

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve



Sixth Form Information Booklet 2024 Entry

“Students in the Sixth Form benefit from an individualised approach and achieve well” **Ofsted 2023**





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Destinations 2023

A sample of destinations for the Class of 2023

Biomedical Science – University of Warwick
Business – University of Sussex
Fine Art – Canterbury Christchurch University
Physics – Nottingham Trent University
Cyber Security – University of Bath
Geography – University of Southampton
Paramedic Science - University of Greenwich
Psychology - Kingston University
Criminology - University of Portsmouth
Geography - Royal Holloway
Psychology - University of Sussex
Criminology - Open University
Biomedical Science - University of Reading
Tailoring - University of Creative Arts (Epsom)
Biochemistry - University of Surrey
Business & Global politics - University of Sussex
Biomedical Science - University of Lincoln
Aerospace Engineering - University of Brighton
PILOT Scheme
Digital Media - King's College London
Psychology - University of Hertfordshire
Music Business - University of Brighton
Fine Art - Loughborough University
Accounting & Finance - University of Gloucestershire
Musical Theatre - BIMM Institute
Cyber Security - University of Kent
Electrical Engineering - University of Surrey
Social Work - Kingston University
Popular Music Performance - BIMM Institute
Business & Finance - University of Sussex
Law - University of Kent
Engineering - University of Nottingham
Liberal Arts - Oxford Brookes University
Business Management - University of Warwick
Sports Psychology - Canterbury Christ Church
Illustration - University of Creative Arts
Robotic Engineering - University of Sheffield
Veterinary Medicine - University of Surrey
Photography - University of Portsmouth
Zoology - University of Roehampton
Business Management - University of Roehampton
Financial Mathematics - Nottingham Trent University
Music - University of Southampton
Photography - University of Northampton
Philosophy & Engineering - University of Southampton
Fashion Marketing - University of Portsmouth
Sports Therapy - University of Kent
Biological Science - University of Westminster
Accounting & Finance - University of Surrey
Civil Engineering - University of Surrey
Aerospace Engineering - University of Surrey
Law with IB - University of Law



Charles Darwin School

Operated by the Charles Darwin Academy Trust

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH



November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Charles Darwin School has a very successful Sixth Form where students thrive both academically and socially; it offers a learning environment that is vibrant, stimulating, inspiring and challenging - providing wonderful opportunities for success.

Our students consistently achieve very well in public examinations at A Level and in equivalent vocational courses. Past students from our Sixth Form regularly go on to prestigious universities and from there to have super careers that make worthwhile contributions in wider society.

Our aim with students is to make sure that we make good use of our understanding of them as individuals, enabling them to make the best of their many talents and undoubted potential. Our approach allows students to mature and grow in confidence, secure in the knowledge that they will be well supported and guided skilfully to be the best that they can be - all according to their level of need and confidence.

During the next month or two students will begin the decision making process for the next year. The vast majority of our Year 11 choose to stay with us in the Sixth Form and will be joined by a small number of external applicants. Those who join us from other schools have found Charles Darwin to be a warm and welcoming place where settling in, making new friends and progressing with their studies is straightforward.

This prospectus has been compiled to give you an introduction to courses available here and to enable you to gain an understanding of the details necessary for making an informed choice. Once choices have been drafted each applicant will have a meeting with a senior member of staff during which the courses chosen will be confirmed. Our aim being that all will have a clear picture of what the study intentions are for next year as soon as possible.

Whilst academic study and achievement are at the centre of life at Charles Darwin Sixth Form, there is much more to it than that. Students are involved in a variety of social events, charitable fundraising schemes, debates, voluntary work, school excursions and much more. Being a Sixth Former offers more freedom and opportunities and with that comes responsibility. It is expected that all students will promote our positive values and do their utmost to enhance our good reputation, whilst of course working hard to ensure their own success.

Yours sincerely,

Aston Smith
Headteacher

A Level study

A Levels are linear courses which means in order to gain a full qualification, all examinations have to be sat at the end of their second year of A Level study.

Many A Levels are now 100% examination at the end of two years or have a percentage of coursework attached to them. This means that revision and continual work on examination skills and testing will become a vital part of A Level study.

In choosing your programme of study you must be particularly mindful of the individual subject entry requirements. Once applications are received all cases will be viewed on an individual basis and applicants may be asked to attend an enrolment meeting in August, in strict order of receipt of application, prior to being accepted into the Sixth Form and embarking upon a programme of study in September.

The general expectation is that to study in the Sixth Form pupils must have at least 5 Grade 9 - 4 at GCSE or equivalent at L2.

Independent Study

The study periods are marked on your timetable as “free”. However it means free from teaching not studying. Free periods need to be used effectively for independent learning. It is full-time education. You will be assigned times when you are allowed to make your own decision about where you study and times when you will have designated independent study periods which are roomed and supervised. Attendance at these is compulsory.

Every hour in class should produce at least another two hours of study time, research and reading.

Patterns

Everyone will develop their own patterns of independent study but the following may help you:

- Getting started is the difficult part, so don't procrastinate
- Effective time management and finding the right place to study alongside good organisation is important; make sure you have what you need with you
- Set realistic goals
- Be independent enough to move away from peers to complete work.

There are computers in the Sixth Form area, the Library and around school. However, universities still work through books and there is an increasing over-reliance on IT. Computers being unavailable should not be used as an excuse to sit and chat in free time. Plan your study time.

When studying:

Do ...

- Turn your phone off
- Focus on your own work
- Organise what you will do during your study periods
- Make sure you have everything you need with you
- Ask if you need help
- Think of the needs of others

Don't ...

- Put off work
- Waste time
- Kid yourself that endless searching on the internet is work!
- Take your lunch during a study period
- Assume that having a pen in your hand and a book open in front of you is the same as learning
- Say “I was just going to ...”
- Put others off by thoughtless chatter
- Think you can do two things at once

Staff in the Sixth Form

Each student will be assigned a form tutor who they meet with daily as part of a registration session. They will be their first point of contact for Pastoral Support.

Mrs Tracey Johnson, KS5 Pastoral Support Manager, Mr Goss, Assistant Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Mitchell, Director of Sixth Form and Mrs Kearney, Assistant Headteacher are also designated members of staff who will work closely with students in support of their academic progress and pastoral care.

Key Roles in the Sixth Form

Senior Prefects

Appointed by application, interview and for Head and Deputy Head Prefects, democratic vote by the school and staff



- To act as a role model for students and promote the ethos of the school
- To be an approachable member of Year 13 to whom students can come to for assistance or support
- To maintain the standards, duties and responsibilities of a prefect
- To organise and represent the school body at school events
- To attend all meetings as required
- To liaise with members of the Senior Leadership Team and KS5 Pastoral Team
- To attend out of school events as a school representative when required
- To support and enforce school rules appropriately
- To be visible in the school and a role model for all other students
- To take an active role in one of the Sixth Form committees: Buddies, Charity, Social, Leavers, Diversity or Communication

Level 3 Courses

Accountancy* A Level

Course Overview

This course helps students to understand the responsibilities of the accountant and the impacts of their recommendations on the business and the wider environment. The topics emphasises both financial accounting and the recording of past events, and management accounting as a means of planning and decision making.

Students will build knowledge and understanding of key concepts, principles and techniques that they can apply to real-life scenarios, developing the ability to solve problems logically, analyse data methodically, make reasoned choices and communicate effectively.

Course Structure and Assessment

Paper 1 – 3 Hours – Based on Topics 1-8, 14-18. Worth 50% of overall grade

Paper 2 - 3 Hours – Based on Topics 1-3, 8-13, 17-18. Worth 50% of overall grade

Career Opportunities

Students can progress to higher education course such as accounting and finance, business and accounting, business management, management accounting, auditing and a wide range of accounting, business and finance degrees and apprenticeships.

For more details contact ... Miss Gillespie

Art & Design A Level AQA

Course Overview

During this course you will undertake a wide variety of experimental workshops and practical activities, complete artist/designer analysis, learn to develop your work and create exciting and personal outcomes. You will need to be prepared to work independently and come up with your own ideas. Independent study is vital if you want to succeed.

Course Structure and Assessment

The course is made up of:

Component 1 (a personal investigation) - This is your body of course work worth 60%. This also includes a written essay which supports your practical work

Component 2 (externally set assignment) - This is worth 40%. There is a preparatory period and 15 hour exam

Art and Design students must show evidence of working in two or more areas such as fine art (drawing, painting and printmaking), photography, graphic communication, textile design and three dimensional design.

Career Opportunities

Students have a wide variety of directions they can pursue, ranging from Foundations courses, apprenticeships and degree courses. There are a wide variety of courses available at UCA, Goldsmith, Ravensbourne, London College of Fashion, UAL and Central Saint Martins.

The creative sector is the largest growing industry, it is growing at four times the rate of the UK work force and now accounts for 1.9 million jobs such as Animator, Architect, Gallery Curator, Art Therapist, Tattoo Artist, Illustrator, Fine Artist, Graphic Designer, Prop Maker, Art Critic, Logo Design and Printmaker.

For more details contact ... Miss Doughty/Mrs Doig

Biology

A Level AQA

Course Overview

The course is designed to give students the opportunity to explore different branches of Biology and develop investigative skills valued by employers and universities. Students will be engaged by cutting edge content which is relevant to real world experiences and inspire them to pursue further study in courses like biological sciences and medicine.

Biology is an experimental subject that is moving forwards rapidly thanks to modern day technological advances. Students are provided with numerous opportunities to link theory with reality through practical work which doesn't contribute to their overall grade but is essential to completing the course. We follow the AQA exam route and all assessments are written exams which are completed at the end of Year 13.

A Level Biology is notoriously one of the most challenging A Level subjects to study due to its range and depth of content. Being successful over the two year course will take a large commitment of time and effort but may be the course for you whether you are indulging your interests in the natural world or pursuing your aspirations to become a Neurosurgeon.

Year 12 Topics:

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Year 13 topics:

5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

Course Structure and Assessment

Assessment:

Paper 1 – 2 hours, 91 marks (worth 35% of A level grade)

Paper 2 – 2 hours, 91 marks (worth 35% of A level grade)

Paper 3 – 2 hours, 78 marks (worth 30% of A level grade)

Practical skills are assessed in the written papers but students must keep a lab book and demonstrate a range of practical skills throughout the course to be awarded the practical endorsement.

Career Opportunities

Forensics, Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Biochemistry, Sports Science, Teaching, Lab Technician, Veterinary Science, research and many more.

For more details contact ... Mr Culver

Business

A Level EDEXCEL

Course Overview

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business is structured into four themes and consists of three externally examined papers. Students are introduced to business in Themes 1 and 2 through building knowledge of core business concepts and applying them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work.

Breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, with applications to a wider range of contexts and more complex business information, are developed in Themes 3 and 4, requiring students to take a more strategic view of business opportunities and issues.

Course Structure and Assessment

Assessment - 3 Exam Papers

Paper 1 - 2 Hrs. Based on Theme 1 and 4. Worth 35% of overall grade.

Paper 2 - 2 Hrs. Based on Theme 2 and 3. Worth 35% of overall grade.

Paper 3 - 2 Hrs. Based on All 4 Themes. The questions will be based on a pre-released case study that comes out in the March before the exam.

Career Opportunities

Students can progress from this qualification to higher education courses such as business management, business administration, accountancy and finance, human resource management, marketing, retail management, tourism management and international business and a wide range of careers ranging from banking, sales, product management and general management to working in public sector organisations or charities.

For more details contact ... Mrs Wright

Business*

OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate

Course Overview

The OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Business comprises of 5 units of study. Content covered within these units looks at the business environment, working in business, customers and communication as well as 2 further units which are chosen by the department. The students will develop an understanding of how and why businesses operate in the way they do and the importance of different functions within a business.

Course Structure and Assessment

Core Units

Unit 1 - The Business Environment. 2 hour external examination.

Unit 2 - Working in Business. 1.5 hour external examination.

Unit 4 - Customers and Communication. Internally assessed unit that is externally moderated.

Other units include;

- Business Decisions - external examination
- Marketing and Market Research - internally assessed
- Human Resources - internally assessed
- Accounting Concepts - internally assessed
- Project Management - internally assessed
- Responsible Business Practice - internally assessed
- International Business - internally assessed
- Business Events - internally assessed
- Being Entrepreneurial - internally assessed

Career Opportunities

Students can progress from this qualification to higher education courses such as business management, business administration, accountancy and finance, human resource management, marketing, retail management, tourism management and international business and a wide range of careers ranging from banking, sales, product management and general management to working in public sector organisations or charities.

For more details contact ... Mrs Wright

Chemistry

A Level OCR (specification) H432

Course Overview

Chemistry is a vibrant and exciting subject. Chemistry is the connection between all sciences – from the making of new materials to understanding biological systems, and from the food we eat to the medicines which keep us healthy. We rely on chemicals every day of our lives and this course will help you understand and link different concepts and ideas together.

The A Level course is a mixture of academic theory and application with supporting practical investigations. All A Level grades are based on final exams only in the summer of Year 13. However, a set of practical investigations are undertaken by all and is reported alongside the final A Level result.

Course Structure and Assessment

Module 1 – Development of practical skills

Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry

Module 3 – Periodic table and energy

Module 4 – Core organic chemistry

Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements

Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis

At the end of the 2 years, pupils sit 3 exams: paper 1 (2hr 15mins) assesses modules 1,2,3 and 5 and is weighted as 37%; paper 2 (2hr 15mins) assesses 1,2,4 and 6 and is weighted as 37%; paper 3 (1hr 30mins) covers all modules 1-6 and is weighted as 26%.

The course is supported by an A Level practical endorsement which is continuously assessed over the 2 year course.

Career Opportunities

A Level Chemistry can lead to employment in Education, Medicine, Forensic Science, Health and Safety, Manufacturing and Research and many other fields. It is also a requirement for medical and veterinary schools.

For more details contact ... Dr R Piercy

Computer Science

A Level OCR

Course Overview

This Computer Science course will above all else be relevant to the modern and changing world of computing. The course will:

- Focus on programming, building on the GCSE Computer Science course and emphasise the importance of computational thinking as a discipline.
- Have an expanded maths focus, much of which will be embedded within the course.
- Put computational thinking at its core, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence.
- Allow students to apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems in an exciting and engaging manner.
- Give students a clear progression into higher education, as the course was designed after consultation with members of BCS, CAS and top universities.

Course Structure and Assessment

The A Level will consist of three components, two of which will be externally marked question papers making up 80% of the qualification. The other 20% will be the coursework project, which will retain its current qualities but will be more focused, with a greater emphasis on coding and programming with a simple assessment model and marking criteria.

Career Opportunities

Programmer, Software Engineer, Web Designer, IT Management

For more details contact ... Mrs Elliott/Mr Simpson

Dance

A Level AQA

Course Overview

The A Level Dance course teaches students how to compose, perform and appreciate dance to an advanced level. They will perform in a duet in Year 12 and in a quartet in Year 13 and they will also get the opportunity to perform in the style of a chosen practitioner, showcasing their individual skills. Students are required to compose creative dances in response to stimuli and will choreograph a solo in Year 12 and a group dance in Year 13. This will require them to apply their knowledge of choreographic devices.

Candidates will study a range of professional dance works from a wide variety of choreographers, including current and relevant choreographers from today's dance scene. They will learn how to view dance as a tool of expression and develop an understanding of the role dance plays within society. They will also analyse how it reflects current culture, history and political themes and how choreographers use dance to comment on human issues. Knowledge of dance history will be covered to allow a breadth of understanding of the development of dance within specific areas of study. We study the Independent Contemporary Dance Scene from 2000 to today and Rambert Dance Company.

The lessons comprise of both practical and theoretical activities and cover a range of different dance genres, from varying cultures and origins.

Course Structure and Assessment

Year 13

Component 1: Practical exam 50% - Quartet performance, solo in the style of a practitioner, group choreography

Component 2: Written exam 50% - short answer questions and three essays

Career Opportunities

Career opportunities can include, but are not limited to: Arts Administrator, a Freelance Dancer or in a company, Teacher within the community, a Teacher within Higher Education or a Lecturer in Further Education, Freelance Dance Artist, Dance Movement Psychotherapist, Community Outreach, Choreographer, Technician, Manager, Promoter, Producer, Publicist, Physiotherapist, Dance Critic, Writer, Actor, Theatre Director, Personal Trainer. Students may choose to follow Dance onwards to University to study a Degree, Foundation or Diploma.

For more details contact ... Miss Winter/Mrs Rees

Design & Technology: Product Design*

A Level AQA

Course Overview

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a wide range of careers. Especially those in the creative industries.

They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing prototypes of their choice.

Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

Course Structure and Assessment

Two Exams make up 50% and an NEA (Coursework) Project will make the remaining 50% of the A Level.

Paper 1: Technical Principles (Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes, 120 marks) 30% of A Level

Paper 2: Designing and Making principles (Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 80 marks) 20% of A Level

Non-Examined Assessment (NEA): Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles. (Substantial design and make project, 100 marks) 50% of A Level

Career Opportunities

Further study at university in a wealth of Design, Engineering, Architecture and Creative courses. Future career opportunities such as working in the wide range of interesting and rewarding design-based jobs such as product design, interior design and architecture as well as highly paid technical and engineering-based work. This field is wide open and varied.

For more details contact ... Mr R Baker

Digital Media

OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate

Course Overview

The OCR Technical Level 3 course is an exciting vocational qualification, full of refreshing and exciting content that's up to date, engaging and fit for purpose. This relatively new course has been designed following extensive consultation with universities, employers and industry specialists to make sure that students gain the right combination of knowledge, understanding and skills required for the 21st century.

Course Structure and Assessment

Year 12: Mandatory examined unit with 2 practical units, development of a proposal and creating the opening sequence to a TV product created by the students (both internally assessed)

Year 13: 2 (internally assessed) case work units developing a show reel and advertising unit.

Externally examined unit on pre-production and planning.

Career Opportunities

Take this course if you are independent, creative and enjoy responsibility and active learning. It will suit anyone interested in a wide range of creative media forms. The focus on creative production units means that students have to be organised and focused, willing to put in extra time after school.

OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Certificate in Digital Media (AS)

OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Digital Media (A2)

For more details contact ... Mr Archer

Drama & Theatre

A Level EDEXCEL

Course Overview

The two year course provides a natural extension for the work covered at GCSE and balances practical work with theory. Over the A Level course students will: explore two complete texts and three text extracts from different time periods; develop knowledge and understanding of theatre history and performance style, practically explore the theories of revolutionary theatre practitioners; analyse and evaluate live theatre and consider how it can be used to inspire performance work; create devised and scripted performance work.

Course Structure and Assessment

1. Devising: You will devise your own piece of theatre, inspired by the work of theatre practitioners. A performance text will be the stimulus for this work. You will deconstruct this text and create your own piece from it. A key aspect of this assessment is the creation of a portfolio where you will outline and analyse the creative process.
2. Text in performance: You will perform a scripted piece and either a monologue or a duologue to a visiting examiner.
3. Written exam: You will complete a written exam. The questions will be based on two contrasting set texts studied.

You will need to be able to interpret these texts in performance and analyse your ideas. You will also analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance that you have seen during the course.

Career Opportunities

The Arts is the third biggest industry in Britain, offering varied career paths. Drama and Theatre A Level, would benefit those aspiring for careers in Theatre, TV, Film and Music. It is a subject which is well respected by universities and employers due to the development of transferable skills such as creativity, reflective thinking, self-expression, analysis and team work, it would also benefit those looking to study teaching or Law at university. Attendance on theatre trips is strongly recommended; these are organised throughout the year.

For more details contact ... Miss Currie

English Literature

A Level OCR

Course Overview

Great literature is about life: love, hate, death, revenge, jealousy, friendship, murder, gossip, flirtation, loyalty, betrayal, politics, crime, fate, science, art, ambition, paranoia, dreams, fear, hopes, fantasy, reality...

The list, of course, is endless and encompasses every area of human existence because great literature is really about the human condition – what it is to be a human being on this planet. To adapt a famous quotation: if you're bored of literature then you're bored of life!

Course Structure and Assessment

Two exams, both of which are worth 40% each of the final mark. Two pieces of coursework, with combined scores that count for 20% of the final mark.

- Paper 1, currently we study a Shakespeare play for Part A, while, for Part B, we study Drama and Poetry pre-1900
- Paper 2, we study American Fiction 1880-1940 for an unseen question in Part A; while, for Part B, we cover two novels as part of a comparative and contextual task.

Coursework

This component encourages individual study, interest and enjoyment of modern literature. Students study three literary texts, which must include one prose text, one poetry text, and one drama text. All texts must have been first published or performed after 1900, and at least one must have been first published or performed after 2000.

There are two tasks:

- Close reading or re-creative writing with commentary – both must be based on one literary text
- Comparative essay – must be based on two literary texts.

Career Opportunities

Career opportunities with English Literature A Level or an English degree are diverse: from publishing to recruitment; from law to journalism. Universities and employers regard this A Level very highly and value the skills that it nurtures: namely analysis, insight, creative and fluent use of the English language

For more details contact ... Mr Nunn

Extended Project (EPQ) AQA

Course Overview

The Extended Project is an independent study producing either a written case study report of 5000 words or an artefact with mini-case study of 2000 words. It is worth half an A Level in terms of UCAS points and is regarded highly by all universities, some (Southampton and Bath plus others) will drop their entry requirements with A*/A/B grade EPQ, whereas other Russell Group Universities, like Oxbridge, expect it will be part of their application and entry.

The choice of study is your own personal idea/interest but has to be approved to achieve the assessment objective outcome. This is negotiated at the start of the project with your supervisor. It will take at least a year to complete and you must be self-motivated and able to research information on your own. The only delivered curriculum is about skill acquisition - not content. It is not an easy qualification to achieve and requires personal commitment and determination to complete.

Title examples: Explore the chemistry behind the baking of a Victoria Sponge; Investigate the inherent problems that form the London Housing Crisis; What makes the Mini an iconic car in British History?; Analyse the truth of the world's plastic problem; Explore how to creatively write a short story to produce one in your chosen genre.

Course Structure and Assessment

Assessment is 100% coursework based on case study reports. You are marked on: Planning and Organisation; Reading; Problem Solving and Accurate Communication; Reflection and Development.

Everyone must complete: a Candidate Record Form (CFR or Production Log), a full presentation to a set audience and the case study of about 2000 words. Candidates can then choose either to complete a reading report of 4000 words or an artefact with workbook.

Career Opportunities

If you are aiming for the top universities, then you should complete an EPQ. However, it is also a qualification that allows you to study an area of interest in depth so it is a superb preparation for interviews into university, apprenticeship or jobs.

For more details contact ... Mrs Mears

Film Studies A Level WJEC

Course Overview

The Film Studies A Level is an academically demanding but stimulating and wonderfully varied course of study. This new and upgraded specification differs slightly from the previous course that has been running here successfully for some time now, but keeps at its core the opportunity to lose yourself in film and be fascinated by the history and power of the screen image.

This course requires the study of films from different historical periods, such as the Silent Era, films made between 1930 and 1961, as well as and alongside contemporary developments in the cinematic art form. More specifically, the film studies course offers students a set of analytical tools that will help them to understand and enjoy films even more than already, as well as offering cinematic experiences. Film is the most open, stimulating and diverse art form, so if you want to find out more about the way it reflects experiences, messages and values about the world, choose this course!

Course Structure and Assessment

Two examined units 70%

One coursework unit, single short film production 30%

The Film Studies coursework production has an almost equal focus on extended written analysis of a range of micro elements as it does on creative production work. Therefore, it could no longer fairly be called a creative, production based course, but closer to the English Literature model of evaluating texts.

Career Opportunities

Teaching, Journalism, Screen Writing and many other jobs within the Media industry.

For more details contact ... Mr Archer

Geography

A Level EDEXCEL

Course Overview

“Geography is the study of the earth’s landscapes, peoples, places and environments. It is quite simply about the world in which we live.” - Royal Geographical Society.

“You can travel the seas, poles and deserts and see nothing. To really understand the world you need to get under the skin of the people and places. In other words, learn about geography. I cannot imagine a subject more relevant in schools. We’d all be lost without it.” - Michael Palin. The world is always changing. Geography gives you the chance to learn about these changes.

Course Structure and Assessment

Paper 1:

Tectonic processes and hazards
Coastal landscapes and change
The water cycle and water security
The carbon cycle and energy security

Paper 2:

Globalisation
Shaping place (regenerating places)
Superpowers
Global development and connections

Paper 3:

Looks at three synoptic issues and focuses on; players, attitudes and actions and futures and uncertainties

An independent investigation also accounts for 20% of the overall grade.

A residential field trip to Bournemouth and local day field trips are important elements in understanding how these topics are relevant to us in the real world. It is also an opportunity to collect data for students’ independent investigations. These trips are subject to change during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak.

Career Opportunities

With a Geography A Level or degree there are a wide range of careers varying from Environmental Management, Education, Disaster Response, City and County Planning, Community Development and many more.

For more details contact ... Mr Ayling-Jones



History

A Level AQA

Course Overview

Option 1: Countries in crisis

Breadth: Component 1: The British Early study option.

This course focuses on the turbulent time of the Tudors 1485-1603. The course chosen will focus on the Religious and Political turmoil's of the period as well as the role of the Monarchy.

Depth: Democracy and Nazism 1918-1945: Component 2:

This course focuses on the establishment and the Golden Age of the Weimar, with the collapse in Democracy and the Nazi dictatorship and the racial state. There is a focus on the impact of World War Two.

Coursework: "Based on a 100 year timeframe of a country in crisis"

Option 2: The Great Powers:

Breadth: Component One: The impact of industrialisation in Britain 1783-1885

This course focuses on the social, political and economic changes during the Industrial period and how Britain became a Great Power as an industrialised nation.

Depth: Component Two: The cold war 1945-1991

This course focuses on the origins of the Cold War and the deterioration in relationships. The Development into a global war, Korea, Cuba and Vietnam. The peaceful period of detente and the failure of the detente leading to the Second Cold War. Finally the events that led to the end of the Cold War.

Coursework " Based on a 100 year time frame of a Great Power in History"

Course Structure and Assessment

Component one: Written exam 2 hour and 30 minutes. A total of 3 questions worth 40% of your A level.

Component two: Written exam 2 hours and 30 minutes. A total of 3 questions worth 40% of Your A level.

Component three: Historical Investigation. Worth 20% of the A level. This is a non examined written historical investigation

Career Opportunities

History is a renowned academic A level which provides successful entry into many universities.

There are variety of career opportunities including continuing with a history degree, Law, Journalism, International Relations

For more details contact ... Miss Swinscoe



Health & Social Care

OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate

Course Overview

This is a level 3 course equivalent to an A Level. It is a 2 year course and students will need to complete the course to be awarded a grade of a Distinction * (A*), a Distinction (A) a Merit (C) or a Pass (E).

There are coursework units and examined units to complete, some are mandatory but the optional units are chosen by the teaching staff. The topics are varied as shown below. An organised opportunity to complete some work experience in the local community helps to fulfil the requirements of Unit 1.

Course Structure and Assessment

There are 6 units. 4 are mandatory and 2 optional. 3 units are examined and 3 are coursework units however the majority of the marks are based on the examined units.

- Mandatory units:
1. Building positive relationships in Health and Social Care (coursework)
 2. Equality, diversity and rights in Health and Social Care (examined)
 3. Health, safety and security in Health and Social Care (examined)
 4. Anatomy and physiology for Health and Social Care (examined)

- Optional Units:
10. Nutrition for health (coursework)
 13. Sexual health, reproduction and early development (coursework)

Career Opportunities

Any career working with people including the Emergency Services: Ambulance, Fire and Police; any Health Care or Social Work from Teaching to Midwifery to Hospital Receptionist to Occupational Therapist.

For more details contact ... Mrs Sheehan

IT National Certificate/Extended Certificate

BTEC

Course Overview

Are you looking for a vocational qualification which provides a springboard to a university degree in an IT-related discipline or allows you to progress straight into employment?

In the future are you looking to work within an employment sector that holds an array of existing and constantly evolving technologies and presents a stimulating and challenging working environment?

Course Structure and Assessment

The BTEC National Certificate in IT is equivalent to a GCE AS Level and the Extended Certificate which is the full BTEC course is equivalent to a GCE A2 Level qualification.

The full BTEC course consists of four units, two of which are externally assessed through a written paper or a practical exam and the remaining units are assessed internally through scenario based assignments, whilst the Certificate consists of one of these internal and external units.

Career Opportunities

The BTEC Nationals qualification will give you the essential knowledge, understanding and skills to allow you to progress into a specific area of work which will incorporate the use of IT, e.g. systems networking and product development or into a specific job such as IT Product Developer, Computer Games Designer and Systems Analyst.

For more details contact ... Mrs Elliott

Mathematical Studies (Core Maths)

AS Level AQA

(one-year course)

Course Overview

Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Mathematics) is a qualification designed for students who have achieved a grade 4 or above at GCSE. It helps to develop students' mathematical skills and thinking and supports courses such as: A Level Psychology, Sciences and Geography as well as technical and vocational qualifications.

This course will allow pupils to build on their mathematical skills using more advanced methods and techniques. It has been developed with the support of employers, universities and professional bodies to ensure that it offers pupils the relevant knowledge and skills to progress to further study and the world of work.

Course Structure and Assessment

Pupils will learn how to apply mathematics to analyse situations, giving them the confidence they need to tackle problems in their adult lives. Examples of topics to be covered include using different data sources to determine changes to average house prices over the course of a year and how to calculate the value of a mortgage loan in any given year.

Students will also develop a more advanced understanding of statistics, financial mathematics and modelling for example, understanding investments, analysing trends in population growth or calculating new ways to improve a process. There will also be an emphasis on using mathematics in business settings, with pupils asked, for example, to calculate costs, estimate demand and set a selling price for products in order to maximise profits.

Career Opportunities

Progression onto A Level Mathematics. Mathematics is essential for many careers, future training and further education courses.

For more details contact ... Mr Watson

Mathematics & Further Mathematics

A Level EDEXCEL

Course Overview

Mathematics deals with highly abstract topics which require considerable imagination combined with the discipline of 'proof'. It also underpins virtually all the practical developments in Science, IT and Economics, which have formed our modern world.

A Level Mathematics gives you the opportunity to study topics such as geometry, calculus and trigonometry (pure mathematics) and to use these ideas within the 'applied' topics such as mechanics and statistics.

You can develop a yet deeper and broader understanding of mathematical concepts by studying Further Mathematics as a separate A Level qualification. There are a wide variety of topics and applications of Mathematics which can be studied at this level.

Course Structure and Assessment

A Level Mathematics consists of two main areas: Pure Mathematics, and Applied Mathematics (consisting of Statistics and Mechanics). Pure mathematics, develops algebraic and geometrical reasoning, and underpins the other disciplines. The applied maths require mathematical modelling to make sense of real-life problems. You will need to use technology where appropriate; for example, the use of spreadsheets and graphical calculators to support statistical analysis. In addition, strong skills in algebraic manipulation are vital.

The work you do in and out of class will develop your ability to produce well-reasoned answers to extended questions. Although maths is highly logical, it also requires imagination and determination to work well on your own with an enthusiasm for problem-solving, a willingness to try a variety of approaches and the tenacity to keep going in the hunt for possible solutions to awkward problems.

Career Opportunities

Mathematics and Further Mathematics are highly respected A Levels and support progression to a wide range of degree courses and careers. All science-based degrees require good maths skills, and so too do Engineering and many Computing and Economics-based and Social Science degrees.

For more details contact ... Mr Watson

Medical Science (Applied Diploma)

EDUQAS

Course Overview

Medical Science is the science of dealing with the maintenance of health and the prevention and treatment of diseases. The Level 3 Applied Diploma in Medical Science is for learners who are interested in careers related to healthcare and medical research. Medical scientists are at the forefront of healthcare services, as they are vital in the diagnosis of disease, determining the effectiveness of treatments and searching for new cures.

The main purpose of the qualification is to provide learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills in key scientific principles to support progress to higher education or employment in areas of Medical Science, such as job roles in physiological sciences or clinical laboratory services.

The qualification covers the key topic areas of health, physiology and disease, as well as providing the opportunity to study the areas of pharmacology, physiological measurement, clinical testing and medical research.

Course Structure and Assessment

Learners need to complete the six units to achieve the WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Medical Science.

- Human Health and Disease
- Physiological measurement techniques
- Medical Science research methods
- Medicines and treatment of disease
- Clinical laboratory techniques
- Medical case study

External assessment

- written exams for unit 1 and unit 6
- an externally set and marked, task based assessment for unit 5

Grades are A-E, these are awarded from the combined score from each unit

Internal assessment (coursework)

These units are internally assessed and externally moderated:

- Unit 2
- Unit 3
- Unit 4

Career Opportunities

Job roles such as those within the areas of life sciences, i.e. carrying out a range of laboratory and scientific tests to support the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Alternatively there would also be opportunities to progress to job roles within the physiological sciences, working directly with patients, measuring and evaluating particular organs and systems, such as scientists working in neurophysiology recording the electrical activity in the brain. A significant proportion of career opportunities in this sector are at degree level.

When supported by other appropriate qualifications, the Level 3 Applied Diploma in Medical Science will enable progression to higher education to a range of Applied Science programmes, such as Biomedical Science, Life Sciences and Physiology.

For more details contact ... Mrs Mackay

Modern Foreign Languages (French)

A Level AQA

Course Overview

Good foreign language skills are in short supply and can be used in many different jobs or maybe you will use your skills and understanding of French culture to make your holidays more enriching and enjoyable. Either way, there are many benefits of learning a language in the Sixth Form.

The topics involved allow a clear progression from GCSE and to address the needs and interests of post-16 students including the culture of the foreign country. In the final examination you will be tested in the four essential skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, including open-ended tasks that require you to express and justify opinions. You will also need to have a deep understanding of grammar and be able to apply the structures in your written and spoken work.

Course Structure and Assessment

Core content:: 1. Social issues and trends, 2. Political and artistic culture, 3. Grammar, 4. Works: Literary texts and films (optional)

Assessment 1: Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes, 100 marks, 50% of A Level

Assessment 2: Written exam: 2 hours, 80 marks in total, 20% of A Level

Assessment 3: Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time), 60 marks in total, 30% of A Level

Career Opportunities

Travel and Tourism industry, Business industry, Translator, Interpreter

For more details contact ... Mrs E Kaye-Chubb

Modern Foreign Languages (German)

A Level AQA

Course Overview

Good foreign language skills are in short supply and can be used in many different jobs or maybe you will use your skills and understanding of German culture to make your holidays more enriching and enjoyable. Either way, there are many benefits of learning a language in the Sixth Form.

The topics involved allow a clear progression from GCSE and to address the needs and interests of post-16 students including the culture of the foreign country. In the final examination you will be tested in the four essential skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, including open-ended tasks that require you to express and justify opinions. You will also need to have a deep understanding of grammar and be able to apply the structures in your written and spoken work.

Course Structure and Assessment

Core content:: 1. Social issues and trends, 2. Political and artistic culture, 3. Grammar, 4. Works: Literary texts and films (optional)

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing - Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes • 100 marks • 50% of A Level

Paper 2: Writing - Written exam: 2 hours • 80 marks in total • 20% of A Level

Paper 3: Speaking - Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time) • 60 marks in total • 30% of A Level

Career Opportunities

Travel and Tourism industry, Business industry, Translator, Interpreter

For more details contact ... Mrs E Kaye-Chubb

Music

A Level EDUQAS

Course Overview

The course involves the development in practical skills in terms of performance and composition, as well as developing an understanding of the development of different musical styles, and the ability to analyse this music by listening to familiar and unfamiliar music, and by the study of musical scores.

Course Structure and Assessment

AS

Three units:

Component 1 - Performing 30% (6-8 minutes of performance, consisting of a minimum of two pieces of music).

Component 2 - Composing 30% (4 1/2 - 7 minutes of composition, consisting of two pieces of music).

Component 3 - Appraising 40% (a 1 1/2 hour written/listening exam, covering a set work, a set area of study, and responding to familiar and unfamiliar music).

A Level (students may specialise as a performer or a composer - the percentage of the units reflects this).

Three units:

Component 1 - Performing

Option A: 35% (10-12 mins of performance, consisting of a minimum of three pieces of music).

Option B: 25% (6-8 mins of performance, consisting of a minimum of two pieces of music).

Component 2 - Composing

Option A: 25% (4 - 6 minutes of composition, consisting of two pieces of music).

Option B: 35% (8-10 minutes of composition, consisting of two pieces of music).

Component 3 - Appraising 40% (a 1 1/2 hour written/listening exam, covering set works, two set areas of study, and responding to familiar and unfamiliar music).

Career Opportunities

Music Teaching; Music Administration; Professional Musician; Instrumental Tuition; Music Journalism; Orchestral Management; Music Librarian; Part Preparation; Music Composition and arrangements, and many more!

For more details contact ... Miss Mace

Music Technology

A Level EDEXCEL

Course Overview

These courses involve the development of practical Music Technology skills and a study of how music is created using recording technology and digital music software. During the courses, you will develop skills in:

- Recording - using the recording studio to create a commercial track.
- Technology-based composition - creating, editing, manipulating and structuring sounds to produce a technology-based composition.
- Listening and Analysing - you will develop your knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles.
- Producing and Analysing - you will develop your knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques and apply these to unfamiliar commercial recordings.

Course Structure and Assessment

AS and A Level:

Component 1 - Recording 20% (coursework)

Component 2 - Technology-based composition 20% (coursework)

Component 3 - Listening and Analysing 25% (written/listening exam)

Component 4 - Producing and Analysing 35% (written/practical exam)

The two courses follow the same unit/assessment scheme, but a higher standard of coursework / level of knowledge is expected at A Level.

Career Opportunities

Recording Engineer, Studio Technician, Music and Media, Radio Technician, live sound at music events and many more.

For more details contact ... Miss Mace

Photography Art & Design

A Level OCR

Course Overview

Photography is a specialism under the Art & Design umbrella and is an excellent subject choice for anyone wanting to pursue a career within the creative industry. This could be to equip yourself with the knowledge to help gain access to University or apprenticeship as a photographer or to support your visual awareness to work / train in Art, Advertising, Design and in Media.

Course Structure and Assessment

Students will follow a well-structured course that begins with the basics of photography and then develops with an increasing skill set, techniques and the independence needed to successfully complete the course. Students are able to use their camera phones for an easy access into the subject but they can also use digital SLR cameras where they can master camera control and take their images to the next level. There is also a well-equipped studio space with lighting and all students will be given expert tuition in using Photoshop to really make their creativity fly and also enable them to access the higher grade boundaries.

AS level is 100% coursework based where at A Level there is a divide; 60% coursework and 40% externally set assignment that culminates in a 15 hour controlled assignment.

Career Opportunities

The possibilities for a career are virtually endless from general photographer to high-end fashion, advertising and forensics to name a few.

For more details contact ... Mr Chubb (Head of Photography)

Physical Education

A Level AQA

Course Overview

A Level Physical Education builds on students' experience from GCSE; enhancing their knowledge and increasing their understanding of the factors that affect performance and participation in Physical Education. The qualification aims to equip students with skills and knowledge required for higher education or the world of work. The exam consists of three different components:

Component 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport (35%)

Component 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport (35%)

Component 3: Practical performance in physical activity and sport (30%)

Course Structure and Assessment

The subject content covers applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, sport and society, biomechanical movement, sport psychology and the role of technology in sport. The new and contemporary topics are relevant to today's sporting world and will help students to develop a well-rounded skill set.

Students will sit two written papers and complete an external practical moderation in their chosen sport. In component 3 students are assessed as a player/performer or coach in the full context of one activity, worth 15% of their overall qualification. Students will then complete written or verbal analysis and evaluation of either their own or the performance of another performer for a further 15% of their overall grade.

Career Opportunities

Physical Education Teacher, Physiotherapist, Personal Trainer, Nutritionist, Sports Psychologist, Sports Journalism and Media, Leisure Centre Manager, running a Sports Coaching Business.

For more details contact ... Mr Huggins/Mr Bidwell

Physics

A Level OCR

Course Overview

Physics A Level is accepted by all universities. Physicists end up in all sorts of interesting jobs and are virtually never unemployed because of their broad training and adaptability.

If you enjoy learning and want to really understand things, and you like thinking, then you should consider becoming a physicist. You will find the subject fascinating. The ideas themselves will motivate you to study, and learning will be an enjoyable adventure. However, like anything that is worthy of pride, it is also quite hard work.

Course Assessment and Structure

All assessments and final grades are based on exam only in the summer of Year 13. However, a set of practical investigations is expected by all and will be reported alongside the final A level result.

Career Opportunities

A physicist could...

- Develop clean, unlimited fusion energy.
- Design a laser to fix people's vision problems.
- Research maglev technology to prototype high speed trains.
- Simulate a roller coaster ride on a computer.

For more details contact ... Mr Doig

Politics

A Level EDEXCEL

Course Overview

Year 12: Focus on UK Politics and Government exploring topics such as why people vote for particular parties – is it the media, their class or the appeal of leaders? Turnout in General Elections in recent years has been in decline but was higher in the EU referendum. Why was this? Following the EU referendum, you'll debate the merits of this form of direct democracy and evaluate the arguments for and against more referendums.

The course could hardly be more relevant as you find out what the political parties stand for and their role in the political system and, as more people take to the streets, you will consider whether protest is effective and how pressure groups can influence policy. Are Extinction Rebellion making a difference? You will also examine the nuts and bolts of our political system; the power of the Prime Minister – Did Boris Johnson have too much power, the role of Parliament and the Judiciary.

Year 13: Focus on Global Politics, assessing different countries role in managing climate change, poverty, human rights and conflict. Why has Russia waged war on Ukraine? How should the world respond?

You will also explore the main ideological traditions in British Politics, Liberalism, Socialism and Conservatism and gain an understanding of how these ideas shape modern political parties and the decisions they make in Government.

Course Structure and Assessment

At the end of the two years study there are three, 2 hour exams each worth 84 marks.

Career Opportunities

A variety of degrees and career choices are open to A Level Politics students. Popular choices are Law, Civil Service, Foreign Office as well as Teaching and Journalism.

For more details contact ... Mrs Ruth

Psychology

A Level AQA

Course Overview

Psychology is the study of human behaviour. Psychologists investigate human behaviour to provide theories of why we think and behave in certain ways.

Psychology A Level will provide students with a variety of skills including; analytical thinking, improved communication, problem solving and statistical analysis. Psychology A Level is demanding and difficult, students who take Psychology should be confident in their Science, English and Mathematical skills.

Course Structure and Assessment

At A Level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A Level. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 96 marks each. The exams consist of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Topics covered include: **Social Influence** (The study of why we conform, obedience, minority influence and social change), **Memory** (The study of how we encode and store memories, retrieval of memory & eye witness testimony), **Attachment** (The study of how we form attachments as infants), **Approaches in Psychology** (The study of theories of behaviour), **Biopsychology** (The role of the brain and hormones in behaviour), **Psychopathology** (OCD and depression and their explanations), **Research Methods** (Methods of conducting psychological research and recording data), **Issues and Debates in Psychology** (Key psychology debates such as Nature vs Nurture), **Relationships**, **Schizophrenia** and **Addiction**.

Career Opportunities

Marketing, Business Development, Human Resources, Forensic Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Clinical Psychology, Nursing and Teaching.

For more details contact ... Miss Crawley

Sociology

A Level AQA

Course Overview

Sociology is a popular subject at Charles Darwin School. It offers students an opportunity to develop sociological knowledge and understanding of the wider society (and world). Students are also able to investigate ways to research society and are able to evaluate the research process within sociology.

It is important that students have a keen interest in society, contemporary issues, (both national and global) and take an interest in political and global issues.

Students who have taken GCSE History will find A Level Sociology complements and enhances their learning however if they have not taken History they will still find Sociology accessible.

Topics covered include:

Year 12 - Basic Sociological introduction and Theory, Education, Family and Identity and Research methods.

Year 13 - Crime and Deviance, Mass Media and Sociological Theory.

Course Structure and Assessment

2 year course leading to a full A Level in Sociology

Assessed via 3 external 2 hour exams at the end of the 2 year course.

This is a 100% exam course.

Career Opportunities

A Level Sociology will give you access to a range of careers in the following fields - Social Research, Criminology, Politics, History, Media, Law, Education, Social Work and the Criminal Justice System. Apprenticeships and or employment with the NHS, Civil Service, Industry, Commerce, Local and Central Government often regard Sociology as a useful and adaptable subject.

For more details contact ... Mrs Mears

Sports Studies

Extended Diploma PEARSON

Course Overview

This course provides an excellent platform for careers within the sport, fitness and leisure industries and can support entry into higher education. It is a vocationally delivered course with a strong emphasis on practical lesson and therefore develops the skills and knowledge students will need to thrive in a professional sports and fitness environment. Students are assessed through written exams, practical assessments and assignments based upon real-life sporting scenarios.

Charles Darwin School has a thriving sport department with outstanding facilities. The qualification covers either 4, 9 or 14 units. This course is the equivalent to one, two or three A-levels depending on the pathway chosen. Pathways allow students to combine other A-Level Courses or focus all their efforts on Sport. Grades are: Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.

Course Structure and Assessment

Units include: Principles of Anatomy and Physiology in Sport, The Physiology of Fitness, Practical Sports Performance, Fitness Testing, Professional Development in the Sports Industry, Rules, Regulations and Officiating, Tactical and Technical Demands in Sport, Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being, Sport Psychology, Skill Acquisition, Sports Development, Sports Leadership, Business in Sport and Research Methods.

Career Opportunities

To Higher Education to study a Sport-based degree or to train as a PE teacher. This course can also lead to employment, either before or after a degree, in the Sport and Fitness industry. These include a Physiotherapist, Nutritionist, Coach, Leisure Centre Manager, Personal Trainer, Sports Therapist and Sports Psychologist.

For more details contact ... Miss Owen

Textile Design

A Level AQA

Course Overview

During this course you will undertake a wide variety of experimental workshops and practical activities, complete artist/designer analysis, learn to develop your work and create exciting and personal outcomes. You will need to be prepared to work independently and come up with your own ideas. Independent study is vital if you want to succeed.

Course Structure and Assessment

The course is made up of:

Component 1 – A personal investigation. This is your body of course work worth 60%. This also includes a written essay which supports your practical work

Component 2 – The externally set assignment is worth 40%. There is a preparatory period and 15 hour exam

All work is marked by the school and moderated by AQA during a visit to the school. Textile Design students must show evidence of working in one or more areas including fashion, digital textiles, printed or dyed fabrics, constructed textiles, costume design and art textiles.

Career Opportunities

Having successfully completed your A Level, students have a wide variety of directions they can pursue, ranging from Foundation courses, apprenticeships and degree courses. There are a wide variety of courses available at UCA, Goldsmith, Ravensbourne, London College of Fashion, UAL, Central Saint Martins.

The creative sector is the largest growing industry, it is growing at four times the rate of the UK work force and now accounts for 1.9 million jobs.

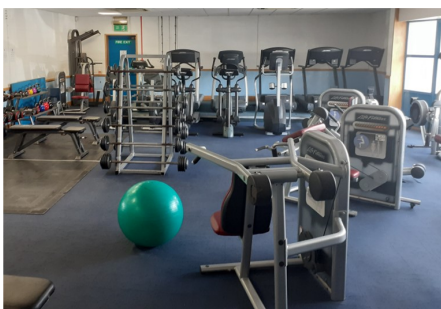
Possible jobs – Textile Designer, Interior Designer, Tailor, Fashion Designer, Milliner, Embroiderer, Shoe Designer, Weaver and Colourist.

For more details contact ... Miss Doughty

Extra Curricular

The Social Committee

The committee organises events for the student body throughout the year such as Quiz Nights, Bingo, Football Tournaments as well as organising the Leavers' Year Book.



Sports

We have a successful Football and Netball team. You can try out for school teams or just play against your friends.

Every Wednesday afternoon is given over for competitive sport and wellbeing events such as Couch to 5K, Yoga or using the Gym facilities.

Trips, Excursions and Gallery Exhibitions

Students from Art, Media and Photography visit numerous public exhibitions and have also had their work displayed.

Other subject areas regularly enhance the curriculum with off-site visits, lectures and workshops. Students may choose to participate in the whole school ski trip or engage with a Bronze or Silver DofE Award.



Charity Events

The Sixth Form Charity Team nominate a charity they want to support and arrange and complete many fundraising activities throughout Year 12 and 13.

Last year the students climbed the O2, held a Valentine's Raffle and completed a sponsored 5k run, raising over £3700 for The Chartwell Children's Cancer Trust.

Volunteering in the School Community

There are numerous volunteering opportunities to show school spirit. You can support a year group, help out at public events, lead clubs, assist in lessons or admin, become a Senior, Deputy or Head Prefect.

Year 12 spend an hour a week volunteering their time in the community.



Dance/Drama & Theatre

The Sixth Form regularly take part in school productions, dance competitions and concerts.

Last year many of our Sixth Form students took part in the school production of 'Elf'.

Expanding Horizons

We are committed to ensuring, that students leave us with the skills to excel either in the work place or in further education and/or university. We therefore deliver a full tutor/tutorial programme to widen horizons, expand knowledge of current affairs and broaden interests and experiences, as well as individual support.

The transition from GCSE to Sixth Form study can be daunting which is why we offer Taster Days at the end of Year 11 for you to attend some sixth form lessons followed by a parent/carer information evening and enrolment meeting.

The tutors in Year 12 prepare students with a career portfolio including CVs, application letters, achievement certificates and voluntary work diaries. All Year 12 students are expected to complete at least one hour of community service in the school each week to support the learning of others and many choose to complete extra time supporting charities or junior schools in the community. Sustained voluntary work is an important requirement on application forms. Alongside this, the Sixth Form have their own charity and social committees organising events for all to be involved throughout the year.

Assemblies are taken by the students to enhance their speaking and presentation skills, giving them confidence in public speaking and eventually interview technique. Specific interview training is completed during Horizons week at the end of Year 12 along with university preparation which continues into Year 13.

The tutorial programme focuses on wellbeing, 'Next Steps' and often has outside experts visiting to explore societal issues. These range from finance, driving safety, drugs, alcohol, sex education, healthy relationships, mental health and wellbeing, domestic violence, stop and search and many other related issues for teenagers today. They are designed to promote discussion as well as impart information.

Year 12 culminates in Horizons Week which involves key skill development and finally an opportunity to take up a work placement which is almost a compulsory element of job and university applications in today's society.



Supporting our chosen Charities



Expectations

What can you expect from us?

- To be treated with courtesy and respect
- Effective lessons
- Clear targets
- Regular feedback and guidance
- Access to study facilities
- Guidance with coursework
- Guidance or referral over financial, personal or social matters
- Access to a tutor who will monitor progress and offer support when necessary
- Access to careers guidance for employment and higher education
- Parental involvement where your teacher or tutor feels that support is needed outside of school
- Discussion of specific SEND issues for pupils' needs

What can the school expect from you?

- Completion of homework and coursework to targets and deadlines set
- Study periods are used for study
- To attend registration, assemblies, tutorial and any appointments required
- To be punctual
- To stick to all targets or agreements reached with teachers or tutors
- To behave like a young adult and treat the Sixth Form and School environment with respect
- To take an active part in the Sixth Form Enrichment Curriculum
- To sign out if you leave the school site at any time other than at the end of the school day
- That, together with the rest of the Sixth Form body, you take responsibility for the Sixth Form areas
- To aim for a minimum of 96% attendance. No holidays to be taken in school time
- To abide by the business dress code of conduct

The Darwin Student: Frequently asked questions

Age:	16 - 19
Education:	You must achieve five 9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent in five separate subjects to study Level 3 qualifications
Attendance:	Must be good in Year 11 to be successful
Effort:	Must consistently be at 2 (good) or above on reports

Are Darwin students all the same?

No! We are an inclusive Sixth Form and we welcome diversity. Charles Darwin Sixth Form students have a wide range of differing abilities and strengths. We cater at one level for the needs of students seeking to gain places at universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, as well as those wanting to improve their Maths and English GCSE qualifications.

Can I apply if I currently attend another school?

Yes! We have lots of external applicants and a support programme for new students to help you settle in to Year 12 and adapt to your new setting.

Why Charles Darwin Sixth Form?

Charles Darwin Sixth Form believes all students should fulfil their potential, both academically and personally. Our ALPS score puts us in the Top 10% of the country for PROGRESS, but it doesn't stop there - The Sixth Form also offers many enrichment opportunities beyond the classroom.

What courses and qualifications are available to me?

We offer GCSEs, BTECs, Diplomas, Technicals, A levels, Extended Projects and Sports Awards. Take a closer look at each course for more information and the necessary requirements you will need for enrolment into the subject of choice.

How do I choose the right courses for me?

It's all about guidance. In this prospectus you can read about the subjects on offer and examine the entry requirements. Ask yourself the following questions:

- What level is the course?
- Will I have the right GCSE grades?
- Do I enjoy the subject?
- Will the subject(s) help me in my career?
- Is my choice of subject combinations sensible?

If you are unsure speak to the people you know; parents, older brothers and sisters, relatives, family friends and of course your teachers.

Students whose GCSE results do not meet the entry requirements for their chosen courses will be invited to attend a meeting on Results Day.

Do I need to know what I want to do when I leave school?

No! If you already know what you want to do when you leave school, check what examinations you need to pass and at what grades, what further training or study might be necessary and how easily your courses will adapt to other careers if you change your mind.

If you have only a general idea of what you wish to do when you leave school, or if you are leaving your career decision open at present, make use of subject tutors and careers advisors. It may be an idea to choose a broad course of study that will keep your options as open as possible. If you have no definite career plan at present, start by examining two factors: the subjects you enjoy doing and the subjects you are good at.

Charles Darwin: About the Application

Your Sixth Form Application...

- You will need to meet academic requirements to gain your place in the Sixth Form.
- To be a successful learner you need to aim for 96% and above attendance.
- Applications should be handed in at Main Reception, external applications may be emailed to sixthform@cdarwin.com . They will be numbered in the order they are received and where necessary courses may be offered based on application order.
- Certain courses have limited places, so the earlier the application, the better the chance of securing a place on that course.
- We are asking you to tell us the three subjects you might like to take in the Sixth Form.
- You must read the individual subject specific entry criteria and ensure that you meet this.
- You need to select by ticking the subjects from the **PROVISIONAL** option blocks. You cannot choose two subjects from the same block.
- BTEC Sport can be taken as a single (option block B), Double (option blocks B & A) or Triple (option blocks (B, A & C).
- Everyone must also choose a reserve subject from any block.
- We cannot guarantee that you will get all your chosen subjects but we will try to accommodate your requests.
- You will have the opportunity to attend a taster event on **Tuesday 2nd July 2024** so you can experience your chosen subjects in taster lessons.
- Enrolment will take place following examination results in August.
- All courses are subject to numbers and option blocks are provisional. All courses are subject to change.

** Accountancy, Business BTEC and Design & Technology are provisional courses new for 2024 dependant on take up and staffing.*

For more information or to speak to a member of staff

Charles Darwin School Sixth Form

Jail Lane
Biggin Hill
Westerham
Kent
TN16 3AU

01959 574043 ext. 251

sixthform@cdarwin.com
www.cdarwin.com

What now?

NOT SURE?

If you want a more in-depth look at what we have to offer, you can come and talk to members of our Sixth Form.

WANT TO APPLY?

If you don't already have an application form this can be collected from Main Reception or downloaded from the school website.

WILL I BE ACCEPTED?

This is all down to you. If you can show that you make an effort with your studies and have a good attendance level there is no reason why you should not secure a place.

Some students are invited to attend a meeting to discuss their application in more detail.

Charles Darwin School
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TN16 3AU



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Website: www.cdarwin.com