



## The Sixth Form





# Why Choose Bolton School's Sixth Form?

## An Academic Education

We have years of **academic tradition and excellence**, which provide a perfect foundation for Advanced Level examination success. You will be able to follow examination courses of your choice, in small teaching groups with teaching staff who have the skills and expertise to help you fulfil your academic potential. You will work alongside girls who share your aspirations for success. A large number of subjects are available to you, all of which have been chosen to help you achieve your next step along the journey towards Higher Education and/ or your working life.

We provide a very wide range of **opportunities to extend and enrich your learning** through study visits, art exhibitions, theatre trips, travel in Britain and the wider world, competitions, Open Days at Universities and academic extra-curricular societies. (See pages 7 & 8 for more information). The Curriculum Enrichment Programme (CEP) provides an interesting range of short courses to complement your AS and A2 subjects. (See page 6).

## Opportunities to Develop Your Talents and Personal Qualities

In order to enrich your social and personal development, we offer a wide array of **extra-curricular opportunities** from which you will benefit, whether your interests encompass sport, music, drama, outdoor pursuits or any of the other activities which you will find at Bolton School. And, if it's not there already, the chances are that you will find enough like-minded people to start something up..... (See pages 7 & 8)

The benefit of being in a school rather than a college means that you can also develop your personal qualities by **taking a lead role in School life**. As a member of the Sixth Form, you are pivotal in setting the tone for the rest of the school. You will be an essential role model for the younger pupils beneath you and they will remember your influence for the rest of their lives. As the beneficiary of all the opportunities which a first-rate education provides, you will also be encouraged to **play an active role in the wider community**. (Pages 9 and 10)

## Support for You in a Time of Transition

In everything that you do, you will have the **backing of a strong pastoral team** who will monitor your progress and offer you the support and encouragement to make the most of your Sixth Form life. Mrs Winder, Head of Sixth Form, and Mrs Smalley, Deputy Head, oversee the general running of Sixth Form life. They are supported by the Year Heads, Mrs Furey and Miss Jones, and a team of Year 12 and Year 13 tutors. Our Sixth Form Personal and Social Education programme also focuses on your health and well-being. (Page 6)

The Sixth Form offers you the chance to make the **vital transition between school life and Further Education and/or your working life**. The Careers Advisory programme will provide you with all the support you need to research Higher Education and career options, as well as to build up your CV through work experience and the development of your soft skills. (Pages 13-14)

## The Best of Both Worlds

In preparation for University and working life, the **new Sixth Form Centre** (the Riley Centre) will offer you the chance to study alongside members of the Boys' Division, as well as share the same recreational space. You will also have the opportunity to interact with members of the Boys' Division in a number of joint societies and extra-curricular activities. (Page 6)

At the same time, the majority of your lessons will be taught in **single-sex groups**, which means that your teachers will be able to focus on your needs as a female student. You will also have the fun and camaraderie of belonging to a large group of independently minded young women, who have the confidence and community spirit to enjoy life in a girls' school to the full.

## **The Comfort of Friends, New and Old**

The Girls' Division Sixth Form welcomes up to thirty new entrants to the School every year. This means that girls moving up from Year 11 will find that there are plenty of opportunities to make **new friendships** and, if they want, **a fresh start**. Meanwhile, girls coming from other schools will not feel that they are in a tiny minority when they join. The Lower Sixth year group will be small enough for you to get to know each other well (100 to 120 girls), but not so small that you will feel claustrophobic. In addition, you will have the Upper Sixth to get to know, as well as members of the Boys' Division (100 to 120 boys in each year group).

When you leave, you will become a member of our **thriving Old Girls' Association**. We will keep in touch with you through letters and Facebook and we hope that you will reciprocate! You will receive invitations to events organised in school during the year as well as to Regional Dinners, held jointly with the Boys' Division, which give Old Girls who have moved away the chance to meet on a regular basis and even the chance to network with others in the same profession as them.

All in all, our aim is **to equip you for the future**, by helping you to achieve the best examination qualifications possible and to develop fully your personal qualities, skills and talents. We hope you will find this booklet helpful. If there are any questions it doesn't answer, please make sure to get in touch and speak to a Head of Department, to Mrs Smalley, Acting Head of Sixth Form, or to Miss Davidson, Tutor for Sixth Form Admissions.

## **Sixth Form Staff, Autumn 2013**



**Mrs Ilona Smalley**, Acting Head of Sixth Form (from January: Mrs Catherine Winder)

Miss Lisa Jones, Acting Deputy Head of Sixth Form (from January: Mrs Ilona Smalley)

Mrs S Entwistle, Acting Head of Year 12 (from January: Mrs Lisa Jones)

Mrs Alison Furey, Head of Year 13 (2012/13)

Miss Charlotte Davidson, Tutor for Sixth Form Admissions

# **Equipping You For the Future- Why Bolton School and not a College?**

## **How Important are A Level Results?**

Although they are not the be-all and end-all, A Level results play a significant role in determining what girls can do after they leave school or college. For the majority of girls attending Bolton School Sixth Form, the main aim is to achieve A Level grades which are strong enough to enter the University and/ or career of their choice. Clearly, it helps in this respect to study alongside other students who have high aspirations and with teaching staff who know what it takes to get the best grades for each individual. It will also be important to be in a small group- we aim to have 16 girls as a maximum in A Level groups but the majority of classes are considerably smaller than that.

For those girls who wish to start a career straight from school, the initiatives which we undertake in the Careers Department (pp 10-12) will be particularly important, as will our movement to develop partnerships with local employers (such as the KPMG scheme, described on p13 ) and with former members of school.

Other girls may wish to move on to a Foundation Course after Sixth Form, as a prelude to studying Art and Design. For these girls, the personal attention and guidance which they receive from their teachers, particularly when completing their portfolios to present to Admissions Tutors, will play a vital role in their future success- as will the small group size and the resources and facilities which they have at their disposal.

The majority of girls in the Girls' Division Sixth Form, however, will have their hearts and minds set on a University education. As far as University entrance is concerned, it is worth noting that, from 2013 onwards, restrictions on the numbers of students able to enter university have been lifted for those students who gained ABB grades or above at A-level. Some universities made academic scholarships – normally worth between £1,000 and £2,000 a year – available to students with AAB. In this context, results at Bolton School read exceptionally well- and, all the more so, given that our drop-out rate is virtually nil. (See table below)

## **What Else Is Important?**

Applying to university, competing for jobs in the market place, enrolling on a course of higher education, all have become more and more competitive and even the most academically qualified candidates may receive disappointments- for example, over 80% of all applicants to Oxford and Cambridge are rejected (even though they may have straight A\*/A predictions or grades).

You will read about some of the ways in which the pastoral staff and careers department at Bolton School will help you take the next step in the sections below- working with you to build up your CV, guiding you over your Personal Statement or letter of application and writing a reference which accurately describes your strengths.

Above all, however, you will see how Sixth Form life, with its emphasis on being part of a larger school community in which you are expected to take on roles of leadership and participation, will help you develop the so-called 'soft skills' - those personal attributes which enhance your interactions and ultimately your career prospects, such as communication skills and the ability to negotiate, to solve problems creatively, to think strategically, to work as part of a team and to have a positive influence on others. In order to benefit, all you have to do is throw yourself into it!

### **A Level Results, Bolton School Girls' Division 2008-2013**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Entry</b>	<b>Total Pass at Grades A*-E</b>	<b>Total Pass at Grades A*-B</b>	<b>% Pass at Grades A*-B</b>	<b>%Pass at Grades A*/A</b>	<b>% pass at Grade A*</b>
2013	328	328	271	82.6	52.7	15.2
2012	315	312	250	79.4	52.7	16.2
2011	332	330	271	81.6	53.9	16.0
2010	382	381	314	82.2	60	18.6
2009	338	338	294	87	n/a	n/a
2008	439	437	355	80.9	n/a	n/a

### **A Level Results, National Figures 2008-2013**

<b>Year</b>	<b>% Pass at Grades A*-B</b>	<b>%Pass at Grades A*/A</b>	<b>% pass at Grade A*</b>
2013	52.9	26.3	7.6
2012	52.6	26.6	7.9
2011	52.6	27	8.2
2010	52.2	27	8.1
2009	52	n/a	n/a
2008	50.8	n/a	n/a



# Sixth Form Curriculum

Most students embark on a combination of four AS subjects in the Lower Sixth and drop down to three subjects in the Upper Sixth (A2). There is currently also an opportunity to take Critical Thinking as an additional AS in Year 12 and General Studies as an additional AS or A2 in Year 13. In addition, members of the Upper Sixth may currently choose to study for the AQA Bacc, which includes the preparation of an Extended Research Project (below).

All Advanced Level courses currently follow a two-stage pattern.

First year, Year 12

AS – two units (most subjects).

To be examined at a standard intermediate between GCSE and A Level.

Second year, Year 13

A2 – two units (most subjects).

To be examined at full A Level standard and to include some “synoptic” assessment, i.e. assessment of content from all four units.

## Entrance Requirements (Internal Candidates)

In order to remain at Bolton School, pupils currently in Year 11 at the school should achieve at least six passes at Grade B. They must have at least a Grade C in English, Maths and Science (whether Dual Award or one of the single science subjects.) In order to achieve a good A Level in some subjects, it may be necessary to have obtained at least a ‘B’ (and often an ‘A’ grade) at GCSE. Please talk to your subject teacher and/ or the Head of Department if you have any doubts on this score. S/he will know how much of the GCSE course which you have studied will be applicable to your Sixth Form study.

Those pupils who joined the school in Year 7 on a Foundation Grant will continue to receive this Grant, so long as they remain eligible on financial grounds. Bursary support may be available to other internal candidates, moving from Year 11 into the Sixth Form, after consideration of family income and a student's academic merit. Internal pupils wishing to apply for a Bursary must speak to Mrs Keenan about their academic suitability and to the Finance Department about their financial eligibility as early as possible.

## Entrance Requirements (External Candidates)

The minimum requirement for entry from outside Bolton School into the Sixth Form is at least six passes at Grade A or B at GCSE or an equivalent qualification. External candidates must have at least a Grade C in English, Maths and Science (whether Dual Award or one of the single science subjects.) External candidates will normally be expected to have an ‘A’ grade in a subject chosen for ‘A’ Level if they have taken that subject to GCSE.

Once an application has been made, you will receive an invitation to come to an interview day. These will be held on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014**. You will be asked to bring your school reports (including GCSE predictions), record of achievement and Mock Examination results with you. If you are considering Art or Technology as one of your options, you should also bring your portfolio. Offers will be based on your interview with a member of the School Management Team, an interview with at least two Heads of Department (representing subjects you have said that you would like to take), your performance in an online test (designed to assess your potential) and your school reference. Any offers made at this stage will be provisional until the GCSE results are known.

Bursary support is available to students applying to join the Girls' Division Sixth Form. We award bursaries after consideration of family income and a student's academic merit.

## **The Extended Project (EPQ)**

The EPQ provides Bolton students with the opportunity to develop research and academic skills relevant for future study. Although it is not generally included in conditional offers made by Universities, it is nonetheless valued by them and they encourage candidates to draw upon relevant EPQ experience when writing their personal statement. We have found that it can be a factor in enabling our students to achieve a conditional offer from the most competitive universities. In the summer of 2013, the moderators for the examination said: ‘The centre is to be congratulated for delivering a successful programme across such a large cohort of students; the taught skills, as detailed in the logs, had clearly been effective in preparing candidates for this demanding qualification.’



## **Curriculum Enrichment Programme**

The Curriculum Enrichment Programme aims to provide you with the means to enhance and enrich your chosen programme of academic study by offering a very wide range of short courses and activities. The programme enables you to maintain a good balance between Arts, Sciences and Social Sciences, give breadth to your programme of study and pursue new interests and activities. The programme also aims to ensure that you get maximum benefit and enjoyment from your time in the Sixth Form.

Apart from personal enjoyment and a sense of achievement, the CEP means that you will improve your prospects when applying for a place in Higher Education or for a job. Increasingly, admissions’ tutors and employers are looking for more than academic qualifications when making offers. You will therefore need to be confident, articulate and knowledgeable about a wide range of issues and to have a variety of interests.

In Year 12 two periods are allocated to Curriculum Enrichment each week. Most of the courses last for five or six weeks, although a few run for ten weeks. AS Critical Thinking is currently also offered as a whole year course. Many of the courses are classroom-based while others are of a practical nature. Typical options might be learning a new language (in 2013/14 Spanish, German and Italian), critical reading/ thinking, cookery, climbing and criminology. Games and other recreational activities are also included. A full list is provided in the Curriculum Enrichment booklet.





## Personal and Social Education

Along with the rest of the school, one period each cycle will be devoted to a PSE session with your Form Tutor. The programme for the Sixth Form is both diverse and interesting. It focuses on the needs of students embarking on Advanced Level study. As well as dealing with study skills, self-assessment and health issues, there is considerable emphasis on careers and Higher Education issues.



## Enrichment Through Extra-Curricular Activities

During your time in the Sixth Form you will have a wonderful opportunity to take advantage of the wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer. Facilities such as our outdoor pursuits centre at Patterdale Hall in the Lake District, our Sports Complex and the Arts Centre provide first class venues in which to participate in activities including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Life Saving, as well as Joint Drama productions and concerts.

Whatever the activity you choose, you will find that your enjoyment of your time in the Sixth Form and your sense of achievement are greatly enhanced if you make the most of the opportunity to participate in what is going on. Here are just some of the activities on offer:

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
Athletics	Brass Ensemble	Drama Productions
Badminton	Chamber Choir	Duke of Edinburgh Award Schemes
Lacrosse	Clarinet Group	Geographical Association
Netball	Concert Band	Life-saving awards
Swimming	Flute Choir	Literary & Debating Society (joint with Boys' Div)
Tennis	Instrumental Lessons	Law Society (joint with Boys' Div)
Non-team sports are catered for in the CEP programme	Jazz Band	Medics' Society (joint with Boys' Div)
	Joint Orchestra	Model United Nations Society
	Percussion Ensemble	Philosophical Society
	Saxophone Group	Psychology Video Club
	Senior Choir	Quiz Club
	String Orchestra	Reading Circle
	Vocal lessons	

### Year 13 Yearbook

The Yearbook is prepared by students in Year 13 as a memento of their time at Bolton School. Each student in the year is individually featured in the book, along with a large range of activities that have taken place throughout their time in the school. This is a light-hearted look at life in the Sixth Form.



## **Curricular and Extra-Curricular Trips and Visits**

A number of the extra-curricular activities listed above may also offer you the chance to travel abroad: in recent years, for example, there have been Music tours to Italy and Prague and sports tours to the US and Canada. In 2014/15, there is also an outdoor-pursuits-based trip with World Challenge to Ethiopia.

In addition, departments supplement the work which they do in the class room with a wide variety of trips and visits, either in term time or in the holidays. Some of these are included in curriculum provision and are therefore free of charge; others are extra-curricular and will incur a supplementary cost. All, however, are designed to extend your learning and help your interest in the subjects which you are studying.

In 2013/14, for example, the following Sixth Form departmental trips were among those taking place: a Biology residential field trip to Blencathra in the Lake District for Year 12; a Business Studies/ Economics trip to London; a Sixth Form Chemistry course at Keble College, Oxford; a Theatre Studies trip to the Edinburgh Festival; a Sixth Form English trip to Stratford and London; a Spanish Study trip to Cadiz; a Geography trip to San Francisco; a Geography residential field trip to Devon; a Psychology trip to Poland.

## **Competitions and Awards - Celebrating Success**

At Bolton School, we encourage girls to take part in competitions as a way of testing their capabilities and proving to them how competent they are! Recent successes have seen one Sixth Form pupil winning the University of Cambridge's Psychology Essay Writing Prize; another pupil came second in her age group in a national journalism competition organised by Amnesty International; in the past two years, five Design Technology students have been awarded Arkwright Scholarships in this prestigious national competition and one of our Year 13 girls was named as the winner of the Portico Prize for Young Writers- two others were Highly Commended in this regional competition.

In addition, School groups and individuals have enjoyed success locally and nationally in both music and sport. Indeed, our success in the latter means that we were named as one of the top three Independent Schools for Sport in the country in December 2012.



## **Enrichment Through Service to the Community**

### **Sixth Form Charity Committee**

As a school we feel it is important for our pupils' development that they are ready to help those less fortunate than themselves. This can be done in one of two ways: volunteering their time or raising funds. In the Sixth Form, students are always keen to contribute to a multitude of charitable organisations. They do this by organising individual, class and whole school fundraising events, often for charities which are of particular interest to them individually.

Sixth Form representatives work with Forms lower down the school to lead the younger pupils in charitable fund-raising. They also organise their own charitable fund-raising events for causes of

their choice. This year students have collected funds at school events, conducted cake sales, and raised awareness of 'Text Santa' by running 5 kilometres dressed as Santa in Liverpool.

Some sixth form fund-raising activities are traditionally held each year such as the Prefects' Panto – a comedic play based on the Prefects' interpretation of school life. One opportunity which the girls have embraced is to raise money for the Indian charity, Street Kids Children's Village, where the girls' village was founded largely due to the support of Bolton School Girls' Division. In December 2011, Bolton girls went out to visit the Village and we hope that there will be another such trip in 2014/15.

We realise the importance of working for the good of the local and wider community and the Sixth Form Charity Committee is an excellent opportunity to do this. This year, the Sixth form have raised more than £1200! We aim to beat this next year.



## **Year 12 Community Action Programme**

In the Lower Sixth in particular, we put a strong emphasis on the importance of community service. All girls are encouraged to give up some time for the benefit of others and to take part in the Community Action Programme. They visit a "Volunteering Fayre" at the start of Year 12, attended by over 20 local organisations, to help them to organise their voluntary work. This might involve visiting the elderly, assisting in hospitals or hospices, going into local state schools to help children with their studies or helping in our own junior and infants' schools. Girls record the number of 'hours' of service which they do and their achievements are celebrated at a Community Action Evening at the end of the summer term. Girls regularly comment on the personal satisfaction gained from the scheme and on the way in which it builds their self-confidence and communication skills.

Those pupils with a passion for service to others are encouraged to become a Student Ambassador in year 13 where they can manage school-wide Community Action projects, working closely with form groups to support Volunteering across the foundation.



### **Leadership Roles and Role Models within Bolton School Girls' Division**

Sixth Formers in the Girls' Division play a vital role in setting a good example for the younger girls about behaviour and values. They themselves benefit from the experience of interacting with more impressionable pupils. In the Upper Sixth, the girls and staff elect a group of Prefects who will have particular leadership responsibilities with regard to the rest of the school. Other Sixth Form pupils may play a part in the School Council, as Form Representatives and as Common Room Representatives.



# Support for You as an Individual

Your personal and academic development at Bolton School will be carefully monitored by pastoral and academic staff who are always ready to assist you if you need help. You will be assigned to a Tutor Group of about 15 students from both the Lower and Upper Sixth- this means that the older pupils can mentor the younger ones in the Sixth Form. You will have a Form tutor who will look after your needs and be responsible for monitoring your academic progress during the two years in the Sixth Form. Your tutor will help you to get the most out of your time in the Sixth Form and will be the first point of contact for advice and help.

## Monitoring Your Progress

In each of the Autumn and Spring Terms a date will be set aside for staff to assess your progress. The content of each test, practical or oral, will vary according to the subject. Results of these will be sent home in either a full or interim report. A 'full' report, ie a complete set of subject reports, will be provided in both Year 12 and in Year 13. There will also be the opportunity for you and your parents to see your subject tutors in both Year 12 and Year 13 to discuss your progress.

## CV and Personal Statement

During the Sixth Form, in addition to academic subject reports, recorded assessments and external examination results, you will be given help to compile your personal CV. Throughout the Sixth Form you will also write and update your Student Statement, with the assistance of the Head of Careers and Higher Education and your Form Tutor, who will also be the UCAS reference writer. This process will help you to review your academic progress and extra-curricular achievements. It will also give you the opportunity to identify difficulties, and seek help to overcome them. At the end of Year 12 and the start of Year 13 you will use this to help you write your UCAS statement for university application.

## References

Whether you apply for a course in Higher Education or go straight in to a job, you will need a reference which has been written by somebody who knows you well and who can emphasise your strengths. At Bolton School, your reference will be written by your Form Tutor as a member of a small team of experienced teachers who devote a lot of time to learning what makes a reference stand out from the rest and who will take the time to get to know you well. This will give you the best chance of getting an offer from the course of study or employer of your choice.

## Supporting Your University Application

In the section below ('Planning Your Career'), you will read of all the ways in which the Careers Department will help you come to a decision about which University and which course to choose, if that is the path which you have chosen.

We encourage all our pupils to choose the most appropriate subject area for them. Every course has something to offer. Many of our students aspire to be accepted on very competitive courses. They benefit in a number of ways from the additional help which we are able to give them, thanks to our long tradition of educating intelligent young women.

Some subject pathways impose particular requirements:

For subjects which are linked with future employment such as **veterinary science, dentistry or pharmacy**, Bolton School will help you demonstrate evidence of your vocation, enthusiasm and suitability in your UCAS form and at interview. If you are a future vet, you will be advised whether or not you need to take the BMAT (for Cambridge and Royal Veterinary School (London)) and how to prepare.

If you are interested in studying **medicine** at university, Bolton School can offer advice on work experience which is essential for your application to be taken seriously. There is a Medics' Society which you can join to help develop your understanding of relevant ethical issues. The Girls' Division in tandem with the Boys' Division holds a day of training to help you understand the types of question which you will be asked if you need to take the BMAT exam (eg currently for Oxford, Cambridge, UCL or Imperial: see [www.bmat.org.uk](http://www.bmat.org.uk)) or the UKCAT (required by most other medical schools: see [www.ukcat.ac.uk](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk).)

For subjects which demand a particular technical skill or understanding, such as **engineering, design or architecture**, Bolton School will offer a range of enrichment activities to develop your interest in your area of choice. For future engineers, for example, activities organised by the physics department will help you understand what to expect of the course, including specialist areas such as Civil, Mechanical, Aeronautical, Production, Chemical, Electrical and Electronic Engineering. You will also be advised to look at the Engineering Council website (<http://www.engc.org.uk>).

For subjects which require you to take an aptitude test to demonstrate your suitability to read the subject at certain universities, such as **English, History, Classics, Languages, Mathematics and Physics**, Bolton School will help you to understand how to take and pass the relevant test, as well as hosting your examination when this is possible in school. For example, applicants to read **Law** at many top universities (currently including Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol and Durham) are required to sit an entrance test known as the LNAT, a multiple choice test which looks at your reasoning ability. Although you cannot take this particular exam in a school, Bolton School will help you decide if the test is something which you need to take and how best to prepare. If you want to read law, you will also have the opportunity to take part in a competitive moot (or mock trial), held in Manchester in the Autumn term.

### **Applying to Academically Competitive Universities, including Oxbridge**

Bolton School will help you prepare for the most academically competitive universities by offering a relevant CEP course in Year 12, for which you will be expected to research and present a paper to your peer group. You may be invited to join the Year 13 Essay Society, chaired by the Headmistress and Headmaster, which is run jointly with the Boys' Division. You will receive guidance in developing your independent reading from the Head of Department of the subject which you wish to study. You will also be guided through the process of choosing a college (where relevant), completing the Supplementary Application Questionnaire (Cambridge), submitting examples of your written work (Oxford and Cambridge) and making a strong impression at interview.

### **Considering study in Europe?**

Bolton School will help you think of the pros and cons of this option if you are doing a Liberal Arts or Social Sciences degree- for example, Universities have a very strong commitment to student satisfaction and entrance is relatively easy, but there is a high drop out rate at the end of the first year. Maastricht University in Holland has led the way in recruiting British students, but other Dutch universities (notably at Utrecht and Leiden) are taking an increasing number of UK students.

### **Considering study in the US?**

The school will help you think about reasons whether it is a good (or bad) idea for you to study in the US. For full details of courses and institutions, go to [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com). You will have to gain good scores in the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT1) which involves Math(s) and Verbal Reasoning as well as an essay. The SAT can be taken more than once (all scores are received by colleges, but your highest score is the one that will count) at a registered centre. You may also have to take SAT2s (subject SATs) in up to three subjects. At Bolton School, we may be able to host and help you prepare for the PSAT, which is a preliminary examination in preparation for the SAT and which is recommended if you are looking to win a scholarship to an American University.

# Planning Your Career

The Head of Careers and Higher Education, Mrs E Lowe, will work with you on an extensive programme designed to prepare you for the opportunities and responsibilities of adult life. The Careers Room is staffed by our two full-time careers assistants, Mrs Bell and Mrs Sutcliffe, who are always there to help with your queries and will play a vital role in processing your Higher Education applications in Year 13.

The Careers Department aims to help you to:

- develop a wide range of transferable skills in readiness for the world of work
- build a better awareness of the business world
- develop interview skills
- make sensible choices about Higher Education and /or a career
- prepare a strong application for Higher Education

We do this in the following ways:

## **Business and Enterprise Skills Training (BEST)**

All girls are involved in two complete days of business activities before devising their own businesses and competing with the Boys' Division for the KPMG Enterprise Trophy. In 2012/13, the first day began with a key note address from Claire Young, a finalist on 'The Apprentice' and continued with a carousel of sessions given by local employers on subjects such as 'Communications and Negotiation', 'Leadership and Making an Impact' and 'Structuring a Business Plan.' In 2013/14, the keynote address will be given by Caroline Plumb, an award-winning 'Young Entrepreneur' who was formally a member of the Girls' Division.

## **Partnership with Local Employers**

We work with local employers to help you learn from their expertise and make contacts which will enable you to set up work experience if appropriate. In particular, we have a partnership with KPMG, whereby pupils in Year 12 compete for a four-week paid work placement in their Manchester office. (KPMG are also willing to offer suitable students unpaid work experience).





## **Visiting Speakers**

A whole morning is dedicated to talks given by visiting speakers from a wide range of careers from Journalism to Speech Therapy. You will be able to attend four different talks, each lasting about twenty five minutes, with time for questions. There is a lunchtime seminar programme when you are given the opportunity to attend short talks given by outside speakers. We also organise days devoted to particular spheres of working life, such as 'law', 'medicine' or 'engineering'. In 2012/ 13, we held a Creative Industries Day, which included speakers from a range of 'creative industries', such as journalism, design, advertising and even a professional actor. In 2013/14, we are holding a similar day for Medics.

## **Interview Practice**

In the first instance you will be interviewed by your form tutor about your progress and career plans for the future. When you feel that you need an interview with a member of the careers team, you can visit the Careers Room to make an appointment. In addition, to help you with interview skills, there are two evenings in the Spring Term of year 12 when you are given the opportunity to be interviewed by a professional from the world of work- if possible from an area in which you are interested- and to receive feedback from him/ her on how you performed. If you are interested in applying to a very competitive university which will require you to pass an interview, you will have the opportunity to practise again, with a 'mock' interview from a member of the Boys' Division staff, who will not know you but who teaches the discipline in which you are interested.

## **Higher Education**

In January of Year 12 Mrs Lowe will talk to you about how to begin your research into Higher Education. There is also a joint trip to the GMEX Higher Education conference where you can talk to representatives from a range of universities. A member of staff from Lancaster University will visit school on two occasions to give you advice on student finance and how to make a strong application and s/he will also give an evening talk to your parents.

## **Higher Education and Careers Fair**

Every two years, the Girls' and Boys' Division hold a massive Higher Education and Careers Fair, which a very large number of universities and national employers attend. This enables you to talk to staff from institutions and companies in which you may be interested without even having to leave Bolton!

## **We support you to:**

- gain relevant work experience and build up your CV with extra-curricular activities
- attend university conferences and Open Days
- carry out your own research using the Careers Room and the internet
- choose the course and career which is right for you.

# General Organisation

## The Sixth Form Centre (The Riley Centre)

In September 2013, we moved into a brand new, purpose-built Sixth Form Centre, right at the heart of the school. The aim of the Centre is to provide you with one of the best study and social areas available to any Sixth Former in the country. This building, alongside the single-sex teaching which will continue in both the Boys' and Girls' Divisions, will provide you with the opportunities to make the very best of these crucial two years of your lives. The Sixth Form centre includes:

- A mixed social area with comfortable seating and dining areas, where you can relax, meet new people, discuss and take advantage of your own catered food counter;
- State-of-the-art study areas with areas for you to study in groups or for silent, individual work;
- Wifi access to the internet, with recharge points for laptops and tablets;
- Seminar rooms and spaces for Sixth Form Presentations;
- Bases for Sixth Form pastoral staff, so that you are never far from guidance and advice when you need it.

## Tutor Rooms and Lockers

The new Sixth Form Centre notwithstanding, registration and tutor meetings take place in allocated tutor rooms in the Girls' Division. Individual lockers are provided in the downstairs corridor in the Girls' Division.

## Lunches

Full school lunch facilities are provided as part of your Sixth Form fee in the Dining Room between 1.00pm-2.15pm or, if you want to collect a picnic lunch from the Dining Room, between 10.55am-11.20am. There are food and drink on sale in the Sixth Form Centre, but these are not included in your school fees and cost extra.



## Student Health

The Medical Suite is run by qualified Nursing staff, to whom you can turn if you have medical or emotional issues which are disturbing your work whilst at School.

## Exeats

Once parental permission has been obtained, Sixth Form students can leave the campus at lunchtime on any day. Year 12 students are able to select two periods and Year 13 students three periods as exeats when they can leave the school campus. This could include going home early if the free time is at the end of the afternoon.

## Dress Code

The Sixth Form Dress Code was reviewed for 2013/14, with full consultation of pupils, parents and staff. Girls must dress smartly and wear a jacket as part of their outfit. Full details are available from the school website and from the Head of Sixth Form. Girls also wear formal dress (a black skirt and trousers with a white blouse) on special occasions, such as Sixth Form Presentation Day.

# Ipads and ICT Facilities

From January 2014, all Year 12s at Bolton School will be issued with an ipad for their own personal use whilst they are a member of the School. Ipads will be used as a learning resource in the classroom, as well as for independent study at school and at home.

**The Girls' Division PC Network** extends across more than 200 computers around the school. All Girls' Division students have access to the network through an individual Username and Password. Over the week, Sixth Formers may make use of a range of different network terminals in various locations.

**The Computer Suite** on C floor comprises three rooms of PCs. These rooms are used for specific ICT lessons but also for cross-curricular ICT and for individual private study.

**The Sixth Form Centre** has a large number of PCs for the use of Sixth Form students. It is also wifi-enabled.

**The Library** has an extensive range of IT facilities and students are able to access the Internet, their own "My Work" Folders and the Library catalogue from any of these computers.



## Library & Research Facilities

Our well-stocked library has over 16,000 items. All Sixth Form courses are well-resourced with a combination of traditional texts and the latest information retrieval systems. The Library staff are always happy to help with your enquiries. Sixth Formers are entitled to borrow 12 books and 2 CDs for 14 days and a DVD for two days.

Resources are chosen by the Librarian in close consultation with Heads of Departments. There is also an extensive choice of fiction which has been developed with the help and suggestions of the students themselves. A broad selection of DVDs and CDs are available for student loan. Daily newspapers, magazines and a wide range of academic journals are also provided. The library has many online subscriptions which are particularly useful for A Level students. These can be found, along with the online catalogue on the library site on the intranet. The Girls' Division Library is a quiet space in which to work and complements the quiet areas in the Riley Centre.



## Making Your Choice - With Your Future in Mind

### How The Options System Works

In the following pages, you will find outlines of the courses normally offered in the Girls' Division at Sixth Form level. Once you have indicated your preferences for AS courses, we draw up option pools which allow for as many of your different combinations as possible. The enormous flexibility of this arrangement is illustrated by the fact that there are more than 100 different weekly timetables in operation. **Please bear in mind, however, that we may not be able to offer a subject if there is insufficient demand for it at AS or A2 level.** Please also be aware that some smaller subjects may be taught in conjunction with the Boys' Division. Also, where a subject is not offered in the Girls' Division, but it is taught in the Boys' Division, it *may* be possible for a girl to go to the Boys' Division to study (and vice versa). Subjects currently on offer at A Level in the Boys' Division alone are: Sports Science and Electronics. If you are interested in either of these, please let the Head of Sixth Form or, for pupils currently in school, Mrs Keenan know as early as possible.

After the initial options choices have been made, the Option Blocks are created. Thereafter, you may ask to change one or more of your options, but you will only be able to do so within the Blocks which have been created.

### What to Consider When Making Your Choices

When you come to make your Sixth Form choices, you may already have a Higher Education course or career in mind. If this is the case, lucky you! You will need to use your knowledge of what you want to do to ensure that you choose the subject combination which makes this possible. If it is a university course which you intend to do, check internet sites such as [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) as well as individual university sites,

to find out what the entrance requirements are- the course may specify certain subjects, as well as grades or points.

It is particularly important if you want to enter a highly competitive university or to study a competitive subject (such as medicine) that you check whether there are any subjects which the institution does not accept for particular courses. For example, Cambridge University says pupils wishing to study its broad-based science course (Natural Sciences) 'need to be taking three relevant subjects. For our arts and social sciences courses there is often more flexibility in requirements'.

If you are not so sure about what you want to do after school, it can be more challenging to choose your AS and A2 subjects. If you have done a Careers Profiling Test, such as Morrisby, do use the results of this to consider what your interests and aptitudes are. Otherwise, you might need to rely on supportive but frank friends, relations and teachers to give you a sense of where your strengths may be.

Consider carefully the balance of subjects which you choose and the work each one entails. Are you best suited to essay writing or problem solving? Do you wish to spend time doing practical work or would you rather spend it researching information?

Make sure that you have the capability to study the subjects which you choose! Remember, a subject may be very different at A Level than at GCSE. Do make sure that you ask your subject teachers' advice- and follow it! You may have an ambition to follow a certain career path but, if it demands skills which you do not possess, you will make yourself unhappy striving for something beyond your reach. At the same time, don't play down your strengths- if you are gifted in a certain area, have the confidence to go for it! As a rule of thumb, **you will need at least an A grade at GCSE in many of the subjects on offer in the Sixth Form if you want to get a good (A\* to B grade) at A Level.** Do talk to the Head of Department if you don't think you are going to get this grade in your GCSE exam.



# Subjects Offered in Recent Years

In Year 12 these will be taken to AS level, and most will continue in Year 13 at A2 level.

Art & Design  
Biology  
Business Studies  
Chemistry  
Classical Civilisation  
Computing  
Design Technology: Food Technology  
Design Technology: Resistant Materials/Product Design  
Design Technology: Textile Technology  
Drama and Theatre Studies  
Economics  
English Language  
English Language and Literature  
English Literature  
French  
Geography  
German  
Government & Politics  
Greek  
History  
Latin  
Mathematics  
Further Mathematics  
Music  
Physics  
Psychology  
Religious Studies  
Spanish

(& possibility of Sports Science or Electronics in the Boys' Division, see page 18)



# ART

## Aims

Advanced Level Art and Design aims to provide an all-round visual and aesthetic education. You will have the opportunity to work in art and craft media in two and three dimensions. This will be supported by contextual studies in the History of Art & Design. You will produce a portfolio of your work.

## What will I study?

Practical work emphasises recording from observation and the creative and imaginative development of a theme or themes. Alongside this you will learn methods of printing, digital media, ceramics and other art disciplines. The History of Art & Design will be studied to inform your own work.

## How will I be assessed?

There are four units; two at AS and two at A2.

AS level involves one coursework unit or 'portfolio' worth 50% of the AS marks/25% of the A2 marks. There is also an externally set assignment worth 50% of the AS marks/25% of the A2 marks.

If you carry on to the full A2 level the AS modules represent 50% of the final mark.

A2 level involves one coursework unit or 'personal investigation', which is supported by a 1,000-3,000 word written study. This unit is worth 25% of the A2 marks. There is also an externally set assignment worth 25% of the A2 marks.

## Desirable requirements

You should have an interest in the subject, good Art skills, plus Art GCSE or a portfolio of good work. You should also be capable of independent, self-generated study.

## How will I study?

The Art Department has excellent facilities and specialist equipment, which are also available for your use in free time. You will do a wide variety of work in both Art and Craft-based media and in the A2 course you will be able to specialise in one or more areas if you wish. You should also make independent visits to Art Exhibitions and look beyond the school environment for background research.

We arrange visits to London, local Art Galleries and Degree shows at local University Faculties of Art. There is also the opportunity to attend seminars, lectures and courses.

## Where will it lead?

For Art Specialists it will lead to Art and Design Foundation courses and Art and Design degrees in one of the very many Art Disciplines including Fine Art, Graphics, Three Dimensional Design, Textiles, Fashion and Product Design.

Careers using Art training include Museum and Conservation work, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Theatre Design, Graphic and Commercial Art, Interior Design, Fashion and Textile Design, and specialist occupations such as Silversmiths, Art Therapists and Art & Technology teachers.

*"As a new girl into Sixth Form I settled in quickly. Bolton provides the perfect balance between the school and college environment; allowing independence but also providing good careers guidance. I study Art, English Language, Psychology and History which is a diverse range of subjects but they are ones I enjoy. I intend to study Art Foundation when I leave school with a view to pursuing a career in Fashion Design. I love studying Art in Sixth Form; we each are given our own storage space and there is enough room for us to work during our free periods and even before and after school."*

**Lucy Worrall**





# BIOLOGY

## Aims

To extend the work done in Biology at GCSE and to give you an appreciation of the wide variety of applications of Biology in the modern world.

## What will I study?

The Biology course is extremely varied and provides an excellent foundation for a wide range of courses at University.

At AS level topics covered include: Causes of disease, Enzymes and the digestive system, Cells and movement, Heart and lungs, Immunity, Variation and genetic diversity, DNA, Exchange and transport.

At A2 level topics covered include: Populations, Photosynthesis and respiration, Inheritance, Nervous system and muscles, Homeostasis, Genetics and DNA technology, Fieldwork and ecosystems.

## How will I be assessed?

Each module has its own written test and the final examination also includes an essay and data handling questions which relate to the syllabus as a whole. The Practical and Investigative Skills Modules are externally assessed and make up 20% of the total A Level Mark.

## Desirable requirements

You should have a minimum of Grade B in either Dual Award Science or Biology and Chemistry, plus C or higher in Mathematics. English is also important. We are looking particularly for students who are interested in the subject and are prepared to work hard.

## How will I study?

The course will be divided between theory and practical work. In practical classes you will often be working on your own, although some investigations may be done in small groups. Homework will often be related to work done in class but you should also be prepared to do background reading on your own.

During the Summer term of the LVI year, there will be a 3 day residential field trip to Blencathra in the Lake District.

## Where will it lead?

Career areas using Biology include much in the Medical field, Food Science, Biotechnology, Sports Science, Biological Research, Teaching and many aspects of Environmental work.

*"I really love Biology as it can be applied to so many everyday things such as what happens to our body when we exercise or the changing world around us. It covers so many life processes in depth and now I am looking forward to studying midwifery, which Biology has given me such a good grounding for. Also, the field trip at the end of Year 12 is really fun!"*

**Kajol Patel**



# BUSINESS STUDIES

## Aims

To provide you with a broad understanding of the nature and working of business and industry, by means of a problem-solving approach. Emphasis will be on encouraging you to develop your ability to recognise, define, analyse and evaluate problems within a business context.

## What will I study?

The AS qualification will give you a good, working understanding of business concepts and practices, while the work at A2 is sound preparation for related work at degree level.

The course is based on separate modules, each of which will examine different aspects of business practice. In general the earlier modules concentrate on the overall framework of business topics and the later modules concentrate on individual topics. This is indicated by the scheme of assessment.

## How will I be assessed?

For the AS award, students study two modules, Developing New Business Ideas and Managing the Business. Both of these modules are examined through supported multiple-choice questions and data response questions.

For the A2 award, two modules will be studied, International Business and Making Business Decisions. The former module examines the issues a company trading internationally would have to consider and is assessed using questions based on a case study. Making Business Decisions enables students to assess the current performance of a company and suggest strategic changes. This is assessed through a written report based on a pre-seen topic.

## Desirable requirements

The course includes decision making: the ability to select, analyse and evaluate data in order to reach the most effective decision. You need to have some numerical skills and the ability to present a structured argument objectively and articulately. A willingness to contribute to the many lively class discussions is also important.

## How will I study?

By working independently and occasionally in groups and by taking an active part in class discussion. You will also make use of a wide range of material on current business affairs as presented in newspapers, journals, television and radio, including use of the Library resources and computer database.

During the AS course, students will participate in an internal business competition from which students are selected to represent the school in the prestigious Ogden Trust National Business Competition.

## Where will it lead?

Business Studies is regarded as a sound base from which to proceed to more or less any degree but particularly those in the business sphere, and it is also highly respected as a starting point for many professions/careers.

*“As a newcomer to Bolton School, I was keen to make the most of Sixth Form life by exploring the new opportunities the school had to offer. I chose Business Studies as one of my A Level choices, and although having previously little knowledge about the subject, it soon became my favourite. I would recommend studying business to everyone as it has given me an excellent insight into how the business world around me operates; knowledge that can be applied within any working environment.”*

**Vicky Baldwin**



# CHEMISTRY

## Aims

- To develop a knowledge and understanding of the concepts of Chemistry and the skills needed to use them in new and changing situations
- To sustain and develop your enjoyment of, and interest in, Chemistry
- To develop an understanding of the link between theory and experiment
- To be aware of how advances in Information Technology and instrumentation can be used in Chemistry
- To recognise the value of Chemistry to society and how it may be used responsibly

## What will I study?

- The properties of, and the reactions between, elements and compounds
- How fast and how far reactions will go
- The patterns and principles which help us to understand the complex world of chemicals and their reactions

## How will I be assessed?

The AS award comprises three compulsory assessment units. Two are written papers and the third is internal assessment of practical skills. This will take place entirely in lesson time. The A2 course has a similar structure for assessment. The Centre Assessed Practical units are worth 20% of the overall marks.

## Desirable requirements

- An enjoyment of, and an interest in, Chemistry
- A minimum of Grade B in each of Science and Additional Science at GCSE or Grade B in Chemistry, plus a Grade B or higher in GCSE Mathematics
- A need for a qualification in Chemistry for your future course or career
- A readiness to accept a challenge. A Level Chemistry is a rigorous academic course!

## How will I study?

You will be taught by two members of staff. Practical work will be related to the theoretical work covered in lessons. You will be encouraged to use a variety of text and ICT materials so that you can learn independently as well as in class. Your homework will be designed to help you consolidate and extend the work done in lessons.

## Where will it lead?

Many academic institutions, industrial organisations and professions appreciate the attitudes and skills gained during an A Level course in Chemistry.

Chemistry at A Level is an essential requirement for further studies in Dentistry, Medicine, Pharmacology, Pharmacy and Veterinary Science. Chemistry also combines well at Advanced Level with Biology, Food Technology, Geography, Physics, Mathematics and Textile Technology.

*“I study Spanish, Chemistry, Mathematics with Statistics and Biology. The Chemistry course is intellectually stimulating; our knowledge of the subject is regularly challenged by our teachers. The sixth form is a great environment to both study and socialise, and the hard working ethos of the school is present in every aspect of school life.”*

**Hannah Wylie**



# CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

## Aims

To encounter the ideas of two of the most innovative and influential cultures in history: Greece and Rome. By studying their literature, to understand some of the moral, political and aesthetic values of these societies, and to compare and contrast them with our own perceptions.

## What will I study?

You will study Greek and Latin authors in English translation. Through close study of the core texts, you will develop your analytical skills. You will study a range of topics which may include: Greek Tragedy, Homer's *Odyssey* and *Society*, Virgil and the world of the Hero, Comic Drama in the Ancient World, Art and Architecture in the Greek World.

## How will I be assessed?

You will sit two examinations for AS, and a further two for A2. Each AS examination is 90 minutes long and is worth 50% of the AS level, 25% of the full A Level. Each A2 examination is two hours long and is worth 25% of the full A Level. There is no coursework.

## Desirable requirements

No knowledge of the Greek or Latin languages is required as all work is done in English translation. The course will enhance the understanding of the ancient (and, indeed, the modern) world for those who have studied a classical subject at GCSE, but also caters for those who have had no contact with the ancient world but have a desire to know more. There is quite a large amount of reading to do and you will also need an ability to write clearly and fluently. Ask yourself whether you like subjects such as English and History and whether you do well in them; the subject also combines well with Theatre Studies, Religious Studies and Government and Politics.

## How will I study?

The course is taught in mixed classes consisting of both Girls' and Boys' Division students, and is delivered by teaching staff from both divisions.

## Where will it lead?

Students go on to do a wide variety of courses at university including Law, Ancient and Modern History, Archaeology and Architecture. University Classicists enter a varied range of careers including Law, Banking, Industry and Commerce, Publishing, the Civil Service, Journalism and even Computing.

"I am currently studying Classical Civilisation, German, Psychology and History. I enjoy all of them for different reasons. Despite only studying Psychology and Classical Civilisation since the start of Year 12 they are now my favourite subjects. Due to the interest I have developed in Classical Civilisation I now hope to go on to study it further at Durham University. Sixth Form has been my favourite time since joining in Year 7; the balance between freedom and the support of the teachers is perfect."

**Beth Horry**



# COMPUTING

## Aims

This Advanced Level course will develop:

- The capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- An understanding of the organisation of computer systems
- The ability to apply skills, knowledge and understanding of computing, including programming, in a range of contexts to solve problems
- An understanding of the consequences of using computers, an awareness of emerging technologies and an appreciation of their potential impact on society

## What will I study?

- The fundamentals of computing such as hardware, software and systems development
- The implications of computer use
- How to design solutions to particular problems and how to write maintainable programs
- How computer architectures are structured
- How data is represented

## How will I be assessed?

**AS Level:** You will complete two written examinations. Unit 1 – Computer Fundamentals. Unit 2 – Programming Techniques and Logical Methods

**A2 Level:** You will complete one written examination and one piece of coursework. Unit 3 – Advanced Computer Theory. Unit 4 – Computing Project

## Desirable requirements

You should have good verbal/numerical/written skills with an ability to think logically, creatively and critically. It is not essential that you have studied GCSE ICT or BCS. You will have an interest in computing and programming with motivation for background reading and problem solving.

## How will I study?

The course will be divided into practical programming techniques and theory work. **You will receive a Raspberry Pi computer kit for independent programming work at home.** You will also use textbooks, read current newspaper and magazine articles as well as carry out research via the internet (simply search for Computer Science!) and practical independent study. You will use programming languages such as Python to solve challenges which will enable you to develop your problem solving skills.

## Where will it lead?

This course will be useful for all career paths as computers are used in all areas of working life. A Level Computing has a systematic and logical approach to problem solving which is valuable across a wide range of educational studies. Mathematics is often studied alongside Computing and is generally required for those students who intend to go on to study Computer Science at university. Students who study Computing can go on to a career in Medicine, Law, Business, Politics, any type of Science or a career in the wide and varied field of Computing itself.

*"I have been at Bolton School since Year 3, and Sixth Form is the best part of the school experience. Everyone is supportive and friendly, whether they came up from Senior School or from elsewhere. Various opportunities such as BEST, Duke of Edinburgh awards, AQA Baccalaureate are open for us to take part in and it enables us to enjoy this school to the fullest. All of my subjects have broadened my mind so much, and I've enjoyed learning things I never knew before. The huge library is like a second home to me as it houses an immense number of research material as well as fantastic fictional works. It is a great place to work in during free periods and working alongside the library staff has been very fulfilling."* **Ragini Mohanty**



# DESIGN TECHNOLOGY: FOOD TECHNOLOGY

## Aims

- To develop innovation, creativity and the skills in food design and technology
- To design and cook food products of a high quality
- To develop a detailed knowledge of food technology and links to industrial practices
- To develop an understanding of nutrition
- To understand the complex links between manufacturing and marketing
- To develop independent thinking, a positive attitude and the ability to work collaboratively

## What will I study?

The AS and A2 courses are divided into three sections of work.

Materials and Components – protein, fat and carbohydrates and their function in food. Micronutrients, nutritional requirements and food additives. Selecting appropriate ingredients for use in cookery.

Design and Market Influences – dietary planning, choices and cultural influences, design methods and processes.

Communicating design ideas.

Processes and Manufacture – food safety and hygiene, food labelling.

## How will I be assessed?

AS – Unit 1 Written Paper on Materials, Components and Application  
Unit 2 Designing and Making coursework

A2 - Unit 3 Written paper on Design & Manufacturing  
Unit 4 Design and Making practice: coursework

## Desirable requirements

It is not essential to have studied Food Technology at GCSE, but some knowledge of Technology and the ‘Design and Make’ process is desirable. You will need ICT skills.

## How will I study?

You will work both individually and in groups to develop your knowledge of food and practical skills. The many practical opportunities will link to food product development. The academic nature of the course cannot be underestimated and you will need a willingness to carry out your own research.

## Where will it lead?

The course gives an excellent foundation for courses in Food Science, Food Technology, Management, Marketing and Retailing, Hospitality and Catering, Dietetics, Nutritional Analysis, Teaching, Consumer Studies and Science. The range of employment in the food industry is very wide and challenging.

*“Currently I am studying Food Technology, English Language, Geography and Psychology and I am aiming to do a degree in Food and Nutrition at Sheffield Hallam. I feel this is an area with many opportunities and career paths. The smaller class sizes are different from lower down in the school which I feel is a benefit of the sixth form. I have enjoyed the extra curricular activities on offer for all of my subjects and feel they have added to my interest in my A Levels.”*

**Kirsten Reader**



# DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN (3-D Design)

## Aims

We aim to encourage independent learning and creativity through the setting of exciting practical problem-solving tasks. Strong emphasis is placed on students developing confidence in their own innovative ability.

## What will I study?

At both AS and A2 level you will study:

- How to design products professionally using methods ranging from hand-drawn sketching to 3-D Computer-Aided-Design
- How materials and components are used to produce modern everyday products
- How to combine designs and materials to create an individual item of high quality

## How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through coursework and written exams; each accounts for 50% of the final A Level grade. You will be free to select your best coursework for assessment and can concentrate your effort in areas where you feel that you excel. The course is designed to offer you every possible support in developing and demonstrating your knowledge and skill in design and making.

## Desirable requirements

Prior knowledge of Design and Technology is not assumed but we expect that you will have an interest in design and production.

## How will I study?

In the first year, you will undertake a number of short design tasks that will help to rapidly develop your knowledge, skill and confidence. You will learn how to communicate your thinking clearly, using a variety of graphical techniques. This section can be expanded to provide opportunities for more graphically focussed coursework where desirable. Students select a design of their own and develop it into a 3-D product. In the second year you will follow a design task of your own choice based on a commercial client and produce a new 3-D product.

The emphasis of all coursework is on quality, not quantity. You will find that you have ample time within your normal school routine to demonstrate your best work.

## Where will it lead?

Product Design (3-D Design) is recognised as an excellent basis for a number of higher education courses and leads onto interesting and varied career paths. Former pupils have gained much personal satisfaction from the course, as they are able to express their own individuality.

The course is ideal for those intending to follow a career in Product Design, Interior Design, Engineering, Architecture, Fashion Design or other related design areas. It may be taken in combination with any other A Level subject.

*“This year I have studied Product Design, Maths and Mechanics, French and Chemistry, with the intention to study Architecture at University. For me the Sixth Form has proved to be really enjoyable, thanks to the more informal relationships we have with our teachers, and also the independence we are given in our studies and also in non-academic activities. This year I have been involved in the lacrosse squad, running the lower school drama clubs, and I am taking part in the World Challenge Expedition to Southern Peru. All of these opportunities, amongst others, have helped me to enjoy this year, whilst I prepare to continue to University.”* **Lucy Croston**



# DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: TEXTILES TECHNOLOGY

## Aims

Textile Technology offers both practical and theoretical opportunities for problem-solving through working and studying a wide variety of textile materials and components. There is a strong emphasis on independent learning, creativity and innovation.

## What will I study?

At AS and A2 you will:

- Develop a critical understanding of the influences on designing and producing textile products, both from a historical and contemporary perspective
- Apply knowledge and skills gained in the production of your own range of innovative and creative products and through this develop an understanding of industrial practice from design through to production and marketing
- Simulate industrial practice using CAD/CAM programmes to develop and produce your own products
- Develop an understanding for the role of a designer, fibre science, pattern drafting, environmental issues and technological developments relating to the textiles industry
- Develop an understanding of the textile industry's role in medicine, construction, agriculture and transport as well as clothing and costume for theatre and film

## How will I be assessed?

Through two coursework components and two written examinations.

**AS Level** (50% of the total A Level mark): Unit 1 – Materials, components and application & Unit 2 – Design and Making

**A2 Level** (50% of the total A Level mark): Unit 3 – Design and Manufacture & Unit 4 – Design and Making Practice

## Desirable requirements

You must have proved through your GCSE results that you have the skills and knowledge associated with a GCSE design and technology course. You should have the ability in researching information for a particular purpose, analysing and evaluating the work that you do. You should have a keen interest in the practical aspects of the design and production of textile products. It is not possible to study Textiles Technology in conjunction with 3-D Design Technology.

## How will I study?

You will work both individually and as part of a group. There will be practical and theoretical work throughout the course. Practical work will be based on individual ideas and projects to demonstrate a wide range of skills. Theory will be covered through investigation and analysis of knowledge and concepts reinforced through visits and speakers.

## Where will it lead?

The breadth of the syllabus allows for entry into a variety of university courses. It is particularly useful for those wishing to pursue careers in managerial roles within Textile industries and retail outlets, design work in fashion or interiors, Architecture, Materials science research and development work, teaching or journalism.

*"I'm currently studying English Combined, Psychology, R.S and Textiles and the latter has definitely been my favourite subject throughout my time at Bolton School. I particularly enjoyed designing and making 'Couture Clutch Bags' and a 'Natural Forms' themed bodices in Year 12. The Sixth Form has not only enhanced my relationship with teachers but has also provided me with more independence and organisational skills than I previously had. I think part of this is due to being involved in running a Year 7 drama club and taking part in World Challenge, where we're travelling to Peru during the Summer."***Emma Metcalfe**





# DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

## Aims

To study theatrical forms and understand the roles of director, performer and audience.  
To create original drama using the devising process and to interpret scripted drama through performance.

## What will I study?

At AS you will study theatre forms and functions from the points of view of director, performer and designer. You will stage your own production consisting of a scripted extract as well as a piece of theatre devised by your group. You will sit a written examination on your exploration of two further texts.

You will consolidate your knowledge and understanding at A2, by creating a more substantial piece of theatre on a given theme, as well as exploring your set texts through written examination.

## How will I be assessed?

AS –	DA1	Performance Workshop
	DA2	Text in Performance: written examination
A2 -	DA3	Performance on a set theme
	DA4	Text in context: written examination

## Desirable requirements

Self-confidence in your ability to express yourself both on stage and in group discussion is an important quality in this course. Commitment and teamwork are essential.

## How will I study?

You will work both individually and with a group. You are normally taught in a group which includes members of the Boys' Division. As the course progresses, you will find you are asked to take much more responsibility for your learning and achievement.

We offer you plenty of opportunities to attend theatre productions and workshops. You can develop your own areas of interest within the course, for example, by choosing a design or lighting option.

You may wish to get involved in school theatre productions of the Middle School Drama Clubs.

## Where will it lead?

Employers and universities are very interested in the teamwork focus of the course. In addition, the course has obvious benefits in developing speech, confidence and performance skills. There are many academic, practical and vocational theatre courses in this country run by a wide range of institutions.

“I am currently studying Theatre studies, English combined and Music and hope to do a degree in Musical Theatre at Drama School. Theatre studies is great for practical work, therefore it is an escape from the usual format of sitting at a desk and writing. It is also brilliant for interacting with your peers and teachers in a fun and informal way. However, we still study plays and practitioners through the academic structure of essays. I feel Theatre Studies covers all areas of theatre, balancing the traditional with the more unusual, modern forms of theatre. It has definitely set me in good stead for pursuing a career in theatre as we also learn about other aspects outside acting such as lighting.”

**Jessica Ryan**



# ECONOMICS

## Aims

To provide you with a broad understanding of economic theory and the real world situations to which it is applied, largely in the context of the British economy but also with reference to other economies.

## What will I study?

“Economics is the study of the use of limited resources to produce the goods and services to satisfy the unlimited wants of mankind.”

You will learn to appreciate and understand how decisions are made by governments. “Why isn’t the UK joining the Euro?” This and many other questions are answered by the study of Economics.

You will study the theories of demand and supply and their influence on price; how firms decide what and how much to produce, the factors affecting wages, unemployment, inflation, international trade, money, consumer choice and the role of the government in influencing the economy.

## How will I be assessed?

For the AS course you will have two 1½ hour examinations: the first will be based on microeconomics and the working of the market mechanism. The second module focuses on macroeconomics; the working of the economy and Government policy. Both assessments will take the form of data response questions.

For the A2 course, the first module, Transport Economics examines the current issues facing the UK transport system, including the controversial Congestion Charge. This will be assessed using data response questions and an extended essay. The second module, the Global Economy will develop the economic concepts covered in the AS unit and will be assessed using pre-seen case study material.

## Desirable requirements

The course involves much discussion, together with analysis of data, interpretation of statistical information and essay writing. Students who would profit most are those who have the diligence necessary to understand the theories and terminology of a subject not previously studied, together with a willingness to contribute to the many lively class discussions.

## How will I study?

By working independently, occasionally in groups and by taking an active part in class discussion. By making use of a wide range of material in newspapers, journals, television and radio, including the use of the department’s resources, the Library Economics computer database and the department resources including the Internet.

An integral part of the A2 course is participation in the prestigious national Target 2.0 Economics Competition.

## Where will it lead?

Economics is regarded as a sound base from which to proceed to more or less any degree and is also highly respected as a starting point for many professions/careers.

*“Currently I am studying Spanish, History, Biology and Economics. Although I was initially worried about taking a subject I haven’t studied for GCSE for one of my A level choices. I have really enjoyed studying Economics for AS, so much so I am hoping to do a degree in International Business and Spanish at Liverpool University. What I enjoy most about Economics is how diverse and current it is. We have also recently had the opportunity to visit London alongside the Business Studies class which helped to broaden my knowledge of what areas of work studying Economics could lead me to.”*

**Grace Brooks**



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

## Aims

To provide you with a framework for the study of the English Language  
To help you develop the ability to write for a variety of specific purposes and audiences  
To develop skills in research, textual analysis and editing

## What will I study?

The ways in which language has changed throughout history and how it is still changing  
How children acquire language  
How language works in society

## How will I be assessed?

There are two modules at AS and two at A2. In each case, one module is assessed by written examinations and one by coursework.

You will complete one coursework element at AS and one at A2. Your coursework at AS will consist of a folder of Original Writing with a commentary. You will write two pieces for different audiences and purposes.

At A2 you will undertake an investigation into a language area of your choice. This will involve individual research under the guidance of your tutor and analysis of your findings. You will also present your findings in the form of a media text eg a magazine article.

## Desirable requirements

You should have an awareness of the importance of language in society, an open mind and a capacity to follow through your own ideas. You need to be able to write fluently and should enjoy reading – everything from Beatrix Potter to encyclopedias.

## How will I study?

You will work in groups and independently, carrying out your own research into your chosen area of Language Study.

You will attend university courses and lecture days. Your work may take you into other areas of the school such as the Infants' Department or into the wider community.

## Where will it lead?

Just about anywhere you want it to because it combines so well with other Advanced Level subjects: the Languages, Sciences, Arts and Humanities. It is widely accepted as entry for degree courses and is directly useful in most professions.

*“At present I am studying English Language, English Literature, French and History. This year has been very challenging but also rewarding as I am able to make links between my subjects and therefore extend my knowledge in all areas. I have found the English Language course this year interesting as I had the freedom to choose my own topic in the Creative Writing coursework.”*

**Eleanor Winters**



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

## Aims

To provide you with a framework for language study which will complement your skills in analysing Literature  
To help you develop the ability to write for a variety of specific purposes and audiences  
To develop your ability to analyse Literature and be aware of its relationship with other forms of written and spoken language

## What will I study?

A range of literary, non-literary and multimodal texts  
Theory of spoken language  
How Literature relates to other written and spoken language.

## How will I be assessed?

There are two modules at AS and two at A2. In each case, one module is assessed by written examinations and one by coursework.

Your AS examination will require a knowledge of how the spoken voice is represented both in literature and in transcripts of actual speech. For coursework you will study a literary text alongside a multimodal version of it (e.g. a film). You will also produce your own related multimodal text.

At A2 you will take a written paper on two related drama texts and produce a coursework folder consisting of an analysis of thematically linked non-literary texts together with a piece of creative writing with commentary.

## Desirable requirements

You should have an awareness of the importance of language, a curiosity about how writers create texts and a capacity to follow through your own ideas. You need to be able to write fluently and should enjoy reading a wider range of texts from Shakespeare to comic books.

## How will I study?

You will work in groups and independently, carrying out your own research and writing in various genres.

You will attend university courses and lecture days. You will have a residential trip to Stratford-upon-Avon and the opportunity to attend an Arvon writing course.

## Where will it lead?

Just about anywhere you want it to because it combines so well with other Advanced Level subjects: the Languages, Sciences, Arts and Humanities. It is useful for any Arts or Humanities course and could lead to work in a wide range of professions.

*“Currently I am studying English Language and Literature, History, Music and German. I enjoy the smaller, more informal classes in the Sixth Form because we get much more attention from the teacher and the atmosphere is more relaxed. This summer, I am going on a World Challenge expedition to Peru, where we will be helping out in remote communities and schools. I have also completed my Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award this year. Also, as the Learning Support prefect, I have had the chance to work with girls in the younger years and help them with their academic work. In addition, I have greatly enjoyed playing the violin in String Orchestra and Joint Orchestra. The opportunities that I have had in the Sixth Form have been amazing and have definitely broadened my horizons.”*

**Alice Rigby**



# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## Aims

To develop analytical skills through both writing and discussion  
To be aware of the relationship between Literature and other academic disciplines  
To produce informed, independent opinions and judgements

## What will I study?

You will study texts from a range of periods and genres. You will explore the connections between them and the social and cultural contexts within which they are written.

## How will I be assessed?

There are two modules at AS which cover poetry, prose and a folder of coursework on three modern texts. There will be a close analysis of a short text and an extended study of the other two. At A2 you will continue your study of prose, poetry and drama through a piece of coursework in which you link two literary texts with a third non-literary work e.g. a biography.

## Desirable requirements

Proven ability in the study of Literature and a real love of reading, much of which will be extensive and independent  
Willingness to share your views in open discussion

## How will I study?

You will be expected to work both independently and within groups.

Groups attend university lectures and take part in theatre trips. There is a visit to Stratford and the chance to attend a Creative Writing course.

## Where will it lead?

It opens doors to a wide range of careers for those who are considering Teaching, Management, Personnel, Journalism, law, PR and writing.

*“At present I am studying English Literature, Maths, History and French which have not only linked together effectively, particularly in enhancing my EPQ, but have also allowed me to have a range of different art and science based subjects. Although it has been a challenge, I have thoroughly enjoyed my chosen topics and I’m now hoping to study English Literature at university. Sixth form life has also given me the opportunity to volunteer at Beech and Hesketh House which has been thoroughly rewarding.”*  
Madelaine Bewlay



# FRENCH

## Aims

We aim to help you become a confident French speaker with an interest in all aspects of French life. During your course you will:

- Develop your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills
- Expand your knowledge of vocabulary and grammar so that you can express ideas and arguments forcefully and accurately
- Learn new skills
- Learn about culture and topical issues in French-speaking countries

## What will I study?

In Year 12, topics of current interest from a French perspective, including relationships, popular culture and healthy living.

In Year 13, we broaden our study to include topics such as law and order, environmental issues and immigration. It is interesting to consider these issues from a French angle and exciting to be able to discuss your views in French. We also study a cultural topic relating to a French-speaking country.

## How will I be assessed?

AS: there will be a Listening, Reading and Writing Paper and a 15 minute Speaking Test.

A2: a longer Listening, Reading and Writing Paper and a 15 minute Speaking Test.

## Desirable requirements

We strongly recommend that you should have a Grade A at GCSE.

## How will I study?

You will use text books and also magazines, DVDs, CDs and films. We encourage you to use the Internet to find up-to-date information on the topics as well as visiting French websites for fun.

In addition to formal lessons with your teachers, you will have informal conversation lessons with the French Assistant.

## Where will it lead?

Competent linguists are in demand in the world of work. Whatever your career – Commerce, Law, Tourism, Industry, Teaching – whatever your destination – Britain, Europe or beyond – linguistic competence is always useful and often essential.

Foreign language skills enable you to take advantage of schemes which allow you to study many different subjects at a European university.

*“French has always been a passion of mine, and, since joining Bolton School for Sixth form, I have been able to continue enjoying this subject in an environment where I have also improved my skills significantly. Although French is a very challenging subject, the teachers have supported, encouraged and stimulated my learning. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year at Bolton School!”*

**Arianna Barnes**



# GEOGRAPHY

## Aims

To develop an understanding of our ever-changing world: its societies and environments  
To promote better informed decision-making  
To encourage lively and reasoned enquiry.

## What will I study?

The natural and human environments in which we live are in a constant state of change. The natural world presents us with resources but it also confronts us with challenges. Floods, hurricanes – are they on the increase? Deserts – are they advancing? Are some ecosystems more fragile than others? You will study how natural environments are changing, and why. Conflicts over land, issues to do with multi-cultural societies, international conflicts, global poverty; you will study how different societies around the world cope with such challenges.

## How will I be assessed?

AS and A2 will each consist of 2 modules. At AS assessment will be by examination only; there is no coursework at AS. At A2 assessment is also by examination, although it is possible to submit a fieldwork investigation instead of doing one of the examinations. Our students have always favoured the exam and have not done coursework.

## Desirable requirements

The most essential requirement is an interest in the world about you. Do you know what is happening on your Planet? The pace of change can be rapid – volcanic eruptions, refugee movements, urban riots – or gradual – continental drift and climatic change.

## How will I study?

The course involves both independent study and group work. One significant area is that of evaluating an issue; why do different groups in society and different countries adopt different attitudes towards change? What lies behind their attitudes?

You will participate in a number of day and residential field trips and also have the opportunity to join in a foreign field trip: Manchester, Devon, China, Iceland – Geography knows no limits!

## Where will it lead?

Studying Geography at Advanced Level offers you the opportunity to develop and maintain a wide range of skills: report writing, numeracy, information technology, decision-making, independent research and problem solving. Geography bridges the Arts and Sciences, giving flexibility for Higher Education courses. Many of our A Level Geographers go on to study Geography and related subjects such as Planning and Environmental Management. Others go on to study a wide range of degrees, including Law, Medicine, and Architecture to name but a few.

*“I have only been here a year as I joined the school for Sixth Form. I am currently studying Geography, Maths, Economics and I studied Biology at AS too. At GCSE I discovered my love for Geography. I thoroughly enjoy studying Geography at A-level as it is interesting and allows you to develop practical skills. I intend to leave Sixth Form pursuing my love for Geography by doing a Geography degree.”*

**Hannah Boote**



# GERMAN

## Aims

We want you to be a fluent and confident speaker of German who is interested in German life and culture. During your Sixth Form course, you will:

- Develop your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills to a high level
- Expand your knowledge of vocabulary and grammar so that you can express ideas and arguments forcefully and accurately
- Acquire new skills
- Learn more about German speaking countries

## What will I study?

### AS Level

Topics of interest to young people which build on what you learnt for GCSE eg Healthy Living and Popular Culture, as well as some new topics - you will study them in greater depth than previously and in a German context.

### A2 Level

A range of new topics and issues as they affect German speaking countries  
Cultural topics which reflect interesting aspects of German society

You will be able to express increasingly complex ideas on many topics. In fact, by the end of the course you will be able to talk about absolutely anything!

## How will I be assessed?

For AS you will take a listening, reading and writing test and a 15-minute speaking test. The A2 examinations are similar, but the written paper is longer. At both levels you will have individual listening facilities.

## How will I study?

You will use varied resources from textbooks to satellite TV and the Internet  
You will have formal lessons with your teachers and informal conversation lessons with the German Assistant  
You will develop your independent study skills

We will also provide you with other exciting opportunities to use your German; for example, work experience placements, film evenings and exchange visits.

## Desirable requirements

We strongly recommend that you should have a Grade A at GCSE.

## Where will it lead?

Whatever your career and whatever your destination – Britain, Europe or beyond – a language is a valuable asset. For instance, you can study Medicine or Fine Art at a foreign university – as long as you are competent in the language.

Linguists are much sought after in the world of work because they are known to be highly skilled and adaptable.

*“Currently I am studying Business Studies, German and Geography and I hope to go on to university and to continue studying Geography. In my AS year I helped coach the Year 6 and Year 7 netball teams and also helped at Beech House. I’ve really enjoyed the opportunities the Sixth Form has given me and I feel I’ve used as many as I could.”*

**Mollie Hunter**





# GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

## Aims

- To develop an interest in, and an engagement with contemporary politics
- To examine where power lies and how it is exercised – in both Great Britain and the United States
- To become more aware of our rights and responsibilities as citizens in a democratic society

## What will I study?

In Year 12 we study British Government and Politics. In unit one, we cover the issue of participation- how people participate in the political process and why many choose not to. We also study electoral systems and voting behaviour, political parties in the UK and the role of pressure groups. In the second AS unit we examine the role of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, asking questions such as ‘is it more difficult for David Cameron to govern because he is head of a coalition government than it was for Tony Blair or Margaret Thatcher who both had large majorities?’ We also study Parliament, the British Constitution and the Judiciary.

In Year 13 we focus on American politics, contrasting it with the UK. We look at the US Constitution, Congress, the Supreme Court and the role of the President. In the final unit we study American elections and voting behaviour, parties and pressure groups.

## How will I be assessed?

**At AS:** by two examinations – each of 1½ hours.

**At A2:** by two examinations – each of 1½ hours.

In all units the questions are structured and at AS there is stimulus material in the form of written extracts.

## Desirable requirements

No previous qualification in Politics is required. All we ask for is an interest in the way our country is governed, an open-minded approach, a willingness to follow political events in the newspapers and on TV and a readiness to express your own opinions whilst at the same time respecting the views of others. You will need the ability to express your arguments fluently in written work.

## How will I study?

Teaching and learning take place through a variety of methods: note-making, reading, discussion and essays. There are regular assessments throughout the two years. Resources include textbooks, magazines, newspapers, DVDs and the Internet. We visit the UK or Scottish Parliament at some time during the course and we often do a joint trip with the History department to the USA visiting Washington D.C., New York and Philadelphia.

## Where will it lead?

Successful students of Politics, either at A Level or graduate level, are in great demand in the media, the law, the Civil Service, teaching and also, of course, in the House of Commons itself. If you see yourself as a future MP or even Prime Minister, this could be where you start!

“Currently I am studying English Combined, Psychology and Government and Politics. I also studied Biology to AS Level. I have really enjoyed the Government and Politics course as I like its diversity and it has enhanced my awareness of current affairs. The element of debate in lessons has made the subject more interesting and has encouraged me to put forward my own ideas. I am really looking forward to the trip to the Scottish Parliament and I have especially enjoyed the topic of Judiciary. It is of a particular interest to me as I am considering studying Law at university.”

**Georgia Toole**



# GREEK

## Aims

To help you discover more about the Greek language, your own language and also about the nature of language in general. To enable you to read and appreciate the works of Greek literature in their original form, and learn to analyse and respond to them with increasing sophistication.

## What will I study?

The course consists of a combination of linguistic and literary modules. You will consolidate and build upon your existing knowledge of vocabulary and grammar; and you will study a range of texts, including both verse (epic, tragedy, comedy) and prose (history and philosophy).

## How will I be assessed?

You will sit two examinations for AS, and a further two for A2. There is no coursework.

Unit code and title	Examination Length	AS weighting	A2 weighting
G1: Greek language (AS)	1 hr 30 mins	50%	25%
G2: Greek Verse and Prose Literature (AS)	1 hr 30 mins	50%	25%
G3: Greek Verse (A2)	2 hrs		25%
G4: Greek Prose (A2)	2 hrs		25%

## Desirable requirements

You should have at least a grade B in Greek at GCSE, and an interest in Greek literature and thought. Ask yourself if you have enjoyed the GCSE course – including your study of the language. To study the language at Advanced Level requires hard work, but the greater depth of the course should be even more stimulating and less of a rush than GCSE. The subject combines well with most other subjects; there are particular links with English, History, Modern Languages, Latin and Classical Civilisation.

## How will I study?

The course is taught in mixed classes consisting of both Girls' and Boys' Division students, and is delivered by teaching staff from both divisions.

## Where will it lead?

As with Latin, most students go into a wide variety of careers, including Law, Banking, Industry and Commerce, Publishing, the Civil Service, Journalism and even Computing.

*“Year 12 has most definitely been my favourite year at Bolton School so far due to the freedom that sixth form allows. I am currently studying Latin, English Literature, French and History and find these subjects to be both challenging and extremely enjoyable. I have honed my linguistic and analytical skills and have been inspired to study Classics at University. Bolton School provides many excellent opportunities. This year I have volunteered at both Hesketh and Beech House, helped as a drama and history club leader for the younger girls and was particularly proud to be part of the senior lacrosse squad as a winner of National Schools division 2. I am also very much looking forward to the World Challenge expedition to Peru this summer.”*

**Emily Harper**



# HISTORY

## Aims

To stimulate interest in this ‘never-ending’ subject; to increase understanding and knowledge, not only of historical events, their causes and consequences but also of human behaviour, past and present; to develop the many general and specialist skills of the historian. In brief, our aim is to make the study of history interesting and rewarding.

## What will I study?

We will cover two main areas of history. The first of these is the history of the USA in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, including the black civil rights movement, whilst the second period covered is the Stuart era of English history.

At A2 one of the modules will be a personal study of a historical topic of your choice.

## How will I be assessed?

The AS qualification will consist of two modules, each of which will be examined separately.

The A2 comprises another two modules – one of which will be the Personal Study.

## Desirable requirements

Students who take Advanced Level History will have a love of the subject and should enjoy thinking, questioning, reading and discussing. The course requires an ability to write clearly and concisely and present reasoned arguments. An interest in people is important, since history is a subject where the study of human beings is central.

## How will I study?

You will be working both independently and in groups. Each group is taught by two members of the department. In class there will be some formal teaching, lots of opportunity for discussion, and use of written sources and audio-visual materials. Homework will be related to and extend work done in class.

A willingness to undertake thorough background reading and research is essential for class discussion, essay writing and the personal study.

There will be opportunities to attend lectures in and out of school, visit places of historical interest both in this country and abroad, and to enjoy a visit to the cinema or theatre when the subject is related to our History course. We often arrange trips abroad, particularly to the USA, to enhance knowledge and enjoyment of the subject.

## Where will it lead?

That is up to you. The answer to the question “What can I do with History?” is “virtually anything”. The attitudes and skills acquired by the historian are attractive to most employers, and history students enter a wide range of professions, especially Law, Administration, Management, Journalism, the Media and Broadcasting, Museums, Archive and Library work, to name but a few.

*“I am currently studying History, French, Spanish and English Literature with the aim of reading History at university. It was curiosity that bound me to History, and the AS Stuarts course has enhanced that, especially as the Stuarts are rarely studied. The environment that Bolton School provides offers the perfect balance between gaining independence as well as feeling part of the school community. I play for the lacrosse, netball and tennis teams as well as swimming for the school, adding to the challenge of Sixth Form life but also making it more rewarding.”*

**Madeline King**



# LATIN

## Aims

To help you discover more about the Latin language, your own language and also about the nature of language in general. To enable you to read and appreciate the works of Latin literature in their original form, and learn to analyse and respond to them with increasing sophistication.

## What will I study?

The course consists of a combination of linguistic and literary modules. You will consolidate and build upon your existing knowledge of vocabulary and grammar; and you will study a range of texts, including both verse (epic and love poetry) and prose (oratory and history).

## How will I be assessed?

You will sit two examinations for AS, and a further two for A2. There is no coursework.

Unit code and title	Examination length	AS weighting	A2 weighting
L1: Latin language (AS)	1 hr 30 mins	50%	25%
L2: Latin Verse and Prose Literature (AS)	1 hr 30 mins	50%	25%
L3: Latin Verse (A2)	2 hrs		25%
L4: Latin Prose (A2)	2 hrs		25%

## Desirable requirements

You should have at least a grade B in Latin at GCSE, and an interest in Latin literature and thought. Ask yourself if you have enjoyed the GCSE course – including your study of the language. To study the language at Advanced Level requires hard work, but the greater depth of the course should be even more stimulating. The subject combines well with most other subjects; there are particular links with English, History, Modern Languages, Greek and Classical Civilisation.

## How will I study?

The course is taught in mixed classes consisting of both Girls' and Boys' Division students, and is delivered by teaching staff from both divisions.

## Where will it lead?

Contrary to popular belief, Latin students do not all become teachers of Latin. Actually, very few do. Most go into a wide variety of careers, including Law, Banking, Industry and Commerce, Publishing, the Civil Service, Journalism and even Computing. Some found dot.com companies or even become pop stars!

*"I was a new student last year, but it was easy to get involved and meet new people, and within days of arriving I was already a member of the Jazz Band, Concert Band, and Literary and Debating Society. I study Latin, Classical Civilisations, and Economics, and I hope to go on to study Classics at university, as I love learning about the ancient world both in and outside of classes. Latin classes are always fun and interesting, and the trip to Greece was amazing!"*

**Juliet Netting**



# MATHEMATICS & FURTHER MATHEMATICS

## Aims

To develop your understanding and enjoyment of Mathematics, to extend your range of mathematical skills and techniques and to help you to acquire the foundation necessary for the further study of Mathematics and other disciplines. To develop your ability to think more logically and to recognise and analyse situations which can be represented mathematically.

## What will I study?

Advanced level Mathematics is comprised of six units.

You will study three units in Year 12, leading to an AS, and three units in Year 13.

In each of the two years you will study two Core units and one Applied unit (either Mechanics or Statistics depending on what you have chosen).

In Core Mathematics you will study algebra, trigonometry, calculus and coordinate geometry.

The more able mathematicians may choose to study for an A Level in both Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

The full Advanced Level in Further Mathematics is comprised of another six units on top of the six studied for the A Level in Mathematics.

Again, you will study three units in Year 12, leading to an AS in Further Mathematics, and three units in Year 13.

## How will I be assessed?

Each unit is assessed by an examination. At the end of the course the unit marks are combined to give your AS or Advanced Level grade. One of the Upper Sixth units also contains coursework which is directly linked to the specification and represents 20% of the final result for that unit. All units are equally weighted.

## Desirable requirements

The level of Mathematics studied is most suited to pupils who have achieved Grade A or higher at GCSE or IGCSE. Your enthusiasm for the subject will be beneficial in meeting the many challenges posed by this rigorous and highly interesting course.

## How will I study?

Students of Advanced Level Mathematics will be taught by two different members of staff. In general you will be working independently, but you are encouraged to discuss problems with your friends or a member of staff.

## Where will it lead?

Mathematics is as much a channel of communication as it is a problem-solving resource. It is increasingly useful as a passport to many interesting careers in fields as diverse as Engineering, The Sciences, Economics, Finance, Marketing, and Computer Science.

*“Studying Mathematics is really interesting and enjoyable; I love the feeling you get when you finally tackle a difficult problem. I particularly enjoy Mechanics as it shows you how maths is applied in real life scenarios, for example looking at projectiles in tennis or forces on a skier. The coursework component to A2 gives you more freedom and it is interesting solving equations in different ways. This year I took part in the Engineering Education Scheme where I was able to use my Maths and Science skills to work in a mixed team to solve a real life problem for United Utilities. I am hoping to study Natural Sciences at University as this will enable me to continue Maths, Chemistry and Physics together at a higher level.”*

**Nadia Barabash**



# MUSIC

## Aims

This is a wide ranging A Level course which is designed to appeal both to potential University or Music College students and to the student who simply enjoys music, giving scope for the development of individual interests and aptitudes.

## What will I study?

The music syllabus has been designed to allow you to follow a rounded course with a balance of prescribed and self-selected music which enables you to reflect your enthusiasm and to work to your strengths. It involves the study of a wide range of music and of performing, composing, analysis and techniques.

## How will I be assessed?

### AS level

Unit 1 'Performing' (40%) consists of a short recital with a varied programme of music and either a performance in ensemble or on a second instrument with a brief *viva voce*

Unit 2 (30%) consists of a coursework portfolio of composition technique exercises and one free composition lasting approximately three minutes

Unit 3 (30%) has a final examination which includes both a listening test and a written paper based on areas of study and prescribed works; three orchestral pieces and three jazz classics

### A2 level

Unit 4 Performing (40%) a recital of 15 minutes with a selected focus area of your choice and a prepared *viva voce* of approximately five minutes

Unit 5 (30%) a portfolio to include a vocal composition or a programmatic instrumental composition and a choice of technical exercises

Unit 6 (30%) a listening text about vocal music and a written paper on a selected area of study

## Desirable requirements

You should have a real love of and interest in music, with a performing standard of at least Grade 5, and a willingness to be involved in extra-curricular activities. Grade A at GCSE is the norm together with Grade 5 theory, but neither is essential.

## How will I study?

The course is taught by Girls' Division staff, but there are close links with the Boys' Division for extra-curricular music.

## Where will it lead?

Music is one of the country's success 'industries' – apart from teaching and performing, study of music can lead to Recording and Media work, Arts Administration and a wide variety of careers outside music.

*"I am currently studying English Literature, History, French and Music with the hope of studying Music at university or Music College. The best thing about A Level music is the variety and the breadth of the course. From composition to historical analysis to performance, it proves to be interesting for all types of musician and allows you to gain skills that can be transferable to any other subject. To complement this you can join a wide range of musical ensembles which are not only a great way to perform music but also to meet new people and get involved in school life."*

**Holly Holt**



# PHYSICS

## Aims

To learn how and why things behave as they do  
To understand how Physics is applied to so many situations in everyday life  
To develop a fascination for the scope of Physics ranging from the very large (the universe) to the very small (the structure of matter).

## What will I study?

The world of music and digital communication, the wave and particle nature of matter, the universe, vehicle design and sports science, efficient use of energy and environmental impact, space science, roller-coasters and theme parks, geophysics and archaeology, medical imaging and radiotherapy, simple engines and basic relativity.

## How will I be assessed?

By six end of module examinations: three for AS level and three for A2. All the theory examinations are taken in the summer. Coursework includes investigative and practical skills at AS and A2.

## Desirable requirements

If you have an enquiring mind, are keen to discover how things work and enjoy challenges then Physics is for you.

You should have a minimum of a Grade B at GCSE in Physics/Sciences and Mathematics.

You do not need to take Advanced Level Mathematics. Physicists teach you what you need and what it means.

## How will I study?

You will receive class specification specific textbooks to support your studies and have access to many additional software resources. Group sizes vary but are about 12 students. Most lessons involve discussion since Physics' problems are best solved by sharing ideas. You will also be expected to work independently, use the library to find current scientific articles and use additional textbooks. Homework will be related to and extend the work done in class, giving you practice in tackling a wide variety of problems.

Your practical skills will be developed as you progress and will consolidate your coursework at AS and A2. You will design experiments, use computer simulations and devise your own models. You will learn to work in groups and deliver presentations to your peers. Physics provides you with many opportunities to develop and demonstrate your key skills in the application of number, problem solving and use of information technology. All these skills are greatly valued in today's economy.

## Where will it lead?

Physics is incredibly versatile and just about every business or sector of employment values how it can contribute to a successful enterprise. There is exciting work in Astronomy, Electronics, Meteorology, Telecommunications, Scientific Journalism, and the Aerospace industry. It is useful as a qualification for Architecture, Dentistry, Engineering, Geophysics, Health Studies, Material Science, Medical Physics and Pharmacy.

*“ I am currently studying Physics, Maths, Further Maths, Electronics and French. My enjoyment of Physics stems from the subject's unique balance between creative thought process and rigorous scientific analysis – in particular, building understanding of physical principles in Engineering. I would like to apply to study Engineering at Cambridge. I have furthered my interest, for example, by leading the Young Engineers' Club in school, and undertaking work experience placements with Rolls Royce and BAE Systems. The support of the Physics department was also key to my getting an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship.”*

**Tejal Shanbhag**



# PSYCHOLOGY

## Aims

To develop an increased awareness and understanding of the 'main schools' in Psychology and how they each interpret human behaviour  
To develop your own learning skills within the subject. To learn to draw conclusions based on evidence.

## What will I study?

The AQA Psychology Specification B offers an interesting and applied content which we anticipate students will enjoy. You will develop a sound understanding of the various methods and approaches in Psychology. You will develop in-depth knowledge of the core topics and these at AS include PSYB1 Approaches, Biology, Gender and Research Methods and PSYB2 Individual Differences, Social Psychology and Cognitive Psychology. You will take part in practical activities which provide invaluable knowledge in order for you to be stretched and challenged academically, providing the opportunity of gaining higher grades on your final A Level. At A2 you will study two further units PSYB3 Child Moral Development, and will have a choice of topics from Cognition and Law, Schizophrenia and Mood Disorders and Forensic Psychology and PSYB4 Approaches, Debates and Methods, including Statistics in Psychology.

## How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed on two units at AS and a further two units at A Level. Skills known as AO1 (Knowledge and Understanding), AO2 (Application of Knowledge and Understanding) AO3 (How Science Works) will be measured and you will have the opportunity of gaining up to an A\* grade on your final A Level. The units will be examined in May/June. There is no externally examined coursework at either AS or A2. Practical skills will be developed through class activities and the methods used will be taught through the experimental method, observations, interviews and other research methods. Ethical considerations and safe practice used in the real world of psychology will be fully explored. These skills, known as 'How Science Works' will be assessed throughout the units described above.

## Desirable requirements

You should be enthusiastic, communicative and diligent. Some knowledge of Science and Biology is always helpful, especially as the discipline follows the scientific method in its research practice.

## How will I study?

Through a wide variety of methods including reading, debating, ICT, learning theory and carrying out practical work. It is important that you participate in independent learning and wider reading; watching relevant television programmes will also enhance your understanding of the subject.

## Where will it lead?

Psychology is both a Science and Humanity; therefore the course may appeal to those wishing to study a Psychology degree or other associated disciplines. Psychology, due to its broad content, has many applications in areas ranging from education, law, counselling, social work, industry, child care, media and public relations, plus many others.

*"Psychology is my favourite subject. The department create an energetic and productive working environment. Mr Berry and Mr Radcliffe keep the class entertained by making the work interesting and fun. Mrs Sanders is always on hand if the work gets too stressful and you need a good talk! The subject matter is fascinating and a range of teaching techniques are used to support our learning."*

**Antonia Bate**





# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## Aims

The A Level course helps to develop the skills of analysis, logical presentation of argument and critical thinking, whilst allowing you to gain knowledge which may help you to make sense of the world and the competing demands of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## What will I study?

There are two elements to the course, Philosophy of Religion and Ethics. Philosophy of Religion considers the question of God's existence, reasons why religion is in decline in the modern world and psychology of religion. You will also investigate the challenge of evil and suffering to belief in God and the age-old question of what, if anything, happens when we die. Ethics involves asking questions about right and wrong and how we ought to behave. You will learn about ethical decision making in the real world by focusing on abortion and euthanasia and you will have the opportunity to research an ethical issue of your choice. At A2 you will be able to specialise either in medical ethics or business ethics. Due to the nature of the subject matter and the skills you will develop, RS A Level complements both the Sciences and the Humanities.

## How will I be assessed?

### AS level

One examination for each module

### A2 level

One examination for each module

There is no coursework.

## Desirable requirements

You should enjoy discussing, reading, thinking and expressing your ideas both orally and in writing and keeping up to date with current ethical issues. It is essential that you question, make judgements and formulate your own opinions. It is not necessary to have studied RS at GCSE.

## How will I study?

Lessons consist largely of discussion but you will also have the opportunity to read, research and practise your writing skills.

## Where will it lead?

Wherever you want it to! Religious Studies is welcomed by the top universities as a valuable academic subject. The skills developed through RS make it a good foundation for a degree in any subject and the knowledge acquired provides a useful background for many occupations. Medicine, Law, Psychology, Journalism, the Police and Environmental Management, are just some of the careers that students with A Level RS have gone on to follow.

*“As a new student into the sixth-form I was initially nervous for the completely new start; however I settled into the school really quickly and got used to sixth-form life. Studying RS has due to the debates in class which increased my confidence as an external student. Lessons are really interesting in the Sixth Form because of the smaller class sizes, and studying English Combined, History, Psychology and RS have proved especially interesting and complimentary subjects. I am looking forward to study Philosophy and Psychology Joint honours at university and feel sixth form has helped me to cultivate my interests in these subjects.”*

**Isabella Mott**



# SPANISH

## Aims

Our aim is to help you to extend your linguistic skills so that you can speak and write Spanish both confidently and fluently. During the course you will:

- Develop your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.
- Expand your knowledge of vocabulary and grammar and acquire new skills such as translation and interpreting.
- Learn to analyse literary texts and films in the target language.
- Recognise the importance of linguistic competence in today's global workplace.
- Learn more about Spanish speaking countries.

## What will I study?

AS: you will cover a range of topics which will give you an insight into contemporary Spanish society and enable you to express your own views on a wide range of topics, including Media and Popular Culture.

A2: you will look at topics such as the environment, racism and third world poverty from a Hispanic perspective. You will also study two cultural topics to increase your appreciation of the cultures and society of countries where Spanish is spoken. This will be done by studying a book and a film in Spanish and learning to discuss and analyse the content.

## How will I be assessed?

In the AS examination taken at the end of the Year 12, there is a Listening, Reading and Writing Paper, with the listening material individually controlled by the student (Unit 1) and a 15 minute Speaking Test (Unit 2).

In the A2 examination taken at the end of the Year 13, there is again a Listening, Reading and Writing Paper, with student-controlled listening materials (Unit 3) and a 15 minute Speaking Test (Unit 4).

## Desirable requirements

You should have an interest in Spanish language and culture and a desire to extend your knowledge through hard work and independent study. An interest in how language works and a willingness to communicate with others both in and out of the class room is also a key requirement. We would also strongly recommend that you should have a Grade A at GCSE.

## How will I study?

Each group is taught by two members of the department. In lessons you will access material from a variety of sources including textbooks, the internet, magazines and films. You will have a weekly conversation slot with the language assistant. You will also be encouraged to become a more independent language learner. There will be opportunities to attend film evenings and university language days and to participate in the sixth form study trip to Cádiz. You may also choose to undertake work experience in Spain organised by an independent company.

## Where will it lead?

Whatever your career – Commerce, Law, Tourism, Industry, Teaching, Publishing, Media – whatever your destination – Britain, Europe or beyond – linguistic competence is always useful and often essential. Foreign language skills enable you to take advantage of schemes which allow you to study subjects as diverse as Medical Science and Art & Design at a foreign university. Competent linguists are in demand in the world of work!

*“It isn't easy in modern to society to be able to stand out from the crowd and have something that little bit different than the rest of your peers, but through studying Spanish, I feel that I now have that edge over many other students. Studying a language opens so many doors and opportunities no matter what profession you are looking to do, whether it be Business, Law or History, having a language instantly makes you seem more appealing to universities and employers. I am currently studying Spanish, French, Maths and Classical Civilisation which I feel have given me a real breadth of knowledge in many different fields and I look forward to continuing with them next year.”* **Hayley Wilding**

