **YEAR 1**

Measurements and their errors, particles and radiation, mechanics and materials, waves, and electricity.

##### **YEAR 2**

Further mechanics and thermal physics, fields and their consequences, nuclear physics and turning points in physics.

There will be three, two hour examinations covering the content and practical skills learned during the course. Each exam approx. 33%;

Practical work is used extensively to allow understanding of theoretical concepts of how our universe works.

For further information, contact Mr C Povey

**"I HAVE ENJOYED STUDYING PHYSICS AT ST NICHOLAS BECAUSE ALL THE STAFF ARE APPROACHABLE AND ALWAYS OFFER THEIR TIME TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS."**

NOAH MARTIN - FIRST YEAR CHEMISTRY STUDENT AT LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

A three day Trip to CERN to see particle physics accelerator; have a lecture and see Geneva; UK Physics Olympiad; this is a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further, develop critical problem-solving skills, learn to think more creatively and get a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations.



# **PSYCHOLOGY**

## **A-Level – AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** At least GCSE Grade 4 in Mathematics.

### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

In Psychology there are 3 examined units; each lasts 2 hours and account for one third of the A-level qualification.

#### **YEAR 1**

**Social Influence:** Students learn about how people influence the behaviour of others. Topics include: explanations for conformity, conformity to social roles, explanations for obedience, resisting obedience and conformity, the role of social influence processes in social change.

**Memory:** Students learn different theories about memory and forgetting. Students will also learn about the real-life area of eye-witness testimony and how factors such as misleading information can reduce accuracy of recall.

**Attachment:** Students learn about how relationships in early childhood impact on development later in life. Topics include: the role of the father, animal studies of attachment, cultural variations in attachment, effects of institutionalisation, Romanian orphan studies.

**Psychopathology:** Psychopathology is the study of psychological disorders. Within this topic students learn about how different psychologists explain and treat obsessive compulsive disorder, phobias and depression.

**Approaches:** Students learn about the different psychological perspectives including: the biological approach, the cognitive approach, the behaviourist approach, the humanistic approach and Freud's psychodynamic approach.

#### **YEAR 2**

**Biopsychology:** Students learn about how the physiology of the body affects the mind and behaviour. Topics include: the divisions of the nervous system, the structure and function of neurons, the function of the endocrine system, the fight or flight response, circadian rhythms.

**Issues and Debates:** Students learn about the key arguments that psychologists have about the causes of behaviour, for example: nature vs nurture, freewill vs determinism, holism vs reductionism.

**Gender:** Students learn different perspectives exploring the theory that females and males behave differently. For example: hormones and chromosomes, Freud's psychoanalytic theory, the influence of the media, and causes of atypical gender dysphoria.

**Stress:** Students learn about the effect of stress on an individual's physical and psychological well-being. Topics include: the physiology of stress, the role of stress in illness, managing stress.

**Addiction:** Students learn explanations of and treatment for addictive behaviour. Topics include: the biological explanation of nicotine addiction, the cognitive theory of gambling, biological and psychological treatments for addiction.

#### **YEAR 1 AND 2 RESEARCH METHODS**

Research Methods is a fundamental part of A Level Psychology and is taught across both years of the course. Within this topic students learn how to conduct and evaluate their own psychological research, and use statistical tests to analyse data. Methods include: experiments, observations, questionnaires and interviews.

For further information, contact Mrs K Crowe

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

- Drop-in sessions are offered by the department continuously throughout the year, especially to support those who may require extra help with their mathematical and research method skills as part of the course.



## **RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

### **A-Level - OCR**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Religious Studies Grade 4 or above. If not previously studied, GCSE English Language Grade 4 or above.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

##### **YEAR 1**

**Philosophy of Religion** - Ancient Philosophical influences, the nature of the soul, mind and body, arguments about the existence of God, religious experience, the problem of evil.

**Religion and Ethics** - Religious approaches, ethical theories, applied ethics.

**Developments in Christian religious thought** - Death and the afterlife, Jesus Christ, moral principles.

##### **YEAR 2**

**Philosophy of Religion** - Theological and philosophical developments, religious language.

**Religion and Ethics** - Meta-ethics, the conscience, sexual ethics, developments in ethical thought.

**Developments in Christian religious thought** - Christianity in society, liberation theology.

Students will sit three, two hour exams at the end of Year 2. Throughout the year, students will be monitored closely and their progress will be tracked through timed essays, internal exams and homework. Students are expected to read independently on a regular basis.

For further information, contact Mrs. D Freestone

**“PHILOSOPHY ALLOWS YOU TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE IN  
AND THE RELATIONSHIPS WE HAVE WITH THE WORLD AND OTHERS AROUND US.  
IT ALLOWS YOU TO IDENTIFY YOUR VALUES.”**

YEAR 13 STUDENT 2022

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

The Religious Studies department is proud to offer a number of exciting opportunities for students. Within school, we also offer dedicated revision sessions, which are led by specialist teachers. These will prepare our students for their exams. We pride ourselves in going that extra mile to help the student achieve his/her goals and aspirations.



## **SPANISH**

### **A Level – AQA**

Languages are all around us, we live in a multilingual global society. Choosing an A Level language is a really good decision if you want a fascinating subject that offers you a range of career options and a lot of fun along the way. Language courses are interesting and varied subjects which give you a broad range of knowledge and transferable skills. Furthermore, a Modern Foreign Language can be studied with a wide range of other subjects at university such as Engineering, Law and even Medicine.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE 5 or above in GCSE Spanish. If not previously studied at GCSE but Spanish is a second language to you and/or you are at the equivalent level to GCSE 5 or above, this would also allow you access to the course.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

Course content: The following themes will be covered –

- Social issues and trends: Aspects of Hispanic society – Modern and Traditional Values, Cyberspace, Equal Rights.
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society : Immigration, Racism, Integration, Political and Artistic Culture.
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world: modern day idols, Spanish Regional Identity, Cultural Heritage.
- Aspects of political life in the Hispanic World: Today's Youth, Monarchs and Dictatorships, Popular movements.

#### **SPEAKING ASSESSMENT - (30%) 16-18 MINUTES**

**Task 1** is a presentation of an independent research project (2 minutes) followed by a discussion (9-10 minutes).

**Task 2** is a discussion based on a stimulus card (5 minutes preparation followed by 5-6 minutes discussion).

#### **LISTENING, READING AND TRANSLATION – (50%) 2HRS 30 MINUTES**

#### **CRITICAL RESPONSE IN WRITING (20%)**

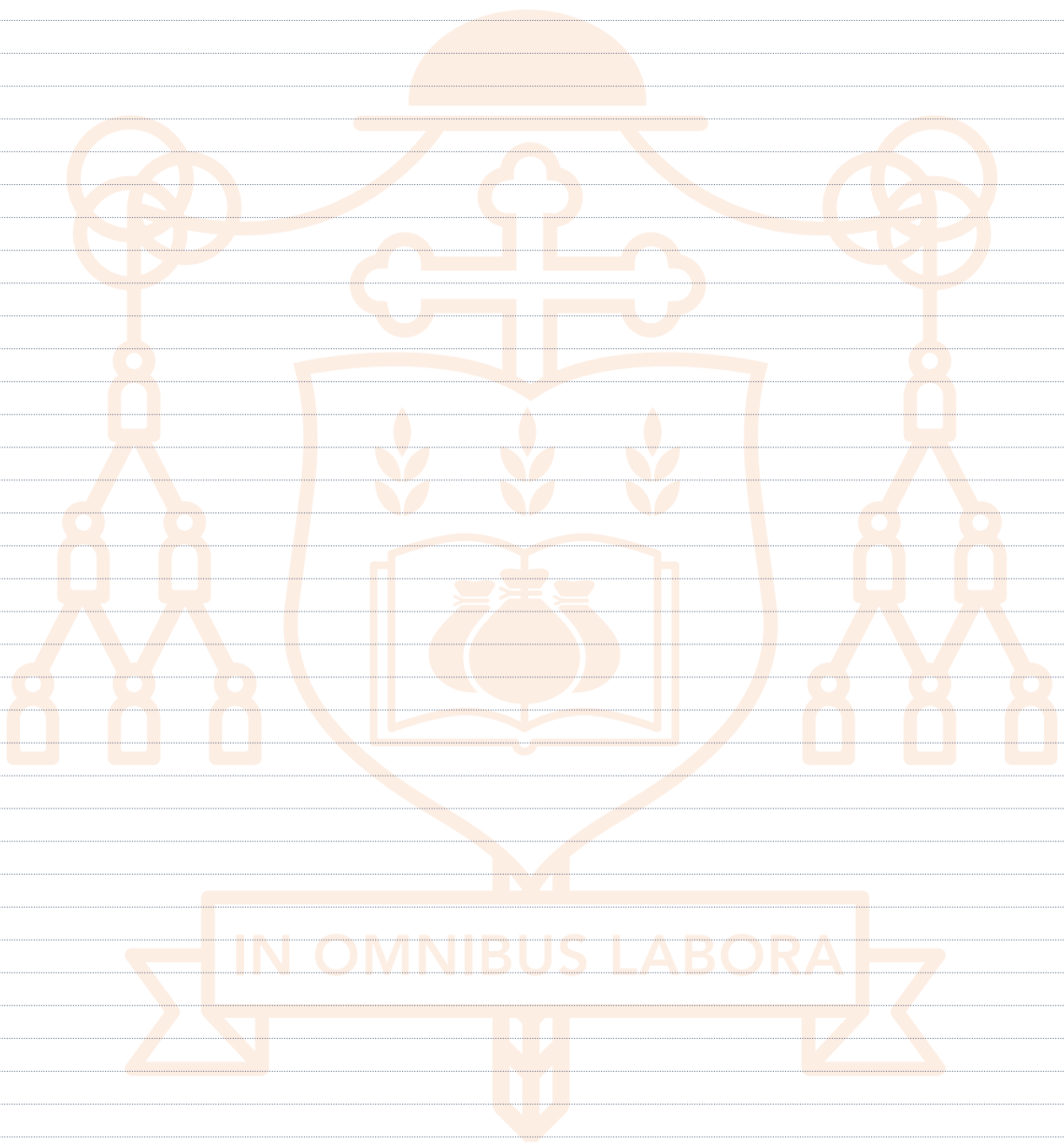
Two hour examination comprising of two essay questions, one based on the play La Casa de Bernarda Alba and one based on the film Volver.

For further information, contact Mrs C Bainbridge or Mrs L McAleenan.

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

- There are opportunities to do work experience in Spain and we offer study tours to Barcelona or Madrid.
- Regular visits to the theatre and cinema at the Royal Exchange.
- Links with Manchester University are in place and enrichment days are offered.

## NOTES:



**“ST NICHOLAS’ HAS  
GIVEN ME A GREATER  
CONFIDENCE  
AND TAUGHT  
ME LEADERSHIP  
SKILLS WHICH WILL  
UNDOUBTEDLY STAND  
ME IN GOOD STEAD  
FOR THE FUTURE.”**



**ST NICHOLAS  
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