Charles Darwin School

Aspire – Endeavour – Achieve

Sixth Form Information Booklet 2027 Entry

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



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Contents

Destinations	4
Welcome from the Headteacher	5
A Level study	6
Independent Study	7
Staff in the Sixth Form	7
Key roles in the Sixth Form for students	8
Level 3 Courses	9 – 29
Extra-Curricular	30
Expanding Horizons	31
Horizons Week	32
Expectations	33
How to Apply	34
How to find us	35

Destinations 2026

After completing their A Levels at Charles Darwin School, our Year 13 students go on to a wide range of exciting destinations. From universities and apprenticeships to employment and other opportunities, each student takes their next step towards their future goals.

Below is a selection of the destinations our students have progressed to after completing their studies at Charles Darwin School this year.

Accounting with Finance - University of Portsmouth

Aerospace Engineering - University of Surrey

Business Management - University of Brunell

Criminology - University of Bristol

Criminology - University of Kingston

Criminology - University of Westminster

Criminology with Psychology - University of Surrey

Economics - University of York

English - University of Coventry

Global Sociology - University of Kent

Health Sciences University, London (Osteopathy)

History - University of Exeter

History - University of Portsmouth

History & Sociology - University of Warwick

Law - University of Cardiff

Mechanical Engineering - University of Exeter

Midwifery - University of Surrey

Photography - Goldsmiths University

Sports Science - University of Greenwich

Charles Darwin School

This school is part of Lumero Educational Trust
Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH



November 2026

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 successful careers that make worthwhile contributions in wider society. Those not going to university are supported into apprenticeships or into the world of work.

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 qualifications, meaning that all final examinations are taken at the end of the second year of study. Many A Level subjects are assessed entirely through examinations, while others include a coursework component. As a result, regular revision, independent study and the continuous development of examination skills are essential for success.

When choosing your programme of study, it is important to consider the specific entry requirements for each subject. Applicants will be invited to attend a meeting on Results' Day in August, if they have not met the entrance requirements for their chosen course. Acceptance into the Sixth Form and confirmation of a programme of study will be subject to meeting the relevant entry requirements.

As a general requirement, students wishing to enter the Sixth Form are expected to **achieve at least five GCSEs (or equivalent qualifications) at grades 9 - 4. In addition, each A Level subject has its own specific entry requirements** or prerequisites, which must be met to ensure students are suitably prepared for their chosen courses.



Independent Study

Study periods are marked on your timetable as “Study Support”. 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:

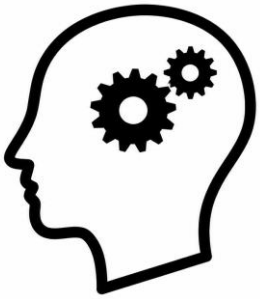
- Getting started is the difficult part, so don’t procrastinate
- Effective time management and finding the right place to study alongside good organisation is
- important; make sure you have what you need with you
- Set realistic goals
- Be independent enough to move away from peers to complete work.

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.

Future Ready

The A Level mindset





V = Vision
How well do you know what you want to achieve?

E = Effort
How many hours of independent work do you do per week?

S = Systems
How do you organise your learning and time?

P = Practice
What kind of work do you do to practise your skills?

A = Attitude
How do you respond to setbacks?

We support Independent Study with the VESPA model:
Vision - Effort - Systems - Practice - Attitude
Our students don’t just study - they explore ideas.

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 Mitchell, Director of Sixth Form, Mr Goss, Assistant Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Johnson, KS5 Pastoral Manager, and Mr Simpson, 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

Head, Deputy Head and Senior Prefects

Senior Prefects are appointed through an application and interview process, while the Head and Deputy Head Prefects are elected by a democratic vote involving both students 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 Team

To attend out of school events as a school representative when required

To support and enforce school rules appropriately

To be visual 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, LGBTQIA+

Level 3 Courses

Art, Craft & Design
A Level EDEXCEL PEARSON 9AD0 01/02

Course Overview
Students follow an integrated practical, critical and theoretical study of art using a variety of media and processes. They are encouraged to develop their own personal responses to their experiences, environment and culture in both practical and contextual activities.

Component 1, coursework, starts with a series of structured activities around a common theme and this is developed into more individual work culminating in a variety of personal responses. Students work in a diverse range of two- and three-dimensional media including traditional media (pencil, pen, paint etc.), print, textiles, ceramics and mixed-media. This enables them to meet the requirement of evidencing work from two endorsed titles (Fine Art, Textile Design, Graphic Communication, Photography and Three-Dimensional Design). Individual artistic strengths are considered when students decide on the direction for their work and as the course progresses, they are encouraged to pursue their work with increasing independence. Students develop this work in response to an idea, issue, concept or theme of their own choice. As the Personal Investigation concludes the work must show greater knowledge, understanding and skills than in Year 12 and show a sustained personal journey that is fully realised. The Personal Investigation, Component 1, additionally requires an extended written element, of a minimum 1000 words which must link to and be informed by the practical work completed.

Component 2 is the externally set assignment, which commences from the 1 February of Year 13. Working from a given broad-based thematic starting point (set by the examination board) students are expected to produce a clearly defined body of work which will lead to a resolved piece or pieces. The final personal response is completed during a 15-hour examination

Course Structure and Assessment
Assessment is completed internally by the Art Department teaching staff before moderation by an external moderator from Edexcel.
Personal Investigation: Component 1 is worth 60% of the total A Level marks
Externally Set Assignment: Component 2 is worth 40% of the total A Level marks

Career Opportunities
Entry to Foundation courses in Art and Design. Direct entry onto degree courses either art based or others such as architecture and product design. The subject helps prepare students for work in the media and creative industries. Art demonstrates aesthetic understanding and dexterity, important skills for many non art specialist careers. Art also shows diversity and creativity in thinking which can benefit a more academic route at university if chosen.

For more details contact … Mrs Broad/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.

Course Structure and 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)

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 EXEXCEL

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 - 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 North

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 … Mrs Emmett

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 … Ms Byfield/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 or a Lecturer in Further Education, Freelance Dance Artist, Dance Movement Psychotherapist, Choreographer, Technician, Manager, Promoter, Producer, Publicist, Physiotherapist, Dance Critic, Writer, Actor, Theatre Director, Personal Trainer

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 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. 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
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 teamwork, 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 Language
A Level AQA

Course Overview
Language is all around us. We read it, speak it, listen to it and learn it. English Language A Level encourages students to develop their understanding of the use of language in the world around them through the study of language in both spoken and written forms. The course is very different to GCSE English Language although the skills learnt are of benefit to the analysis of texts required on the course.

A Level English Language will explore the differences in language through gender, age, power and other factors as well as the impact of time and technology on modern language usage. We also explore how children acquire language and learn to read.

Course Structure and Assessment
Two exam units 80% Coursework 20%
Assessment
Language, the Individual and Society: 2.5 hours (40% of A level)
Language Diversity and Change: 2.5 hours (40% of A level)
Language in Action: Non-exam Assessment (20% of A Level)
NB. Coursework is assessed internally and AQA moderated.

Career Opportunities
Career opportunities with English are diverse and employers will always value clear written communication. The topics from this course also support primary education, journalism, publishing, advertising and marketing.

For more details contact … Mrs Mitchell

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

Film Studies
A Level WJEC

Course Overview
The Film Studies A Level is an academically demanding but simulating 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
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.

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

Health and Social Care
OCR Cambridge Advanced National AAQ Extended Certificate

Course Overview
This is a level three course equivalent to an A Level. It's a two-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

Course Structure and Assessment
There are two examined units and four non-examined assessments which are controlled assessments two of which are optional and chosen by the teaching staff

Mandatory units:
F090 - Principles of health and social care, which is examined.
F091 - Anatomy and physiology for health and social care, which is examined.
F092 - Person centred approach to care, which is an non-examined assessment.
F093 - Supporting people with mental health conditions which is a non-examined assessment.

Optional Unit:
F096 - Supporting people in relation to sexual health pregnancy and postnatal health this is a non-examined assessment.
F097 - Supporting healthy nutrition and lifestyles this is a non-examined assessment.

Career Opportunities
Any career working with people including the emergency services, or any healthcare or social work from teaching to midwifery to hospital receptionist to occupational therapist.

For more details contact … Mrs Tsang/Mrs Mears



History
A Level AQA

Course Overview
The History department use their specialities to teach the following 3 pathways. Only one of these will run each year unless there are a high number of students which will enable two classes.

Option 1
Breadth: Component 1: The British Early study option.
This course focuses on the turbulent time of the Tudors 1485-1603. The course is chosen will focus on the Religious and Political turmoil of the period as well as the role of the Tudor Monarchy.

Depth: Component 2: Democracy and Nazism 1918-1945 (Component 2)
This course focuses on the establishment and the Golden Age of the Weimar Republic, the collapse of Democracy with the Nazi Dictatorship. We look closely at the Racial State and the impact of WW2.

Coursework: Will be decided by the teacher and will be based on a timeframe of 100 years.

Option 2
Breadth: Component 1: The impact of Industrialisation In Britain 1783-1835
This course focuses on the Social, Political and Economic changes during the Industrial Period. It will concentrate on Britain as a Great Industrial Power.

Depth: Component 2: The Cold War 1945-1991
The course focuses on the origins of the Cold War and the deterioration in relationships. The development into a global war - Korea, Cuba and Vietnam. It will look at the peaceful period in the detente and its failure leading to the Second Cold War and then its end.

Coursework: Will be decided by the teacher and will be based on a timeframe of 100 years.

Options 3
Breadth: Component 1: The British Early study option.
This course focuses on the turbulent time of the Tudors 1485-1603. The course is chosen will focus on the Religious and Political turmoil of the period as well as the role of the Tudor Monarchy.

Depth: Component 2: Revolution and dictatorship Russia 1917-1953.
This is a study of the coming and practices of Communism in Russia. It explores pollical concepts and social change. It will examine dissent and revolution in 1917 and how the Bolsheviks consolidated power 1918-1924. It will offer a section on Stalin's rise to power and life under Stalin's Rule.

Coursework: Will be decided by the teacher and will be based on the timeframe of 100 years. It is typical to study the Arab Israeli Conflict.

Course Structure and Assessment:
Exam Board: AQA
Component 1: 2 hour and 30-minute examination. A total of 3 questions. This is worth 40% of your A Level.
Component 2: 2 hours and 30 minutes examination. A total of 3 questions. This is worth 40% of your A Level.
Component 3: The Historical Investigation/ Coursework. Worth 20% of your A Level. This is a non-examination component and will be completed in class and at home.

Career Opportunities:
History is a renowned academic A Level which provides successful entry to many universities.
There are a number of career opportunities including continuing to a History Degree, Law, Journalism, International Relations to name a few.

For more details contact … Mrs Ruth

Cambridge Advanced Nationals IT: Data Analytics (AAQ)

Extended Certificate

Course Overview

Are you interested in how data is used to solve problems and drive decision-making in modern organisations?

Do you want to develop practical skills in data analysis, databases, dashboards, and business intelligence that are valued by employers and universities?

The Cambridge Advanced National in IT: Data Analytics is a Level 3 qualification that develops your ability to collect, manage, analyse, and present data using industry-standard techniques and technologies. Throughout the course, you will explore how organisations use data to solve problems, identify trends, support decision-making, and improve business performance.

Course Structure and Assessment

Cambridge OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in IT: Data Analytics (Extended Certificate) is equivalent to a GCE A2 Level qualification.

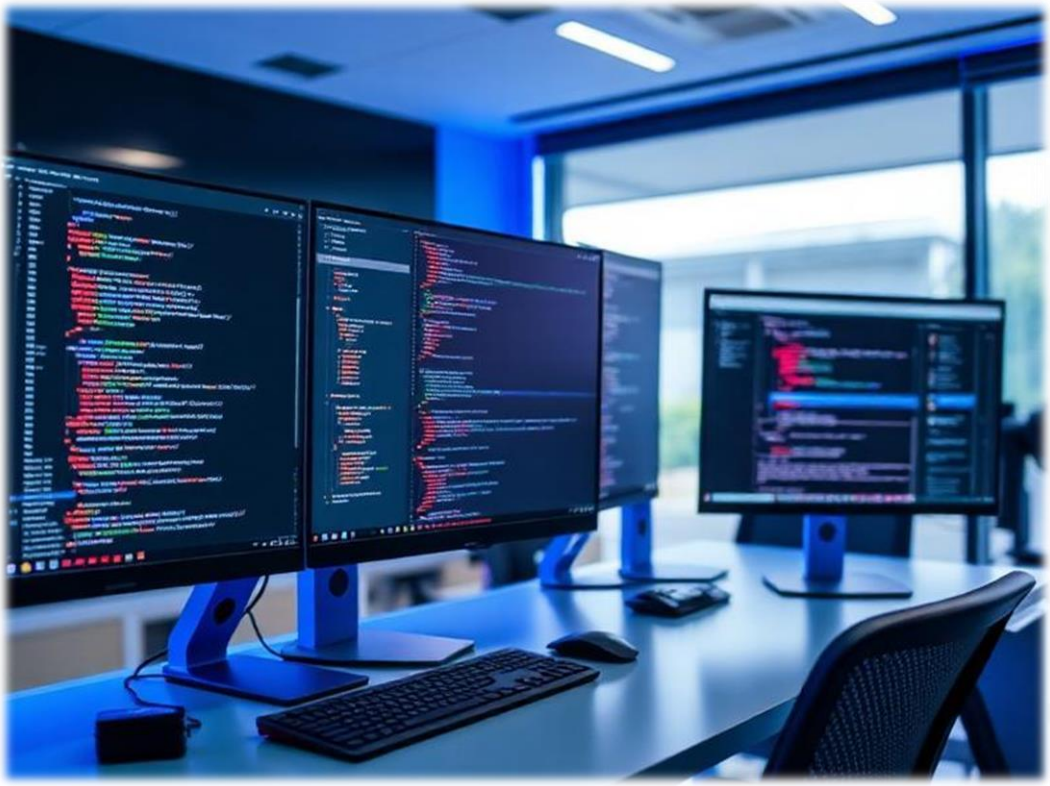
The Cambridge Advanced National in IT: Data Analytics is assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework. Students develop practical skills in data analysis, databases, visualisation, and reporting, applying their knowledge to real-world business scenarios.

The course consists of five units, two of which are mandatory and externally assessed through written papers. The remaining units are assessed internally through scenario-based assignments.

Career Opportunities

The analytical and technical skills developed throughout the course are highly valued across a wide range of industries, including finance, healthcare, retail, technology, and public services into specific jobs such as Data Analyst, Database Engineer and Digital Marketing Analysis

For more details contact ... Ms Byfield



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 is more than just as a subject of complicated calculations. Calculations form only a small part of this rigorous discipline which requires clear thinking and the development of specific ideas into generalised solutions.
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. Mechanics is strongly linked to physics and builds on ideas of motion and forces to work out how and why objects move. Statistics allows us to make sense of the complex and variable world around us via analytical methods in order to draw reliable conclusions from 'sets' of information.

Course Structure and Assessment
A Level Mathematics is made up of two main areas: Pure Mathematic, and Applied Mathematics (consisting of Statistics and Mechanics). Pure Mathematics, develops algebraic and geometrical reasoning, and underpins the other disciplines. The applied maths involves the disciplines of mechanics and statistics which require mathematical modelling to make sense of real-life problems. You will learn how to model real-life situations in mathematical terms, how models are refined and how to identify limitations within this process. You will be expected 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. You need 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. Then you need to be disciplined in showing how you arrived at the problem's answer. Working on problems is the surest way to develop the knowledge and intuition required to do well.

Career Opportunities
Mathematics is a highly respected A Level and supports 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 (Head of Faculty), Mr Damoo (Head of KS5 Mathematics)

Medical Science
A Level AAQ Extended Certificate

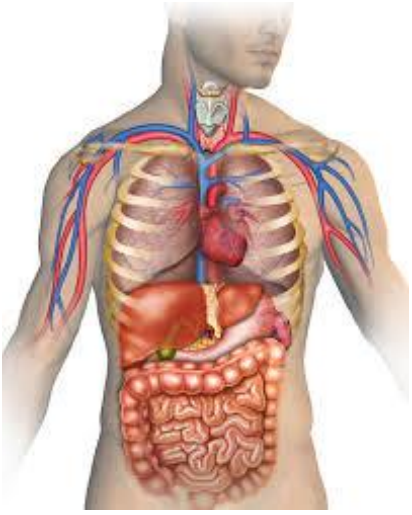
Course Overview
Medical Science is the science of dealing with the maintenance of health and the prevention and treatment of diseases. The Level 3 Extended Certificate in Medical Science is for learners who are interested in careers related to healthcare and medical research. Medical scientists are at 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 Extended Certificate 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)
Units 2, 3 and 4 are internally assessed and externally moderated.

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 Extended Certificate 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 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 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 Level (Three units)

Component 1 - Performing 30% (6-8 minutes of performance, consisting of a minimum of two pieces of music)
Component 2 - Composing 30% (4½ - 7 minutes of composition, consisting of two pieces of music)
Component 3 - Appraising 40% (1hr 30m 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% (1hr 30m 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, adverting and forensics to name a few.

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

Physics
A Level OCR

Course Overview
Welcome to the exciting world of OCR A Level Physics! Whether you're a parent seeking the best educational path for your child, or a potential student eager to explore the universe's deepest mysteries, this guide will give you a comprehensive overview of one of the most fascinating and rewarding subjects available.

Physics isn't just a subject; it's the foundation of nearly everything we see, touch, and experience. From the tiniest particles to the largest galaxies, physics helps us understand the natural world, sharpen our problem-solving skills, and develop critical thinking. The OCR A Level Physics course is designed to inspire curiosity, foster analytical abilities, and equip students with life skills that will stay with them long after they leave the classroom.

This course covers a wide range of topics, including mechanics, electricity, waves, quantum physics, and cosmology. Alongside theoretical understanding, students engage in hands-on practical experiments that deepen their knowledge and build confidence in scientific inquiry.

The course is structured with 3 written exams in year 13, and supporting practical investigations qualified separately, ensuring students are fully prepared for both academic success and real-world application.

Why choose A Level Physics? For starters, it's a highly respected subject by universities worldwide, opening doors to a broad array of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) degrees. Whether you're interested in engineering, astrophysics, medicine, or even finance, physics provides a strong foundation.

Career Opportunities
For physics students are limitless, with exciting fields like aerospace engineering, renewable energy, medical physics, data science, and artificial intelligence all within reach. Choosing A Level Physics means choosing a future full of innovation and exploration.

Prepare for a journey of discovery and a lifetime of opportunities!

For more details contact … Mr Doig

Physical Education
A Level AQA

Course Overview
The AQA A-Level PE course is divided into three components: scientific topics on physiological and biomechanical factors affecting performance, socio-cultural and psychological factors influencing participation and elite performance, and a practical element involving performance, analysis, and coaching. Students will develop a theoretical understanding of how exercise affects the body, learn about skill acquisition, sports psychology, and the societal impact of sport, and be assessed on their performance in a main sport and analysis of a skill.

Course Structure and Assessment
The AQA A-Level PE course is structured into three main components, covering scientific, psychological, and socio-cultural aspects of sport:

- **Applied Anatomy and Physiology**: You will study the skeletal and muscular systems, the cardiovascular and respiratory systems, energy systems, and biomechanics.
- **Skill Acquisition and Sports Psychology**: Topics include information processing, learning theories, skill classification, and the influence of factors like arousal, aggression, motivation, and personality on performance.
- **Sport and Society and Technology in Sport**: This component covers the history of sport in Britain, the role of sports organizations, the impact of technology, ethical issues, and the concept of "sport" in a societal context.

Assessment
The course involves both written exams and non-exam assessment (NEA):
Paper 1: Assesses knowledge of applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, and sport in society.
Paper 2: Covers exercise physiology, sport psychology, and biomechanics.
Non-Exam Assessment (NEA): This practical component requires you to be assessed as a performer in a main sport and to analyse and evaluate a tactical or strategic skill.

Key Skills Developed
Beyond theoretical knowledge, the course aims to develop a range of transferable skills:

- **Analysis and Evaluation**: You will learn to analyse performances and evaluate sporting situations.
- **Application of Knowledge**: You will apply scientific and psychological principles to improve practical performance.
- **Critical Thinking**: The course fosters critical and reflective thinking about various aspects of sport and physical activity.
- **Communication and Leadership**: Practical activities and performance analysis help develop communication and leadership skills.

Who is it for?
This course is ideal for students with a strong interest in sport and a desire to understand the science, psychology, and social factors that influence performance and participation. A GCSE in PE is beneficial but not mandatory.

Career Opportunities
A Level PE provides a strong foundation for diverse careers in sports, fitness, healthcare, and education, including roles as a PE teacher, sports coach, personal trainer, sports scientist, physiotherapist, and sports development officer. Further university degrees and apprenticeships can lead to specialized positions in sport science, sports psychology, nutrition, and sports management.

For more details contact … Mrs Wray/Miss Owen/Mr Huggins/Mr Bidwell

Politics
A Level EDEXCEL

Studying Politics gives you the tools to understand how decisions are made, who makes them, and how power is distributed. It also provides insight into how you can have a say in the process, whether through voting, activism, or just being informed. It's about more than just learning how governments work; it's about understanding your role in the broader social system.

Component 1: UK Politics
This component is crucial because it examines how citizens engage with democracy. You will look at how people vote, the different electoral systems (like First Past the Post or Proportional Representation), and the role of political parties in representing interests. Pressure groups and their influence on policy are also key topics. Understanding these dynamics helps you grasp how democracy works (or doesn't work) in practice. The role of the media is especially relevant in today's world, where media can shape political opinions, drive agendas, and influence elections.

Component 2: UK Government
This part focuses on the institutions of the UK government - how they're structured, how they work, and the checks and balances in place. Parliament, the Prime Minister, and the wider executive all play critical roles in decision-making. Constitutional reform is also a hot topic, as the UK's constitution is unwritten and constantly evolving. This section will give you an insight into the nature of power and authority within the UK, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the system.

Component 3: Global Politics
This is where you look at international relations and the challenges the world faces. It covers major global issues like conflict, war, terrorism, climate change, and human rights. The role of countries in addressing these issues is complex, involving diplomacy, conflict resolution, and international organisations like the UN. This helps you understand how local and global politics are interconnected, and the global impact of political decisions.

Studying politics is incredibly relevant right now, especially given the levels of political tension and change we see globally. Issues like Brexit, the rise of nationalism, climate change, the shift in international power dynamics, and ongoing conflicts - all make the study of politics deeply engaging and essential for understanding the world around us.

This subject is highly valued by universities and employers because it cultivates critical thinking, analytical skills, and a deep understanding of both national and global issues. Political debates help you develop an ability to weigh evidence, assess different perspectives, and understand the complex forces shaping the world. These are skills that are highly transferable to a wide range of careers such as business, law journalism and the media. Moreover, it pairs well with subjects like History, English, and Business.

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 and minority influence), 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 … Ms Sivyer/Miss Dobney

Sociology
A Level OCR

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 Sociology, History or Geography will find A Level Sociology complements and enhances their learning. Additionally, students who are pursuing A Levels in Politics, Geography, Psychology or History may wish to study Sociology as a complimentary A Level.

Topics covered include:
Year 12 - Basic Sociological introduction and Sociological Theory, Socialisation, Culture & Identity, Youth Subcultures and Research methods.
Year 13 - Social Inequalities, Globalisation and the Digital Social World and Crime & Deviance.

Course Structure and Assessment
Assessed via 3 external exams at the end of the 2-year course. This is a 100% exam course, with no coursework.
Paper 1 = 1hr 30 mins
Paper 2= 2 hrs 15 mins
Paper 3 = 2hrs 15 mins

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.

The Pearson BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport offers three different study options, allowing students to choose how much time they dedicate to sport alongside their other subjects.

Single Option: Equivalent to 1 A Level. Students study Sport alongside two other A Level subjects, giving them a broader range of subjects to choose from.

Double Option: Equivalent to 2 A Levels. Students study Sport alongside one other A Level subject, allowing them to focus more on sport while still studying another subject.

Triple Option: Equivalent to 3 A Levels. Students study Sport as their main and only subject, allowing them to focus entirely on sport and study the subject in greater depth.

Course Structure and Assessment
The course is made up of a range of units covering different areas of sport, including practical sports performance, sports coaching and leadership, fitness testing, principles of anatomy and physiology in sport, research methods in sport, the physiology of fitness,, skill acquisition, business in sport and sports development.

Assessment is mainly coursework-based, through assignments, projects, presentations and practical activities. Some units may also include externally assessed exams or tasks, depending on the qualification.
Students are assessed throughout the course, with grades awarded at Pass, Merit or Distinction level. The final qualification grade is based on the grades achieved across the units studied.

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

Textiles
A Level Art & Design EDEXCEL PEARSON 9TD0 01/02

Course Overview
Students follow an integrated practical, critical and theoretical study of Textile Design using a variety of media and processes. They are encouraged to develop their own personal responses to their experiences, environment and culture in both practical and contextual activities.

Component 1, coursework, starts with a series of structured activities around a common theme and this is developed into more individual work culminating in a variety of personal responses. Students work in a diverse range of textile processes from fashion textiles, fine art textiles to textiles for interiors. Individual artistic strengths are considered when students decide on the direction for their work and as the course progresses, they are encouraged to pursue their work with increasing independence. Students develop this work in response to an idea, issue, concept or theme of their own choice. As the Personal Investigation concludes the work must show greater knowledge, understanding and skills than in Year 12 and show a sustained personal journey that is fully realised. The Personal Investigation, Component 1, additionally requires an extended written element, of a minimum 1000 words which must link to and be informed by the practical work completed.

Component 2 is the Externally Set Assignment, which commences from the 1 February of Year 13. Working from a given broad-based thematic starting point (set by the examination board) students are expected to produce a clearly defined body of work which will lead to a resolved piece or pieces. The final personal response is completed during a 15-hour examination.

Course Structure and Assessment
Assessment is completed internally by the Art Department teaching staff before moderation by an external moderator from Edexcel.
Personal Investigation: Component 1 is worth 60% of the total A Level marks
Externally Set Assignment: Component 2 is worth 40% of the total A Level marks

Career Opportunities
Entry to Foundation courses in Art and Design. Direct entry onto degree courses either art based or others such as architecture and product design. The subject helps prepare students for work in the media and creative industries. Textiles demonstrates aesthetic understanding and dexterity, important skills for many non art specialist careers. Textiles also shows diversity and creativity in thinking which can benefit a more academic route at university if chosen.

For more details contact … Mrs Broad

Extra-Curricular

The Social Committee

Throughout the year, the committee plays an active role in enriching student life by organising a wide range of events designed to bring the student body together. These include fun and competitive activities such as Quiz Nights, Bingo, and Football Tournaments. In addition to these social and sporting events, the committee also takes on the important task of coordinating the Leavers' Hoodies, ensuring that students have a lasting memento of their time at school.





Sports

Sixth Form students have the opportunity to take part in a variety of sporting activities throughout the year. We have successful football and netball teams, and students can try out for school teams or simply enjoy friendly games with their peers. The on-site Leisure Centre is open daily from 3pm for student use.

Trips & Excursions

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 Duke of Edinburgh Award.





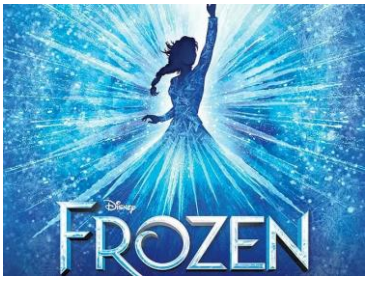
Charity Events

The Sixth Form Charity Team selects a charity to support and organises a range of fundraising activities throughout Year 12 and Year 13. In previous years, students have climbed the O2, hosted a Valentine's raffle, and completed a sponsored 5k run, raising over £3,700 for The Chartwell Children's Cancer Trust.

Getting Involved Through Volunteering

There are plenty of ways to contribute to the school community. You can support a year group, assist with public events, lead or take part in clubs, help in lessons or with administrative tasks, or take on a leadership role such as Senior Prefect, Deputy Head Prefect, or Head Prefect.





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 'Nativity'. This year's performance is 'Frozen'.

Expanding Horizons

We are committed to ensuring, that students leave us with the skills to excel either in the workplace 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 a Taster Day at the end of Year 11 for you to attend some sixth form lessons followed by a parent/carer information evening.

All Year 12 students are encouraged 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 primary 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 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 and 'Next Steps'. 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. So far this academic year students have attended the following tutorials delivered by external speakers:

Drugs & Alcohol Awareness with the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation
Driven by Consequences - Bromley Road Safety
Bromley Sexual Health - NHS Foundation Trust
CXK Apprenticeship Awareness
LinkedIn/Personal Branding
WizeUp Financial Education - Pensions & Tax
WizeUp Financial Education - Budgeting & Saving
WizeUp Financial Education - Credit Cards
UCAS Personal Statements
Why go to Uni? University of East Anglia

Horizons Week







Horizons Week is a programme of off-timetable activities designed to cover important statutory elements of the Sixth Form curriculum while also providing students with opportunities to develop key life skills, build friendships, and enjoy a range of fun and engaging activities before the summer break.

Last year**, Day 1** focused on preparing students for their future pathways after Sixth Form. Students took part in a carousel of sessions covering: UCAS, Apprenticeships, CV Writing, Personal Statements, Budgeting and Interview Skills.

Day 2 challenged students to think creatively and work collaboratively through a range of enterprise and critical thinking activities.

Students worked in teams to develop an innovative entrepreneurial business idea, with the winning team's proposal selected for implementation. This exciting opportunity allows students to put their leadership, teamwork and business skills into practice through an *Apprentice*-style challenge. The day also includesd a CPR training session with the British Heart Foundation

Day 3 was all about teamwork, creativity and friendly competition. Students were placed into mixed teams, giving them the opportunity to work with students from outside their usual form groups as they completed a variety of exciting challenges, including cooking, creative portrait tasks and many more. Teams competed to win tickets to the Sixth Form Summer Ball.

Lastly, **Day 4** offered a wide variety of activities with something for everyone, including: Inflatable assault course, Mini golf, Hula hoop challenges, Tallest tower competition, Tug of War, Dance challenge and much more!



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 sixth form dress code of conduct

Charles Darwin School: How to apply

Your Sixth Form Application...

- You will need to meet the academic requirements to secure your place in the Sixth Form.
- Applications should be handed in at Main Reception. External applications may be emailed to sixthform@cds.lumero.org by Friday 18th December 2026.
- Applications 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 you submit your application, the better the chance of securing a place on your preferred course.
- As part of your application, you are asked to select **three preferred subjects** that you would like to study in the Sixth Form, along with **one reserve subject**.
- You must read the individual subject-specific entry criteria carefully and ensure that you meet the requirements for your chosen subjects.
- It may be that some of your chosen subjects clash on the timetable. If this happens, we will contact you to discuss the available options and possible alternatives.
- BTEC Sport can be taken as a Single Award (one subject), Double Award (equivalent to two subjects) or Triple Award (equivalent to three subjects).
- **All courses are subject to sufficient student numbers. If there is insufficient demand to form a viable teaching group, a course may not run**
- We cannot guarantee that you will be allocated all your preferred subjects, but we will do our best to accommodate your choices.
- You will have the opportunity to attend a Taster Event on **Monday 28th June 2027**, giving you the chance to experience your chosen subjects through taster lessons.
- Enrolment will take place following the examination results in August.

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

sixthform@cds.lumero.org
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?

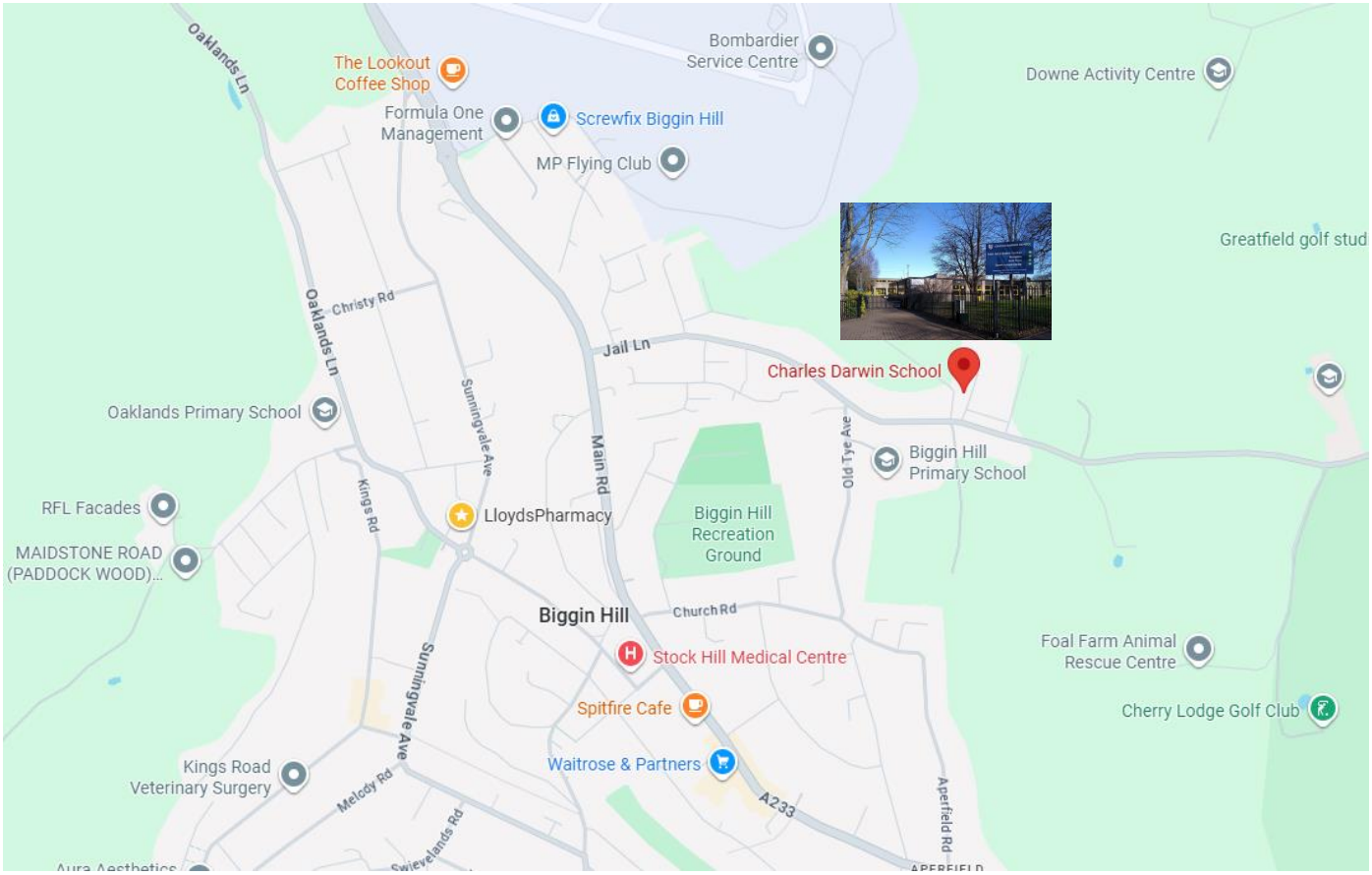
If you don't already have an application form this can be collected from Main Reception or downloaded from the school website.

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 may be invited to attend a meeting to discuss their application in more detail.

How to find us…



School Bus Routes

Charles Darwin School is well served by Transport for London bus routes, making it accessible from Orpington, Biggin Hill, Bromley, Petts Wood, New Addington and surrounding areas.

Route	School Service	Main Areas Served
664	New Addington, Coney Hall, Keston Church	Direct to Charles Darwin School
684	Orpington, Orpington Hospital, Leaves Green	Direct to Charles Darwin School
R8	Orpington, Farnborough, Downe, Biggin Hill	Passes the School
320	Biggin Hill, Leaves Green, Keston, Bromley, Catford	Short walk from nearby stops
R2	Petts Wood, Orpington, Keston, Biggin Hill	Short walk from nearby stops
246	Bromley North, Hayes, Keston, Biggin Hill	Short walk from nearby stops
464	New Addington, Biggin Hill, Tatsfield	Short walk from nearby stops

Charles Darwin School
Jail Lane, Biggin Hill,
Kent, TN16 3AU



Tel: 01959 574043
Email: sixthform@cds.lumero.org
Website: www.cdarwin.com

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