

A WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

DLD College was founded in 1931 to provide tutoring for Oxbridge and Colonial Service entrance exams. Today we are a leading Independent Fifth & Sixth Form College that offers over 430 students a wide-ranging curriculum in superb learning accommodation delivered by tutors who are selected for their academic strength, enthusiasm and their ability to relate positively to young people.

We are helping students achieve grades that they often didn't believe possible and preparing them to access the university courses and destinations of their choice.

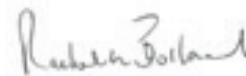
DLD College is a dynamic place to study providing high quality GCSE, A Level, Foundation & BTEC courses. Our lessons are lively and encourage students to discuss ideas, ask questions and actively learn. We recognise that choosing the most appropriate programme of study is a very important part of the application process and we therefore invite all those interested in enrolling at DLD to an interview to discuss their subjects.

At DLD College we offer a unique alternative to traditional school life whilst still maintaining a strong academic ethos. We believe small class sizes encourage more purposeful learning and allow for a greater measure of individual attention, helping students to be more focused on their studies and building their confidence. Regular testing is carried out fortnightly to develop effective study habits. Students learn important study skills including note taking, essay writing, time management, revision and exam techniques. On average, class sizes at DLD are between 6 and 8 students.

It is the strong reputation of our tutors that attract students to enrol with us. All DLD tutors are graduate specialists, some are text book authors or examiners, and a high proportion are Oxbridge educated or holders of postgraduate degrees.

Each student is allocated a Personal Tutor who monitors his or her progress as they move through their course. The welfare of students is paramount and the Personal Tutors are backed by a team of Directors of Welfare. Reports are sent out regularly and parents are encouraged to contact the College at any time for updated information. Attendance is monitored lesson by lesson and parents are alerted to any unauthorised absence or lateness.

I am proud of DLD's reputation as a top College. I hope the information in this guide is a helpful starting point and would encourage you to come in and experience the College for yourself.



Rachel Borland
Principal



GENERAL INFORMATION

Accreditation

The College is inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate and is a member of the Independent Schools Association. We are members of the British Council and accredited by CReSTeD.

The Independent Schools Council publishes information on DLD.

The College Day

Lessons start at 8.50 am. The last lesson finishes at 4.40 pm. There are two fifteen-minute breaks and a forty-minute lunch break.

How to find the College

DLD is situated in the heart of London, directly opposite Westminster and Big Ben. The campus is a few minutes' walk from Westminster Underground or Waterloo station.

Books and DLD Study Guides

Tutors at DLD have written AS and A2 Study Guides for many subjects: these are comprehensive notes geared specifically to the syllabuses being taught and are available on Moodle.

Application Procedures

Prospective students are invited to attend an interview and should bring their most recent school report with them. Places are held open for six weeks from the date of the offer letter, apart from August during the post-results recruitment period.

Accommodation

DLD College provides rooms for our students in our private boarding house located directly above our College premises. The boarding house contains 15 floors, divided by gender, with over 200 rooms. Each room provides the student with a bed, study space, storage, and a shower room. There are also a number of twin rooms which, allow two students to share a shower room whilst still providing each student with their own bed, study space, storage and privacy.

Study Areas

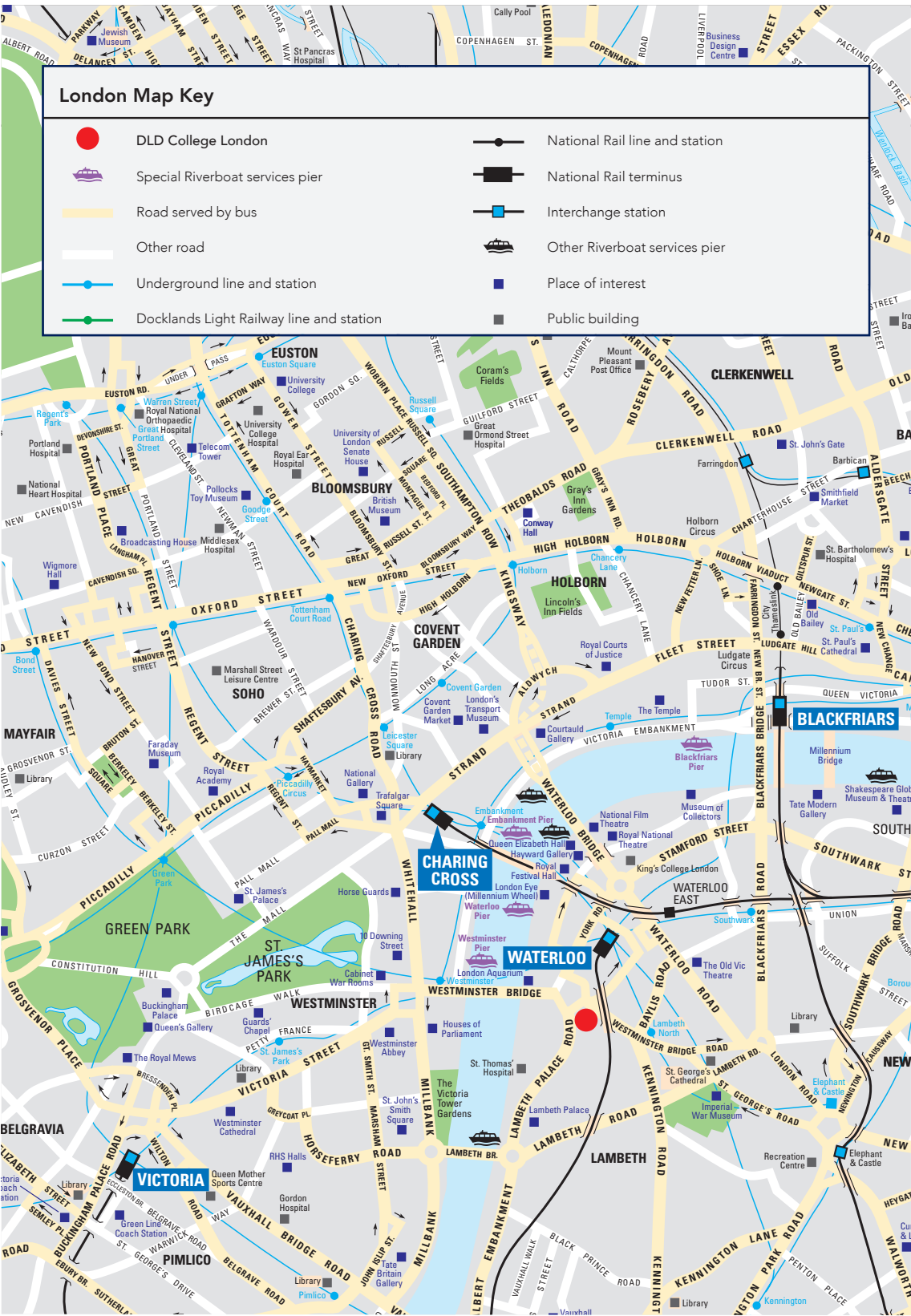
Within the College there are four dedicated learning zones with quiet booths and water fountains. The College Learning Centre is equipped with state of the art technology. There are also additional areas around the College where students can both work and relax.

The Refectory

All students have access to the College Refectory for their meals. Boarders will take their meals with staff in the College Refectory including; breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The Refectory provides a multifunctional space for eating, studying and socialising, and has a mixture of long bench style tables and booths. In addition, students also have access to a Starbucks Café from 8am where they may buy hot drinks and snacks.

Outdoor space

Students under the age of 16 can access a dedicated terrace on the third floor of the College. All students can benefit from an enclosed, safe and secure landscaped garden area just outside the College.



COURSE MATRIX

DLD College offers students a wide range of top quality courses to best prepare them for the next stage of their studies.

The availability of our GCSE, A level, BTEC and International Foundation Programmes can be found in the course matrix below.

	GCSE	A Level	BTEC	IFP
Academic English*				
Art & Design				
Biology				
Business				
Business Communication Systems				
Chemistry				
Classical Civilisation				
Computing				
Drama				
Economics				
English				
English Literature				
English Language/Literature				
EPQ				
Film Studies				
French				
Geography				
German				
Graphic Communication				
Global Citizenship				

COURSE MATRIX

	GCSE	A Level	BTEC	IFP
Government & Politics				
History				
History of Art				
ICT				
Italian				
Latin				
Mathematics				
Media Studies				
Music				
Music Technology				
Photography				
Physics				
Psychology				
Religious Studies				
Russian				
Sociology				
Spanish				
BTEC Business				
BTEC Media Production				
BTEC Music Technology				
International Foundation Programme in Art				
International Foundation Programme in Business				
International Foundation Programme in Music				

* Please note that Academic English is offered to complement GCSE, A Level and IFP Programmes.

STUDENT PROFILES



CHARLOTTE NEVE
UK
DLD COLLEGE LONDON

PREVIOUS SCHOOL:
Wellington College

A LEVEL SUBJECTS:
Biology / A*
Chemistry / A
English Literature / A
French / A
History / A

DESTINATION:
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Charlotte came to DLD in 2010 seeking a more independent learning structure and collegiate ethos. She gained excellent GCSE results, and her high achievements in humanities and sciences were reflected in her A level choices. English and History emerged as providing the intellectual stimulation she would like to pursue at university. She showed initiative and ability in extra-curricular and academic pursuits. Charlotte completed her A levels in 2013 and took a gap year during which time she studied French A level with us, pursued an independent course of reading and study, and participated in a number of volunteering and work-placements. Charlotte is off to New College, Oxford to read English Literature.

STUDENT PROFILES



WILLIAM DAVIDSON
UK
DLD COLLEGE LONDON

PREVIOUS SCHOOL:
Merchant Taylors School

A LEVEL SUBJECTS:
English Literature / A*
French / A
History / B

DESTINATION: ST CATHERINE'S OXFORD

William has diverse interests in fine art, history and languages. He has proven to be an extremely imaginative, creative and diligent young man who reads widely and with a genuine appetite for knowledge. He is extremely keen to contextualise his reading in relation to historical circumstance and the influential literary and artistic movements which inspire him. He has an obvious desire to deepen his understanding of cultural and literary history. He reads literature with avid interest and enjoyment, responding with confident and original insight. He is responsive to new critical approaches, assimilates complex arguments and literary detail with assurance. He is generous and committed in class discussion. His written work is exemplary in its understanding, rigour and articulate expression. In addition to this, he is a talented visual artist. An exemplary student.



ART & DESIGN

“DLD has been a wonderful place to study. I have always loved Art, and the tutors are experts, friendly and help you to develop your skills, creativity and confidence. The help they gave me when applying to Foundation courses was fantastic and as a result I obtained offers from many different Art colleges.”

Anya Myagkikh, DLD Graduate

What is Art & Design?

One of the most important aspects of this subject is its ability to express what cannot be seen or spoken. The multi-faceted nature of Art allows individuals to explore an endless array of processes such as drawing, painting, printmaking, photographic imagery, 3D construction and mixed media. It is a fascinating and rewarding subject that allows you to use your imagination and creativity, whilst acquiring a range of skills, abilities and directions in art as you engage with the world in a visual and tactile way.

What is Art & Design @ DLD?

Artistic skill underpins every creative practice. Our approach is to support the development of practical skills whilst encouraging expression and personal creativity. During the first part of the academic year you will explore a variety of materials, processes and techniques, whilst simultaneously building on your contextual knowledge. These new skills will act as a foundation for the second part of the academic year, which consists of an exam unit, where you will draw upon previous learning experiences to devise your own project. Throughout this creative journey you will be guided by experienced and supportive staff members who will draw on a variety of teaching methods in order to help you achieve your potential.

How is it assessed?

AS Art (one year course)	Weighting	Format
Component 1	60%	Portfolio
Component 2	40%	Externally set project (10 Hour Exam)

Progress on to:

A-Level Art (one year course)	Weighting	Format
Component 1	60%	Personal Investigation
Component 2	40%	Externally set project (15 Hour Exam)

What do I need?

It is essential to have studied Art at GCSE level in order to start studying Art at AS Level. It is also important to have a genuine interest in the subject, and a willingness to learn and develop your skills and ideas. On a more practical level, a digital camera (preferably around 10 megapixels) and a USB is strongly recommended, An A1 black vinyl portfolio, and a range of drawing, painting and craft materials would also assist your independent / homework studies in this subject.

Good subject combinations

Subjects that can complement the study of Art could include Photography, Media Studies and Art History.

This is because they also involve analysing and responding to visual culture, society and contemporary ideas and issues. Due to the diverse nature of Art, it complements many subjects offered at DLD because it often contains elements of them. For example, English Literature, Sociology, Physics, Mathematics and History are endless resources that artists the world over have drawn upon to inspire their work.

After DLD

A high percentage of our students progress on to Art Foundation and Degree courses at Art Colleges, after DLD, in London, across the UK and internationally. DLD is very proud of its 100% record in placing students onto Art Courses on completion of their A Level Studies. This route into graduate study enables students to develop their studies further in various disciplines such as Art & Design, Photography, Textiles, Fashion, Design, New Media and Architecture.

The creative Arts industries make a significant and culturally highly important social contribution to the fabric of our country and the UK economy - accounting for 7.9% of GDP, a figure that is growing significantly faster than the economy as a whole. Career paths in art and design can include becoming a Professional Artist, a Graphic, Web, Textiles or Fashion Designer, a Photographer or Architect. There is also the possibility of becoming an Illustrator, an exhibition curator, or working in gallery education. With good training, qualifications and professional skills in Art & Design the list of possible career routes is endless!

The Arts provision at DLD is a thriving department that will build and develop your skills and creativity, as well as prepare you for further study, and an exciting career in the Arts.

This year DLD Art Students have won various regional and national awards. This includes first, second and highly commended awards in the annual ISA Art Competition.



BIOLOGY

“I was nervous about studying A level Biology, but with the support and guidance of my teachers and classmates I am now very confident and even have a new favourite subject.”

Emileline Pedersen, Current DLD student

What is Biology?

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics; from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and from micro-organisms to mammals. Biology is never far from the headlines either. Current topics in the news include stories about human cloning, stem cell research, the problems caused by cutting down rainforests, AIDS and genetically modified foods.

What is Biology @ DLD?

A-level Biology is available as a two-year or a one-year course, depending on prior learning. It is taught through a combination of practical and theory sessions, using interactive materials to bring up-to-the-minute information into lessons. Teaching of a new A-level specification begins in September 2015. In the first year of this specification you'll study four main topics: "Biological molecules", "Cells", "Organisms exchange substances with their environment" and "Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms." Most students will take the AS exams at the end of their first year, even if they plan on completing the full A-level course. In your second year you will build on this solid foundation of biological knowledge. The four topics you will study are "Energy transfer", "Organisms respond the changes in their environment", "Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems" and "The control of gene expression". Over the course of these two years you will be carrying out a minimum of twelve practical assessments. Your practical skills will earn you a 'practical endorsement' from the exam board and will be tested in the written exams.

Students starting the A2-Biology or one-year Biology course in September 2015, will be following the legacy specifications. In the A2 units you'll study two main topics: "Populations and environment" and "Control in cells and organisms". You will also carry out an exam-board set practical assignment which is designed to sharpen your investigative skills.

The one-year course is popular with graduates who want to apply for medicine or dentistry, as well as students who may have taken A or AS level Biology before and are seeking to improve their grade. The one-year group has more teaching time per week. In addition to the legacy A2 specifications, one-year students will also study the legacy AS units which cover "Biology and disease" and "The variety of living organisms". In addition there will be another exam-board set practical assignment that covers AS topics.

In addition to these courses, any student applying for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Dentistry has the opportunity to join 'Medsoc' which helps to prepare students for all aspects of their application.

How is it assessed?

New specification (teaching starts September 2015)

AS Exams	Weighting	Format
Paper 1	50%	Written exam (1hr 30 min)
Paper 2	50%	Written exam (1hr 30 min)

A-level Exams	Weighting	Format
Paper 1	35%	Written exam (2 hours)
Paper 2	35%	Written exam (2 hours)
Paper 3	30%	Written exam (2 hours)

Legacy specification (for A2 or one-year Biology students starting in September 2015)

A-level Exams	Weighting	Format
Unit 1	17% (34%)	Written exam
Unit 2	23% (46%)	Written exam
Unit 3	10% (20%)	Practical assignment
Unit 4	17%	Written exam
Unit 5	23%	Written exam
Unit 6	10%	Practical assignment



What do I need?

- An interest in the living world and a desire to discover more about it
- Enthusiasm to study Biology in much greater depth than you did at GCSE level
- Grade C or above in GCSE Biology, Dual Award Science or equivalent qualification

Good subject combinations

Biology is one of the most popular A levels in the country, attracting students taking a wide variety of other subjects. Biology is often chosen alongside another science and/or Maths and ICT. Geography is another popular choice, as there is overlap with the areas of ecology and physical geography. However, Biology works as a "standalone" science, and attracts students taking subjects as diverse as Art, Psychology, Sociology and Music.

After DLD

Many students go on to a biologically-related degree course such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Optometry, Nursing, Marine Biology, Zoology or Forensic Science. Biotechnology and pharmacology are growing industries employing many Biology graduates. Biologists are vitally important in such areas as food production, ecology and cell biology. Others choose careers as diverse as law, computing, accounting or teaching. The skills of experimentation, logical analysis and evaluation learned in Biology have uses that transcend subject boundaries and are helpful in many career areas.

Questions

Q Can I do the course in one year?

A Yes providing you meet certain criteria. Many of our one-year students are graduates or those with A levels who wish to apply for medicine at university

Q Will I need to complete a coursework project out of lesson time?

A No. Your practical work assignment is all completed in normal lesson time

Q Will I have to go on a residential field course?

A No. Fieldwork is undertaken during day or half-day visits in and around London



BUSINESS

“Business is a fascinating A Level course. My tutors at DLD deliver topics in a way that is enjoyable and supportive. I am delighted that I chose this subject and look forward to studying it further at university.”

Vittorio Moroni, Current DLD Student

Why choose Business?

Business is a field that is undeniably important to society. Businesses and business leaders have been key architects of the digital age and the globalised world we inhabit. The challenge of managing finite resources in a way that satisfies a network of stakeholders is perhaps greater and more exciting than ever. The ability to critically engage with businesses and the commercial world equips young people with the tools to excel in their careers and make a meaningful contribution to the progression of society. For many students, A Level Business will lay the groundwork for an exciting and lucrative career.

What is Business @ DLD?

Part of the Faculty of Social Sciences, A Level Business at DLD College allows learners to develop a holistic understanding of organisations in various business sectors and environments, drawing on local, national and global contexts. We embrace creativity and work to inculcate a measured approach to tackling questions that ultimately lead to justified judgments that avoid the ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach.

Learners will apply a number of analytical techniques such as break-even analysis, investment appraisal tools and ratio analysis in order to investigate business opportunities and problems. They will be equipped to determine appropriate business strategy in a range of contexts. Business Tutors at DLD aim to create an atmosphere that is dynamic in terms of its delivery of subject material, stimulating and one that nurtures an awareness of events and issues within the global commercial environment.

Students on the first year of the programme will all work towards the AS qualification. The content of the first year forms the foundation of the Eduqas A Level that is completed in the second year.

How is it assessed?

	Weighting	Format
Component 1: Business Opportunities and Functions	33.3%	2 hours 15 minute exam
Component 2: Business Analysis and Strategy	33.3%	2 hours 15 minute exam
Component 3: Business in a Changing World	33.3%	2 hours 15 minute exam

What do I need?

The best students of Business have a rounded set of academic strengths. Students should be confident essay writers as their ability to write will be analytically tested. At the same time, the course requires learners to have a confident grasp of numeracy and the ability to manipulate data to support rational judgments. Finally a genuine enthusiasm and interest in the commercial world is invaluable and will help students to accelerate their progression.

Good subject combinations

The broad nature of A Level Business means that it is an excellent complement to most other A Level courses offered at the College. There are significant overlaps with other Social Sciences such as Economics, Geography, Sociology, Government and Politics but also with other subjects such as Psychology, Media Studies, Drama and even Art. The importance of critical thinking skills is shared with English and the need for quantitative analysis makes A Level Mathematics a valuable combination.

After DLD

The theory taught in A Level Business is useful in all walks of life as most of us work as employees rather than becoming entrepreneurs. A working knowledge of the way businesses operate will always be helpful in assessing the prospects of particular firms and therefore in career planning. However, there are a wide range of Business related higher education qualifications; many of which are joint honours degrees involving another subject. These are particularly valuable in the modern business world as are business degrees involving an international dimension in the form of an internship abroad. Business related ‘Sandwich courses’ (where students complete a work placement as part of their degree course) are also very popular.

While most DLD students follow the path of higher education, a sizeable minority go straight into the workplace as trainees in family businesses or in certain aspects of the financial services and property industries.

All this indicates that A Level Business can be a staging post for both university and the working world.

Questions

Q Can the course be done in one year?

A The first year of the course offers students an AS qualification. If students have already completed AS study elsewhere, it may be possible to complete the A Level in one year

Q Which exam board do you follow?

A From September 2015, new students will be following the Eduqas A Level Business specification. Students who have already studied AQA AS Business may be able to complete the legacy papers for BUSS1, BUSS2, BUSS3 and BUSS4.

Q Are there a lot of calculations to do in A Level Business?

A The assessment of quantitative skills will form 15% of the overall marks. The subject is primarily assessed through extended writing.

Q Can I use the A Level to apply for a gap year internship?

A Yes.

CHEMISTRY

“Coming to DLD I didn’t know what to expect, but the Chemistry teacher made me feel right at home. She never fails to help us understand all aspects of our Chemistry syllabus. She is very open to all questions relating to the subject and has expert knowledge and experience. I have grown to love the subject and could not have asked for a better or more encouraging teacher.”

Isra Taha, Current DLD Student

What is Chemistry?

- Why can you smell pepper, but you can’t smell salt?
- Why are some elements metals and others non-metals?
- Can we do anything about global warming?
- How and why will we be affected when we run out of oil?
- Why does your bedroom get messy by itself, but not tidy?

Chemistry is the study of the elements and their compounds, and it tries to describe and explain how and why the materials, which make up our world, behave.

Whether it’s developing specific drugs to target disease, finding better ways to use the resources we have, or developing new materials with enhanced properties, Chemistry is everywhere.

If you enjoy asking questions about the world around you, then you will like AS and A level Chemistry because, at last, you will get some answers!

What is Chemistry @ DLD?

Starting in September, there are changes to the A level curriculum. We will be following the new AQA Chemistry A courses. Students will study the AS course in the first year and suitable candidates will be able to complete the A level with a second year of study.

The content of the legacy course is based upon the OCR AS/A2 specification, combining theory with practical experience. The staff are knowledgeable and enthusiastic, applying a variety of strategies to help all students. We encourage imaginative, critical and logical thinking for problem solving and for interpreting and answering text-based questions.

Collaborative practical work enables students to learn about Chemistry in a task-based, student-focussed and interesting way, supported by lessons where the results of investigations are drawn together and students can learn from each other, as well as from the teacher. The incorporation of practical methods into the learning process enables students to tackle practical assessments in a more confident manner.

In addition to these courses, any student applying for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Dentistry has the opportunity to join ‘Medsoc’ which helps to prepare students for all aspects of their application.

How is it assessed?

New AS (AQA)

As Exams	Weighting	Format
Paper 1	50%	External exam: 1 hour 30
Paper 2	50%	External exam: 1 hour 30

Practical work: 6 practicals must be completed to create a portfolio. Questions about these practicals will appear on the written papers.

New A-level (AQA)

A-level Exams	Weighting	Format
Paper 1	35%	External exam: 2 hours
Paper 2	35%	External exam: 2 hours
Paper 3	30%	External exam: 2 hours

Practical work: 12 practicals must be completed to create a portfolio. Questions about these practicals will appear on the written papers.

Legacy Specification

	Weighting		Format
	AS	A level	
Unit 1	30%	15%	External exam: 1 hour
Unit 2	50%	25%	External exam: 1 hour 45 minute
Unit 3	20%	10%	Coursework: Tutor assessed
Unit 4	-	15%	External exam: 1 hour 15 minute
Unit 5	-	25%	External exam: 2 hour
Unit 6	-	10%	Coursework: Tutor assessed

At A2 an A* grade will be awarded to those students scoring over 90% in Units 4 and 5 on the UMS.

What do I need?

Chemistry requires an interest in the subject and an enthusiasm and commitment to work hard. You will need to develop your abilities to work independently and take responsibility for your own progress. Ideally, you will have at least a B grade in GCSE science (double or separate sciences) and mathematics. We have worked with students from a variety of backgrounds and experience and so the first few weeks of the course are designed to help everyone reach a common skill set.

What should I study with it?

Chemistry is unique in sitting evenly between the other sciences, involving mathematical, high conceptual and practical activities, and to some extent, an artistic component as well. For example: Organic chemistry is essentially the chemistry of life, and topics as diverse as amino acids and reaction rates link well with biology; Atomic structure is concerned with interactions between fundamental particles, entropy is the fundamental idea behind why anything ever happens at all, and these topics link well with Physics; Mathematics will help with calculations and working out units, but you will get enough training on this from the Chemistry department if you are not actually studying mathematics itself. Also, due to its development of analytical and problem solving skills, Chemistry would be a good subject to study in conjunction with subjects such as Psychology and Geography.

If you are looking to broaden your AS curriculum, then studying Chemistry alongside more arts-based subjects would work well, provided you meet the GCSE entry requirements.

A qualification in Chemistry is highly valued and leads to a wide variety of careers, including Prime Minister of the UK. If you are undecided, many options are kept open by studying Chemistry.

After DLD

If you want to study medicine, dentistry, pharmacy or veterinary science you will need A-level Chemistry. However an understanding of Chemistry is necessary to all other sciences and universities value A-level Chemistry.

Chemistry is central to careers in Physics, Materials, Engineering, Medicine, Earth Science and Life Sciences. Chemists often end up working in sectors such as the Chemical Industry (Research and development, Analytical Chemistry, Technical Sales and Marketing), Public Services (Forensic Science, Health Services, Environmental Protection and Water Companies), Academia and Teaching, Publishing, Technical Writing and Patent Law. Studying the chemical sciences at university provides you with many skills such as problem solving, communication, creativity and teamwork; hence chemical scientists are much sought after and can pursue careers in many exciting and varied fields of work.

Questions

Q Can I study the course in one year?

A Yes provided you have studied the course previously (and we also have an 18 month course)

Q Can I take the course if I've studied Chemistry AS or A2 previously?

A Yes (either in the one year course or over 2 years)



CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

“The subject Classical Civilisation deals with ancient Greek culture and history by studying different texts. The subject is really interesting as the texts that we study are the basis of literature today. Before I studied Classical Civilisation I was ignorant to the fact that some of the ancient Greek cultures were actually more open minded than the civilisations that followed.”

Tessa Krages – Current DLD student

What is Classical Civilisation?

If you are inspired by the ancient cultures of Greece and Rome, you will be fascinated by the A Level course in Classical Civilisation. By studying the subject you will acquire a solid grounding in all the main social, political and literary areas of the classical period. From the epic adventures of Odysseus and Aeneas to the court rooms and the assembly in Athens, from the glory of Octavian Augustus’ regime to the genesis of theatre and democracy, from the political satire of Greek comedy, to the tragic stories of Oedipus and Medea, you will delve into the inner workings of what many people see as the dawn of civilisation.

What is Classical Civilisation @ DLD?

Following the AQA syllabus, Classical Civilisation at DLD involves the close textual analysis of works belonging to three literary genres. These are epic poetry, comedy and tragedy. In epic poetry the works under study are Homer’s The Odyssey and Virgil’s The Aeneid. In comedy, we study three plays by Aristophanes and in tragedy two works by Sophocles and two by Euripides. Literary analysis of these works is accompanied by a thorough introduction to history, politics and society in classical Greece and Rome. All texts are read and analysed line by line in the classroom. This keeps students constantly involved and makes lessons lively, particularly in comedy and tragedy, where students share amongst them different parts of the plays.

How is it assessed?

	Weighting	Format
Unit 1	25% (50%)	1 hour 30 minute exam
Unit 2	25% (50%)	1 hour 30 minute exam
Unit 3	25%	1 hour 30 minute exam
Unit 4	25%	1 hour 30 minute exam

What do I need?

Genuine interest and enthusiasm about the classical world and the way it has affected western civilisation, together with an inquisitive mind, are the main ingredients for success in the subject. Students are not required to have studied GCSE Classical Civilisation or to have any prior knowledge.

Good subject combinations

A level Classical Civilisation is an excellent choice regardless of the other chosen subjects. It provides students with an education which far exceeds the limits of A level exam preparation and helps them develop a sophisticated way of thinking as undergraduates and as professionals. The subject is highly appreciated by university admission officers and would make a UCAS application stand out.

Certain subjects are particularly good combinations. English Literature is the most obvious. Students studying both subjects benefit from similarities in the way they are taught and the way texts are analysed and evaluated. With two units devoted to classical theatre, Drama is also a popular combination. The study of Classical Civilisation involves the development of an insight into the history and society of the classical period. This makes the subject an excellent companion to History, Religious Studies, Politics, Sociology and Psychology. Classical Civilisation can also add variety and an interesting element of the humanities to a course otherwise based on Maths and Sciences.

After DLD

An A Level in Classical Civilisation will enhance your chances of being accepted into university, whatever course you apply for. You may wish to continue your journey into the classical world and specialise in Classics, or use your classical background as the foundation for subjects like English Literature, History, Law, Archaeology, Anthropology, Politics, Theology and Philosophy. A good number of Classics graduates move on to become solicitors through a law conversion course. Studying Classics at university leads to high degrees of employability in various sectors, such as teaching, civil services, financial institutions and journalism. This is because the skills and knowledge acquired through the study of Classics are highly transferable to other areas: students emerge with the ability to deal with precise details, the habit of being consistently prepared to perform and the sense of perspective that comes from the study of such a long and broad sweep of history and culture.

Questions

Q Can I do the course in one year?

A Yes, but each application will be evaluated separately.



COMPUTING

What is Computing?

This course is ideal for any student who enjoys puzzles and problem solving and is considering a career where expertise with computers and networks is important. You will develop a broad understanding of the key principles of computer systems, including data, hardware, software and communications. You will learn to use high and low-level programming and web development languages, how to analyse and design solutions to real-world challenges, about the implementation of programming solutions and how data is stored and represented by a computer.

What is Computing @ DLD?

You will focus on problem solving, programming and data representation, as well as computer components and the internet. Areas of study also include operating systems and networking. For students more interested in how computers are used by individuals and organisations in everyday life, the A Level in Computing is recommended.

Computing at DLD is delivered in an interesting and stimulating style, using a range of innovative web 2.0 resources combined with the best traditional teaching methods to provide an environment that caters for anyone, regardless of their favourite way of learning. Theory content is delivered using a variety of styles from zooming online presentation to egg-boxes and bits of rolled-up paper via tests using voting handsets.

Key Information

- Assessment: Coursework (40%) Exam (60%)
- Duration: 1 year (AS)/2 years (A Level)
- Entry requirements: Standard entry requirements.
- Exam board: AQA

What do I need?

Computing requires enthusiasm and an interest in new technology. Students should ideally have a good grade in Maths GCSE or Computer Science GCSE as there will be a high content level of Maths in this course. You do not need to be particularly good at using the computer and you do not even need to have a computer at home, and you may have completed some coding or programming courses, although it would help.

Good subject combinations

Computing is a great subject in its own right – it gives you practical skills but also allows you to develop an understanding of the role and impact of computing in the world. As such, it can really go with any combination of subjects as the transferable skills you will develop will be useful in any career or path of study. Those students wishing to pursue a Computer Science degree should combine it with Maths A-level as this is a pre-requisite at some universities.

In terms of subjects that go particularly well with Computing, Maths is a very popular option as much of the A2 theory involves studying the decision logic. Physics and Psychology are interesting combinations; particularly with the increased dependence that we have on computers in our lives and the rate at which artificial intelligence is progressing.

Maths, Economics and the Sciences are good choices to study alongside Computing as the practical skills developed will prove most useful.

After DLD

A key subject for students planning to continue on to university and study subjects including computer science, computer game development, software engineering, information systems, music technology and networking and electronics at degree level. Alternatively, students may consider direct entry into related employment

The practical skills that Computing gives are transferable and of benefit in every walk of life, whether it is helping you manage long word processed documents such as your PhD thesis, using spreadsheets to help create statistical models or starting you on the path to creating a web design company.

Computing does not tie you in to a particular academic area or career path, but gives you the skills to cope with technical barriers that may previously have caused problems. Doctors, lawyers, designers, Architects, film directors, business leaders all need to have a basic understanding of technical issues and technical proficiency and A-level Computing will give you that foundation.

Many universities run courses that link Computer Science closely with other subjects such as Finance or Artificial Intelligence as well as offering courses that focus just on Computer Science. At the last count UCAS listed over 300 courses involving Computer Science – one of them is bound to be right for you.

Questions

Q Can I do the course in one year?

A No

Q Do I need to have studied Computing before?

A No



DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

“Studying Drama at DLD has given me more confidence thanks to my teachers encouraging and pushing me to do my best. I have learnt how to go above and beyond my own expectations. Thanks to DLD I have now decided I want to study the craft as a professional.”

Charles Sibanda-Lunga, DLD Graduate

What is Drama & Theatre Studies?

The study of Drama and Theatre exposes you to the preparation and delivery of theatrical productions: theatre is drama with an audience. It is a course about learning why playwrights, directors, designers and actors make the choices they make. It is about taking a play from the page to the stage. It uses different genres, styles, methods and techniques to communicate drama in the most effective way. It is about using a vocal and physical action to communicate a psychological and emotional state. It is about you and all those who have gone before and will come after because theatre is about life and drama is life.

What is Drama & Theatre Studies @ DLD?

‘The important thing is to turn yourself inside out, to pull yourself up by your own hair and see the whole world with fresh eyes’

Jean-Paul Marat - marat/Sade by Peter Weiss

We hope you will be shocked, excited and challenged by stimulating drama, not only through work within the course, but by exposure to a range of other theatre experiences. At DLD we follow the Edexcel specification, which allows us to choose the play texts to suit you and your group’s strengths. One of the founding principles of the department is ‘play to perfection’; therefore the practical exploration of all the elements of the course is key to your understanding and progress. The DLD Theatre department comprises of acting and theatre practitioners who bring a diverse and specialist set of skills to your creative journey with us.

How is it assessed?

		Weighting	Format
Unit 1	Exploration	20% (40%)	Practical study and written coursework
Unit 2	Performance	30% (60%)	Section A - Monologue or duologue Section B – Performing or Design skill
Unit 3	Devising	20%	Collaborative project performed to an audience
Unit 4	Theatre in Context	30%	Written examination

What can I combine it with?

- 1) Imagination.
- 2) Genuine interest in life and how it can be successfully replicated on stage.
- 3) Healthy curiosity as to what makes people tick.
- 4) Commitment and self-discipline.

You may not feel you have the confidence to be a performer, but we can encourage you to become one or to develop your imagination through the visual and technical contribution of a designer. For a theatrical team, as in life, the variety of people is one of its strengths. Energy and enthusiasm are important too - working practically and co-operatively takes stamina and sensitivity.

Good subject combinations

Any subject combination can work as there is always something we can learn from and be inspired by. Traditional links include: Music, Classical Civilization, Psychology, Sociology, English, Media, and History. Recent trends have seen students successfully manage the sciences and Mathematics with their Drama studies: with this comes a broader knowledge base which all of us, both students and tutors alike, can benefit from and see afresh.

After DLD

Our students follow a great variety of university courses and careers. Some go to drama schools, where they have a very good record of success (DLD graduate Phoebe Waller-Bridge is the playwright and performer from the 2014 multi-award winning hit ‘Fleabag’, as well as several other impressive television and theatre credits.) Some go to Creative and Performing Arts courses, and many others to Business or more conventional courses. But what they take with them is more than their grade; our students have developed excellent personal skills, self confidence, self discipline and an awareness of themselves and situations that gives them an edge in whatever path they choose.

Questions

Q Can I do the course in one year?
 A No.

Q Do I need to be physically fit?
 A Yes.



ECONOMICS

“I’m interested in Business Economics where firms that are monopolies, oligopolies, or firms in perfect competition and monopolistic competition act to maximise their profits. The reason for my keen curiosity on the subject is because it emphasises why people act the way they act.”

Nora Nwe, DLD Graduate

What is Economics?

Economics is the study of how resources are allocated and how economic theories have an enormous impact on society. For example, the past and present decisions of the Greek Government have led to serious social unrest and doubts about the future of the Euro. In addition to these macroeconomic issues, the subject considers simple decisions by firms such as whether or not to raise their prices. The subject is highly respected by universities as it offers students the opportunity to improve their analytical and evaluative skills and helps them develop an ability to work with Mathematics and to show excellent written analysis.

What is Economics @ DLD?

Part of the Faculty of Social Sciences, an A Level in Economics at DLD College allows learners to develop tools that can be applied to a wide range of real-world situations rather than simply focusing on a fact-based approach. We offer a course that focuses on key economic concepts that will stay contemporary, thus equipping students with ability to make informed decisions in a range of contexts. The focus is very much on why the economic world works in the way it does and what can be done by economic agents to influence this.

How is it assessed?

	Weighting	Format
Component 1 (Economic Principles)	30% of A Level	Exam: 1 Hours 30 Minutes Section A – compulsory multiple choice questions Section B – compulsory structured questions
Component 2 (Exploring Economic Behaviour)	30% of A Level	2 Hours 30 Minutes Compulsory data response questions covering all of the A Level content
Component 3 (Evaluating Economic Models and Policies)	40% of A Level	Exam: 2 Hours 30 Minutes Section A – Microeconomics Section B – Macroeconomics Section C – Trade and Development One essay from a choice of two in each section

What do I need?

As an A Level Economics student you will be expected to keep abreast of the latest economic news and you should be willing to discuss such matters in the classroom. The interpretation of numerical and graphical data forms a key part of analysis so you should want to develop these skills. Prior study of the subject is not a requirement.

Good subject combinations

Economics can complement any subject at A Level. It works well with Science courses as it uses similar processes but adds sophisticated analytical skills to your essay writing technique. It also works well with Humanities like History but develops a more scientific approach. Economics could also be a good fourth subject for a student trying to build a broad portfolio of subjects.

If you think that you might want to continue to study Economics at university, you will almost certainly need to take Mathematics at A level. For the most selective courses Further Mathematics is desirable.

After DLD

Most students who have studied A Level Economics at DLD go on to read degrees in variety of disciplines. Undergraduate study of Economics is one of the most popular options at university and will equip you for a career in the public and private sector, including financial services, business management and the government economic service.

Students may also choose to study for a joint honours degree that combines Economics with another subject.

Questions

- Q Can the course be done in one year?
A Yes.
- Q Which exam board do you follow?
A From September 2015, new students will be following the Eduqas A Level Economics specification. Students who have already studied OCR AS Economics will be able to study for the full OCR A Level.
- Q Can I use the A Level to apply for a gap year internship?
A Yes.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

“This year I have studied texts of great literary value and experienced creative writing for the first time which I really loved doing. I have acquired a much better understanding of the technical aspects of the English language and have gained an insight into how writers use particular techniques to put across their opinions and ideas.”

Gloria Trifonova, Current DLD student

From September 2015, new A levels in English will be linear qualifications, with all assessment at the end of the course. AS will become a standalone qualification and will not contribute towards an A level.

What is Lang / Lit?

This subject combines literary and linguistic study. You will study a wide variety of different texts from a literary as well as a linguistic perspective. Non-literary and digital texts are studied as you learn about the creation of voice and how to technically analyse it. You will also learn about how literary writers use structure, form and language to create particular effects in their work.

The A-level involves producing two pieces of original writing based on your study of one fictional text and one non-fictional. You will produce one piece of fictional writing and one piece of non-fiction, along with an analytical commentary in which you reflect on the texts you have studied and your original work.

What is Lang / Lit @ DLD?

Throughout the course your tutors will emphasise the importance of using literary and linguistic terminology in your critical writing. Students are regularly tested in order to ensure that they have the necessary analytical tools at their disposal. For the coursework, your tutor will teach you how to critically analyse the set texts, research a particular topic or theme and help you adapt and shape your writing for a particular audience and purpose. At the end of the course, you will have mastered not only critical writing but also creative.

How is it assessed?

AS GCE in English Language and Literature (Edexcel)

This qualification consists of two externally examined components. 100% examined assessment at AS which must all be completed in May/June in any single year. First assessment 2016.

		Weighting	Format
Component 1	Voice in Speech and Writing	50%	1 hour 30 min. exam
Component 2	Varieties in Lang/Lit	50%	1 hour 30 min. exam

Advanced GCE in English Language and Literature (Edexcel)

This qualification consists of two externally examined components and coursework. Students must complete all assessment in May/June in any single year. First assessment 2017.

		Weighting	Format
Component 1	Voices in Speech and Writing	40%	2 hour 30 min. exam
Component 2	Varieties in Lang/Lit	40%	2 hour 30 min. exam
Coursework	Investigating and Creating Texts	20%	

What do I need?

We expect you to have enjoyed studying poetry, plays and novels at GCSE and to be someone who reads on their own. Find out if English Language and Literature is the right choice for you by answering these questions:

- Do you like creative writing
- Do you like researching independently and reading around a topic?
- Developing a critical argument in order to support a particular point of view?
- Being exposed to a variety of literary and non-literary texts
- Learning about how language functions on a technical and grammatical level?

Good subject combinations

English Language and Literature touches upon many other subjects and disciplines. It complements particularly the following subjects:

- Media Studies
- Film Studies
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Drama
- Classical Civilisation
- History

Because of the high regard English studies are held in general, the AS Language and Literature qualification might well be an option for those considering applying for Medicine.

After DLD

You can apply to do a degree in a wide range of subjects such as English, Journalism, Media and Communication Studies or Law.

Studying this subject will make you expert at analysing, interpreting and creating a wide variety of written and spoken texts. The skills you'll learn are highly valued by universities and future employers alike. Your powers of written and spoken communication will be enhanced as you hone your writing and speaking skills, producing texts and scripts for different audiences and purposes.

Questions

Q Can I do the course in one year?

A The AS is a one-year course with all assessments taking place in the summer. The A-level is a two-year course with all assessments taking place in the summer of the second year.

Q If I wanted to study English at university should I choose English Language and Literature or just English Literature?

A Both subjects are held in high regard by universities. English university departments pushed for Language and Literature to be created because they wanted students to be prepared for linguistic study as well as creative writing. English Language and Literature would be more appropriate if you were to apply to an English course with a strong media/creative writing element to it.



ENGLISH LITERATURE

“What is most exciting to me about the study of Literature is in the emphasis of personal experience, not only that of the author, but of the teacher and student as well. It is not just an art form, it is a way of expressing ideas, an insight into humanity and how we interpret the natural world. It is the opportunity to evaluate all these things as an academic subject. A process which provokes academic debate and internal discovery”

William Davidson, DLD Graduate

From September 2015, new A levels in English will be linear qualifications, with all assessment at the end of the course. AS will become a standalone qualification and will not contribute towards an A level.

What is English Literature?

English Literature involves studying the three main genres: poetry, prose and drama. You will read critics and theorists who bring different critical readings and theoretical approaches to bear on the set texts. You will learn how to engage in close reading and stylistic analysis as well as considering the wider social and historical factors which have shaped and influenced the writer. You will also consider how literary language and its effects works on different readers, shaping and influencing their responses.

What is English Lit @ DLD?

The ability to think independently and critically is the hallmark of a good English student. In the English department we emphasise the need for students to be able to weigh up a variety of interpretations and come to a reasoned and balanced response. Our teaching of individual texts is informed by different critical approaches: Marxist/historicist, feminist, stylistic and post-colonial.

Whatever approach adopted, the aim is always the same: to make students aware of how their own critical response to a text has been informed by a whole set of cultural practices, values and assumptions. As a reader, the text “reads” us just as much as we read it. Doing this subject will enable students to acquire skills in critical thinking, writing and speaking which will be of benefit to them for the rest of their lives.

How is it assessed?

This qualification consists of two externally examined components. 100% examined assessment at AS which must all be completed in May/June in any single year.

First assessment 2016.

		Weighting	Format
Component 1	Poetry and Drama	60%	2 hour exam
Component 2	Prose	40%	1 hour exam

Advanced GCE in English Literature (Edexcel)

This qualification consists of three externally examined components and coursework.

Students must complete all assessment in May/June in any single year. First assessment 2017.

		Weighting	Format
Component 1	Drama	30%	2 hour 15 min. exam
Component 2	Prose	20%	1 hour exam
Component 3	Poetry	30%	2 hour 15 min. exam
Coursework		20%	internally marked

What do I need?

You will need to have gained a good grade at GCSE English Language and English Literature. We expect you to have enjoyed studying poetry, plays and novels at GCSE and to be someone who reads on their own and around a subject. Find out if English literature is right for you by answering the following questions.

Do you like:

- Independent reading and study?
- Reading around a topic?
- Developing an argument in order to support a critical point of view?
- Undertaking independent research?
- Enjoy analysing literary techniques and their effects?

Good subject combinations

English literature touches upon many other subjects and disciplines. It complements particularly the following subjects:

- Media Studies
- Film Studies
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Drama
- Classical Civilisation

After DLD

You can apply to do a degree in a wide range of subjects such as English, Journalism, Media and Communication Studies or Law.

By studying English Literature, you will gain expertise in analysing, interpreting and evaluating a variety of different literary texts from different periods. During the course, your writing and analytical skills will develop, giving you the ability to shape a coherent critical argument which has textual substantiation. English Literature is a highly regarded A-Level, one which university admissions tutors and employers look upon very favourably. English graduates often go on to careers in broadcasting, journalism, publishing, PR and advertising.

Questions

Q Can I do the course in one year?

A The AS is a one-year course with all assessments taking place in the summer. The A-level is a two-year course with all assessments taking place in the summer of the second year.

Q If wanted to apply for English at university which option would be best, English Language and Literature or English Literature?

A Both subjects are held in high regard by universities. Studying English Literature would be a better option if applying to a traditional English course at university.



ACADEMIC ENGLISH

“I think DLD is a great place to study English. When I first came, I felt homesick and scared by the cultural differences in England. With the help of the friendly and professional teachers, my confidence soon grew and my English developed quickly from a low level to near fluency. It is no exaggeration to say that I could not have gone to Edinburgh University without the care and attention the DLD English teachers gave me. I will never forget them.”

Xiao Zhong, DLD Graduate

What is Academic English?

Academic English forms the educational foundation for any international student studying with us, whatever course they follow, as English is the language for both teaching and learning.

Every student's language target is to achieve a minimum of 6.5 in the IELTS exam (International English Language Testing System). It is compulsory to study this course until this is achieved, although we recommend students study beyond this score. There are various courses to follow to do this, depending on the English level at the start (which we will assess upon arrival).

The IELTS exam is as important as any A level subjects, Foundation course or BTEC qualification and must be taken alongside these, because the demonstration of academic English skills of a certain level (generally 6.5) is a pre-requisite for entry to all good universities. Further to this, universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, LSE, Imperial and UCL often ask for 7.0/7.5.

This exam focusses not only on the four main language skills areas (reading, writing, speaking and listening) but also on the academic learning skills required through the sixth form, into university and beyond; for example, discursive essay writing, argument analysis and note-taking.

What is Academic English @ DLD?

We believe in an integrated skills and topic based approach to learning, as language is learnt best in context. Wherever possible, we will link the relevance of our lessons to the other subjects across the curriculum. We believe strongly in working together with other subjects, in order to help you more easily, and successfully, understand and work with the language of your subject. Therefore, you will see strong connections between how all subjects present and work with language, so that you can have a collective and consistent learning experience.

How you will progress?

At interview, the College will establish which main course you should study for and place you at the correct point in this progression table for the Academic English component:

IELTS:	6.5 – 7.5	Cambridge university exams equivalent to IELTS 2.0 – 6.5
IELTS:	5 – 6.5	
IELTS:	4 - 5	
FCE	First Certificate in English	
PET	Preliminary English Test	
KET	Key English Test	

These exams are all paper-based and externally assessed, with an even ‘mark weight’ balance across the four main skills areas.

Depending on your age, your courses will take place in the main DLD College or the International Study Centre (ISC), which provides the full 24/7 British boarding school experience for our students aged between 14 and 16.

The future

Studying with us means living and learning in English for international success. We will support you to achieve to your highest potential linguistically in order for you to succeed in all courses and subjects.

This is an ideal time in your life to become fluent in another language, adding an invaluable skill set for future work, whilst also expanding your intellectual and cultural perspectives significantly.



FILM STUDIES

“I really enjoy Film Studies because I love filming, editing and also analysing films. This subject has given me the ability to improve my skills and helped me decide to go on even further in this field, which is why I will be studying Media at university.”

Luna Al-Akkad, DLD Graduate

What is Film Studies?

It goes without saying that Film Studies revolves around films. As a student of Film Studies you will undertake a systematic study of cinema and film. Film is arguably the most influential and culturally significant art form of the present. It is certainly the only new art form produced in the Twentieth Century. You will examine cinema in the context of its production, circulation and consumption within society. You will also look at how cinema creates meaning and communicates through images and sounds i.e. the ‘language of film’.

What is Film Studies @ DLD?

Film Studies is taught in a well equipped environment, which includes state of the art computers specifically used for film editing and a large screen facility for watching films. A wide range of teaching methods is employed by an enthusiastic team of tutors. Much of the A level specification revolves around independent research and production work and tutors are fully experienced at guiding and encouraging such activities.

How is it assessed?

		Weighting	Format
Unit 1	Exploring Film Form	20% (40%)	Coursework
Unit 2	British and American Film	30% (60%)	Examination
Unit 3	Film Research and Creative Projects	25%	Coursework
Unit 4	Varieties of Film Experience	25%	Examination

What do I need?

You need to bring with you an enthusiasm for Film as well as an open mind and a willingness to discuss and debate in the classroom. No matter what sort of films you usually watch, we can guarantee that you will be viewing films that you would never have expected to see – and most of the time you will be more than pleasantly surprised. You should also go to the cinema as often as possible (and also watch films regularly on TV and DVD).

Good subject combinations

Some of our previous students have joined the course simply because they love films, and others have joined because they thought that they might like to learn about film-making as a possible future career. Some are also fascinated by the more academic approach to the art form. What is certain, is that our film students have a varied repertoire of courses that they attend as well as Film Studies. Popular combinations include English, Psychology, Drama and Theatre Studies and Sociology but the beauty of Film is that it can complement any subject combination.

After DLD

There are many Film Studies courses available at university. They tend to fall into two types – those that involve an academic study of Film as one of the most important art forms of the last 100 years and those that will involve you in learning the art of film-making itself and possibly equip you for a career in the film and/ or television world. Film can also be studied as part of a joint degree course – for instance, many universities offer Film and English as a popular option. That said, if you have caught the film-making bug then you will need to start knocking on doors right away.

Questions

- Q Do I need to have studied Film Studies at GCSE?
A No. But it helps!
- Q Can I do the course in one year?
A It has been done. It involves a great deal of work and is very time consuming.



FRENCH

“French classes are interesting because you get to learn about the way of life in France and possibly other francophone countries.”

DLD Student

What is French?

French A level is a fascinating mix of the culture, society and language of France. It provides an opportunity for you to improve your ability to write, understand and speak French at a high level. The course focuses primarily on language skills and aims to enable you to discuss and write about a range of issues from youth culture (fashion, music, etc.) right through to the environment and social issues. This combination of being able to acquire sophisticated linguistic skills while at the same time learning about Monet or MC Solaar or the production of the film ‘Amelie’, makes French A level enormously stimulating and challenging, as well as rewarding.

What is French @ DLD?

The French department makes use of a wide range of resources including podcasts, films, magazines and assorted subject-specific web sites. Lesson time is divided into a variety of ways to meet the exam requirements – class discussions and oral practice, individual research-based study and ‘traditional’ teaching of grammar with plenty of question and answer work. There are regular tests to help you monitor your own progress but also to help you overcome the difficulty of organising the vocabulary and verbs that need learning. The aim is to provide a full, dynamic and highly enjoyable programme of work.

How is it assessed?

	Weighting	Format
Unit 1	15% (30%)	Oral
Unit 2	35% (70%)	2 hour 30 minute exam
Unit 3	17.5%	Oral
Unit 4	32.5%	2 hour 30 minute exam

What do I need?

It is vitally important that you enjoy the subject. This will be much more than just enjoying being in Paris – there is a lot of vocabulary to learn and written work to do, so it is essential that students love being around language and that you get a kick out of learning how to write and say new things correctly.

Good subject combinations

Languages are universally useful. They are often chosen by students who are studying other humanities subjects such as English or History, but equally mathematicians and scientists often study a language too. Any subject fits.

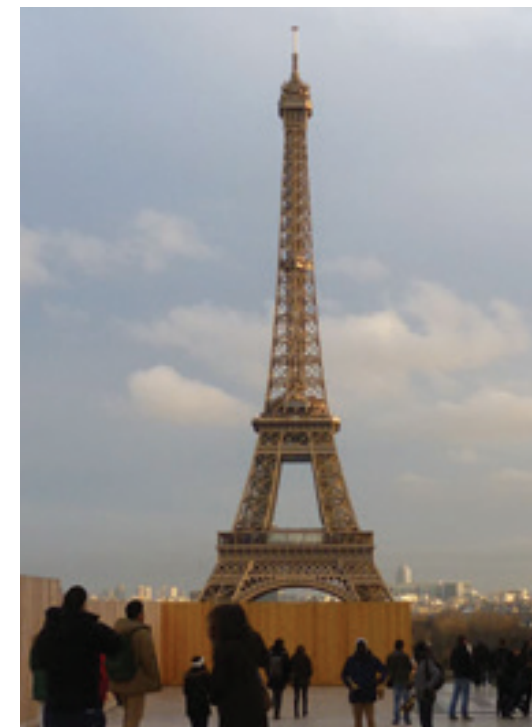
After DLD

One of the enormous advantages of studying a language is how it is always a treasured and useful skill in any arena. Students may go on to study languages at degree level either as single honours or combined with subjects as diverse as Philosophy, Business Studies and Psychology. Often students pick up a new language at university. Language graduates go on to pursue careers in business, investment banking, medicine, law, the media, teaching – this is simply because they offer a skill that is unique – except for other language graduates of course.

Questions

Q Can I do the course in one year?

A Yes – as part of an A2 group.



GEOGRAPHY

“Geography is a great subject to study whether you are interested in the sciences or humanities. It allows you to develop relationships between various disciplines and to understand how human processes may be influenced by our environment. At DLD Geography is a fun and academic subject where we take part in discussions and group work with lots of teacher interaction.”

Katherine Blair, DLD student

What is Geography?

Geography is about understanding the Earth and our place upon it. It examines how landscapes and countries differ, how natural and human environments interact, and the complex connections between resources, people and development. Geography examines why some regions develop, while others remain in a state of instability; why some areas are afflicted by disasters and others not; and it explores how the physical world can have a dramatic influence on our daily lives.

What is Geography @ DLD?

- Visual
- Interactive
- Dynamic
- Incorporates a range of learning techniques using PowerPoint and documentaries and focusing on exam practice, essay writing, wider reading and individual presentations and developing team-work, field and map skills
- Residential fieldwork

How is it assessed?

		Weighting	Format
Unit 1	Physical and Human Geography	35% (70%)	2 hour exam
Unit 2	Geographical Skills	15% (30%)	1 hour exam
Unit 3	Contemporary Geographical Issues	30%	2 hour 30 minute exam
Unit 4	Geography Field work Investigation	20%	1 hour 30 minute exam

What do I need?

You will need enthusiasm for the subject and the energy and willingness to work hard in a demanding programme. A GCSE in Geography is preferred but not necessary. You will need an understanding of basic Maths at GCSE level and you will be required to attend the residential field study in March.

Good subject combinations

Geography is considered a rigorous, academic A level by all leading universities and provides students with a breadth of knowledge and important skills for their future studies. Geography goes with many other subjects, such as Economics, History, Sociology, Biology, Physics and Politics.

After DLD

Geography A level equips you with a good foundation of knowledge, coupled with the skills necessary to deal with complex relationships in a rapidly changing physical and human environment. There are direct applications such as teaching, environmental management, tourism or working within international aid organisations. In addition, Geographers are valued for their organisational skills, often acting as co-ordinators where major issues require specialist input from different disciplines. This can lead to work in administration, town planning, journalism, politics, diplomatic service and media.

Questions

Q Can I do the course in one year?

A No.

Q Is geography mainly map reading and memorising capital cities?

A No, it is a diverse and academically challenging subject.



GERMAN

“German is a very enjoyable subject, discussing interesting culture, lifestyles and contemporary problems in the lesson makes it easy for me to improve my vocabulary and oral skills. Each lesson differentiates itself from the other ones which makes the subject interesting and diversified.”

Costin Bernhart, DLD Student

What is German?

Although English has become a *lingua franca* in the past several decades, to remain monolingual is to hinder your educational development and to deny yourself the ability to step inside the mind and context of another culture. German at A Level enables you to acquire and improve languages skills, communicate with the speakers of the language and to take your place in a multilingual, global community. It will give you the opportunity to refine your linguistic skills as well as to study aspects of German society and the cultural background of German-speaking countries.

What is German @ DLD?

German at DLD provides an opportunity for students to improve their language skills using a variety of resources including magazines, films, texts and literature as well as the internet. These materials are used with a variety of teaching methods to help you to develop as a speaker of the language: we will help you to improve all four skills (reading, listening, writing and speaking) to achieve good results in the exams. We aim to achieve an atmosphere where you find your favourite way of learning and feel challenged and rewarded at the same time.

How is it assessed?

	Weighting	Format
Unit 1	15% (30%)	Oral
Unit 2	35% (70%)	2 hour 30 minute exam
Unit 3	17.5%	Oral
Unit 4	32.5%	2 hour 30 minute exam

What do I need?

It is important that you like languages and are aware of what it means to study a language, for example, learning lots of new vocabulary and producing regular written assignments. However, passion and enthusiasm are perhaps the most important qualities to enable you to attain your best.

Good subject combinations

You can combine German with any subject. Learning a foreign language improves your skills of analysis and interpretation and this can complement all your studies.

After DLD

You can use your language knowledge in many areas of employment. As more companies expand and work closely with businesses in other countries, workers who can communicate in different languages and understand other cultures will be in demand. No matter what career you choose, if you have learned a second language you will have a real advantage. You can study German at degree level and many university programmes teach languages in conjunction with other subjects. You could even decide to study abroad, in a German speaking country for a summer, a term or maybe for a year. When you study a language, you learn about how to learn a language, so acquiring the next one will be even easier.

Questions

- Q Can I do the course in one year?
A Yes.
- Q Do I have to have studied German before?
A Yes.



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

“I have found studying Politics at DLD really interesting and stimulating because it allows us to see what’s happening in the world from different perspectives and points of view. Moreover the various topics are linked to the real world, so the knowledge we acquire is a tool that is useful outside the classroom. The way in which Politics is taught at DLD allows students an opportunity to voice their opinions, and class discussions and debates are dynamic and engaging.”

Gaia Racca, Current DLD Student

What is Government and Politics?

The Greek philosopher Aristotle argued that politics is the ‘master key’ which unlocks the mysteries of human social life. When most people think of politics, they think of party political broadcasts, questions in the House of Commons and photo opportunities for the Prime Minister.

All of these are part of modern politics but they are only a part of what students study on the course. At DLD we focus on the two most important aspects of politics: power and ideology.

What is Government and Politics @ DLD?

At DLD you will learn to study politics critically. This means examining how democracy really functions, why political decisions are made by a minority rather than a majority, and how politics in different countries is influenced by international developments. Classes at DLD are tutor-led, but all students will have an opportunity to contribute and participate in class discussions and debates. The course is assessed entirely by examination, and the emphasis is on preparing students to complete the questions confidently and within the time limit. All course notes and materials are provided, but students will be encouraged to purchase study guides and/or supplementary textbooks where applicable.

How is it assessed?

		Weighting	Format
Unit 1	People and politics	25% (50%)	1 hour 30 minute exam
Unit 2	Governing the UK	25% (50%)	1 hour 30 minute exam
Unit 3	Key themes in political analysis	25%	1 hour 30 minute exam
Unit 4	Extended themes in political analysis	25%	1 hour 30 minute exam

What do I need?

Ideally, candidates should have an interest in politics and current affairs. They should also have good or above average literacy skills, and should enjoy reading. The most successful students are those who engage in private study, in addition to the work set by the tutor.

Good subject combinations

Politics A level is a good choice for students considering a career in the professions, or those who simply want to understand how the world works. Politics goes well with Economics, History, Sociology and English. Politics does not just appeal to social science students, increasingly, Art and Drama students have enrolled to study Politics, giving them a broader perspective on the world.

After DLD

Most students who study Politics go on to university, and decide either to continue with Politics (for which they will be very well prepared) or to study History. Some students decide to study Law or Journalism as postgraduate options, and Politics provides an excellent grounding for these professions. Politics is also useful for students planning to join graduate training schemes, as employers view the subject as serious and challenging. Of course, many students make no direct use of the qualification, instead, they take with them a higher level of insight into the world, and there is no substitute in life for knowledge.

Questions

Q Can I do the course in one year?

A Yes.

Q Will I need to read the newspapers?

A Yes.



GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

“Before arriving at DLD College, I had no prior experience or knowledge about graphic design. But due to the small classes, the tutor’s helpfulness, encouragement, and up-to-date facilities, I have learnt the technical and creative skills to confidently produce interesting posters, merchandise and packaging design. My digital skills have improved a lot within a year and a half, and I look forward to continuing this at university.”

Joanna Nan, DLD Graduate

What is Graphic Communication?

Graphic Communication is a fascinating subject that allows you to explore areas such as advertising, packaging, design for print, animation, web design and film, through both traditional and new technologies. Having an awareness of the intended audience and the purpose for your design work will develop, alongside an appreciation for colour, form and function and most notably the appropriate use of typography and its meaning.

What will I study?

This course has a strong emphasis on establishing a thorough understanding of the design principles. You will attend technical workshops throughout your first year, where you will be taught digital and traditional Graphic Communication skills. Our approach is to develop design skills whilst encouraging visual freedom and experimentation.

During the first part of the academic year you will explore the fundamentals of composition, typography and colour through investigation and the process of making. Critical understanding of this subject will develop to build your contextual knowledge which will include international examples from the past and more recent times.

These new skills will form a foundation for the second part of the academic year, which consists of an exam unit, where you will draw upon previous learning experience to devise your own project. Throughout this creative journey you will be guided and supported by experienced teachers with commercial expertise who will help you achieve your potential.

How is it assessed?

AS (one year course)	Weighting	Format
Component 1	60%	Portfolio of work
Component 2	40%	Externally Set Assignment (10 Hour Exam)

Progress on to:

A-Level (one year course)	Weighting	Format
Component 1	60%	Personal Investigation
Component 2	40%	Externally Set Assignment (15 Hour Exam)

What do I need?

Ideally you would have studied a creative subject such as Art & Design or Graphic Communication at GCSE. It is also important to have a genuine interest in the subject, and willingness to learn and develop your skills and ideas. On a more practical level a digital camera and USB are essential.

After DLD

DLD is very proud of its 100% record in placing students onto Art & Design courses. A high percentage of our student’s progress on to Art Foundation and degree courses at Art Colleges studying Graphic Design, Art, Animation, Film, Fashion Design and Photography.

This year DLD Art Students have won various regional and national awards. This includes first, second and highly commended awards in the annual ISA Art Competition.

The Graphic Communication provision at DLD is part of a thriving department that will build and develop your skills and creativity, as well as prepare you for an exciting career in the industry.



HISTORY

“The history department at DLD offers opportunities for rigorous and intellectual debate, everyone has a chance to express their opinions. Lessons are both fun and exciting. I could not recommend History at DLD more for eager and hard-working students.”

Daniels Ulms, DLD Graduate

What is History?

The study of history is much more than the study of the past, it allows for the development of fundamental skills that are transferable to any profession. Employers value the skills developed in the study of history: analysis, reading, debating, thinking, writing, assessing different sources.

What is History @ DLD?

The History course at DLD establishes a strong foundation in the subject along with independent student learning. The course covers a wide spectrum of periods and topics from fifteenth century England to post 1945 International Relations. The subject is taught in a variety of ways, including traditional lessons as well as DVDs, presentations and excursions. In short, it caters for all learning styles.

How is it assessed?

The new History syllabus in the next academic year 2015-2016 will be as follows:

Paper 1	Option 1B	England, 1509–1603: authority, nation and religion
Paper 2	Option 2B.1	Luther and the German Reformation, c1515–55
Paper 3	Option 3B.1	The making of modern Russia, 1855–1991
Paper 4	(coursework)	Questions will be set on International Relation of the 20th Century

What do I need?

Although it is not critical to have studied History at GCSE, it is essential to have a genuine enthusiasm for the subject and a solid grade in GCSE English Language. Enjoyment of writing and reading extensively are essential because History is about reading and writing.

Good subject combinations

History is an academic subject and as such it goes well with other academic subjects such as English, Politics and Sociology whose study requires similar skills. However, the subject can be studied with virtually any other discipline, provided that the necessary skills and a willingness to develop or acquire them is present.

After DLD

History has so many transferable skills, that one would be hard pushed to find a profession that doesn't require all or most of them. Many university courses like Law insist on a History A Level precisely because of the nature of the skills that are developed. A Level History is a good general academic qualification that is widely respected by both universities and employers.

Questions

- Q Can I do the course in one year?
A Generally it is not advisable but it is possible under certain circumstances, such as the demonstration of exceptional ability in the subject.



HISTORY OF ART

“History of Art is exciting as it will exceed one’s expectations, touching on artists’ personalities/ lives as well as religious, political and social issues.”

Daniels Ulms, DLD Graduate

What is History of Art?

The study of art in their original settings and in museums and galleries. It is one of the small number of disciplines which attempt to understand the creative impulse. It is often only through an examination of the art of a culture that we gain a wider appreciation of the values, resources and aspirations of that culture.

What is History of Art @ DLD?

We aim to make you aware of the History of Art as an exciting academic discipline, discovering the materials, styles and techniques of artists and also setting art and architecture in an historical perspective. You will experience the social, religious, political and cultural history in addition to visual analysis of the works themselves.

At AS, you will acquire a basic knowledge of architecture, painting and sculpture styles, themes, materials, techniques, the purpose of art and the role of the paintings, sculptures and buildings which have made a major contribution to our cultural history. At A2 you will focus on European architecture, painting and sculpture in the 16th and 19th Century.

How is it Assessed?

Unit 1 Written Paper: Visual Analysis and Interpretation	1 hour	60 marks 20% of total A Level marks
Unit 2 Written Paper: Themes in History of Art	1 hour and 30 minutes	90 marks 30% of total A Level marks
Unit 3 Written Paper: Investigation and Interpretation	1 hour and 30 minutes	60 marks 25% of total A Level marks
Unit 4 Written Paper: Investigation and Interpretation	1 hour and 30 minutes	60 marks 25% of total A Level marks

What do I need?

To be curious about the value and status of art in society, training the eye to think in its own way, along with the mind. You will be expected to visit galleries and museums and to read and research widely in your own time.

Good subject combinations

History of Art complements arts-based subjects such as art, English, History, Drama & Theatre Studies, Classical Civilization and Modern Languages. It also offers opportunities for science students to develop new critical skills.

After DLD

The transferable skills that the subject richly offers its candidates permits a wealth of opportunity both at university and beyond. The ability to process, analyse and conceptualise different source materials into well understood narratives; to re-present ideas with confidence and clarity; to assess the quality and reliability of information; and to have a grasp of past human successes or failures through the medium of artistic imagery are becoming increasingly invaluable.



ICT

“ICT is an intriguing and highly relevant subject. Studying ICT has made me think about how systems are designed using computational thinking and logic. The critical analysis and IT skills I have learnt are invaluable and will be useful when I enter university and the world of work.”

Ediz Emin & Alex Sheahan-Kilkerr, DLD Graduates

What is ICT?

Modern students have been immersed in technology since an extremely young age and have developed an incredible array of skills, often skills that have been entirely self-taught. A level ICT aims to fill some of the gaps in both practical and theoretical knowledge that are often left when there has been no formal outline of what is useful information. The course will provide students with a strong set of office application skills, often overlooked in favour of more glamorous or ‘fun’ applications when self-learning. The course will also cover a wide range of theoretical areas including methods of conveying information, legislation and the impact that IT has had on various levels of society.

What is ICT @ DLD?

ICT at DLD is delivered in an interesting and stimulating style, using a range of innovative web 2.0 resources combined with the best traditional teaching methods to provide an environment that caters for anyone, regardless of their favourite way of learning. Theory content is delivered using a variety of styles from zooming online presentation to egg-boxes and bits of rolled-up paper via tests using voting handsets. The staff are enthusiastic and always up for learning more – can you teach the teacher something new?

How is it assessed?

	Weighting	Format
Unit 1	25% (80 marks)	1 hour 30 minute exam
Unit 2	25% (80 marks)	1 hour 30 minute exam
Unit 3	30% (100 marks)	2 hour exam
Unit 4	20% (70 marks)	Coursework

What do I need?

ICT requires enthusiasm and an interest in new technology. Students will also need to have a good level in essay writing skills as this course requires essay writing and coursework project documentation at both AS and A2 level. You do not need to be particularly good at using the computer and you do not even need to have a computer at home, although it would help.

Good subject combinations

ICT is a great subject in its own right – it gives you practical skills but also allows you to develop an understanding of the role and impact of ICT in the world. As such, it can really go with any combination of subjects as the transferable skills you will develop will be useful in any career or path of study.

In terms of subjects that go particularly well with ICT, Business Studies is a very popular option as much of the A2 theory involves studying the impact and role of ICT in modern businesses. Sociology and Psychology are interesting combinations; particularly with the increased dependence that we have on computers in our lives and the rate at which artificial intelligence is progressing.

Maths, Economics and the Sciences are good choices to study alongside ICT as the practical skills developed will prove most useful.

After DLD

The practical skills that ICT gives are transferable and of benefit in every walk of life, whether it is helping you manage long word processed documents such as your PhD thesis, using spreadsheets to help create statistical models or starting you on the path to creating a web design company.

ICT does not tie you in to a particular academic area or career path, but gives you the skills to cope with technical barriers that may previously have caused problems. Doctors, lawyers, designers, Architects, film directors, business leaders all need to have a basic understanding of technical issues and technical proficiency and A level ICT will give you that foundation.

Many universities run courses that link IT closely with other subjects such as Business IT or IT Management as well as offering courses that focus just on IT. At the last count UCAS listed over 300 courses involving IT – one of them is bound to be right for you!

Questions

Q Can I do the course in one year?
A No

Q Do I need to have studied ICT before?
A No



LATIN

What is Latin?

Students study both verse and prose literature in the original language and have the opportunity to translate into and out of Latin. They learn to demonstrate appreciation of literary techniques and respond personally to the texts. Latin is generally perceived as academically rigorous and as such is valued by employers and universities alike. Learning Latin demands that you think logically and develop analytical skills useful in a wide range of jobs and further study, and you will also learn to appreciate authors such as Cicero, Ovid and Virgil who have had a profound influence on Western literature.

What will I study?

- Latin grammar
- Latin vocabulary
- A prose set text in Latin such as Cicero
- A verse set text in Latin such as Ovid or Virgil

How is it assessed?

The course is assessed by OCR. There are two 90 minute papers at AS level and two 2 hour papers at A2. There is no coursework.

What do I need?

Latin at GCSE level is essential, as is an interest in the ancient world generally.



MATHEMATICS

“I have graduated with first class honours in Robotics. This was the happiest day of my life. It seems weird that just a few years ago I had no confidence in my abilities and saw no future for myself. I could have not done it without your support and guidance.”

David Barrett, DLD Graduate

What is Mathematics?

We consider Mathematics as an intellectual adventure and invite students to see it in the same light. Through Mathematics students develop the ability to think in abstract and the ability to reason and question logically. They will learn to adopt a curious and questioning approach and become more effective thinkers. They will see the benefit in setting out their thoughts in a systematic and logical manner and realise that answers are worthy of credit only when properly justified. Students will learn to self criticise and improve their weaknesses instead of just focusing on their strengths. Students will be encouraged to take up challenges and be flexible in their techniques and methods.

What is Mathematics @ DLD?

There are three main areas in Mathematics at A level

- Pure Mathematics – Algebra, graphical work, Geometry, Trigonometry and Calculus.
- Statistics – handling and analysis of data, probability distributions, correlation, regression and hypothesis testing. Results need to be interpreted using appropriate language.
- Mechanics – using simple mathematical models to describe a real world situation. Main topics include Kinematics, Dynamics and Statics.

Learning Mathematics @ DLD

At DLD, the teachers use evidence-based teaching methods, which are shown by scientific research to help students achieve significantly improved grades. In the maths department, teachers also make frequent use of visual methods and computer animations to make difficult mathematical concepts as simple as possible for students to grasp. This is beneficial for all students, both home-students and students whose first language is not English.

The DLD maths department also offers the opportunity for students to improve their computer programming skills and put their maths to a practical use, by providing optional programming exercises relating to each math topic. This strengthens students’ understanding of A-level mathematics, and sets them up with a useful and employable life-skill too.

How is it assessed?

A level Mathematics is solely exam based and consists of six units each having equal weights in the final grade.

Single mathematics - students can choose one of two options:

	AS Level	A2 Level
Option 1	C1 C2 S1	C3 C4 S2
Option 2	C1 C2 M1	C3 C4 M2

Double Mathematics – For stronger students wanting to complete two A levels in Maths or those wanting to include Further Maths units in their options, they can either do:

- Six units in the AS year (C1 C2 C3 C4 M1 M2) leading to Mathematics A level and six units at A2 level (FP1 FP2 FP3 M3 M4 M5) leading to Further Mathematics. In practice M3 is studied and examined in the first year.

Or

- Six units in Pure Mathematics (C1 C2 C3 C4 FP1 FP2) leading to Pure Mathematics A level

Followed by

- Six units in Statistics (S1 S2 S3 S4 S5 S6) leading to Statistics A level.

What do I need?

Enthusiasm for the subject, persistence and consistent hard work, interest in problem solving, good algebraic skills, ability to think in the abstract, a logical mind, a willingness to work independently while seeking and accepting guidance when necessary. It is also important to know that you should have achieved a high grade in GCSE Mathematics.

Good subject combinations

Apart from a degree in Mathematics which requires Further Maths, if you are thinking of studying physics related or engineering courses or medical courses at university, then you will be expected to do Mathematics A Level and sometimes Further Maths. For other disciplines such as Economics, Mathematics is a requirement for many and especially the top universities. So you may want to combine Maths with sciences, Economics or Business. However a number of DLD students study Maths alongside Art subjects.

After DLD

It is worth mentioning that Mathematics is a diverse discipline that deals with data, measurements and observations from science, inference, deduction, proofs as well as with mathematical models of natural phenomena, human behaviour and social systems. You will certainly come across applications of mathematics at some stage in your future careers. The skills that you acquire while studying Mathematics are valued greatly by universities and employers in general. A good pass at A level will be looked at very favourably by universities even if Mathematics is not directly related to your course.

Questions

Q Can I do the course in one year?

A Yes

Q Which exam board is studied?

A Edexcel for all options except Statistics (AQA)

MEDIA STUDIES

“Media Studies has allowed me to think critically and constructively about how the world is changing and what this means for everyone else and generations to come. I would recommend this subject because it is a discipline of study that is progressively modern, a study that provides a unique perspective on contemporary life and one that I find is absolutely essential in coping with today’s fast-paced environment. This is not simply a study of television and social media, it is actually one that borrows disciplines from a range of social sciences, including politics, economics, psychology, and history.”

Sai Versailles, DLD Graduate

What is Media Studies?

In a world more and more dominated by technology, where more institutions are owned by fewer people, it is absolutely vital that you learn how the media communicate with you, what they are saying and why they are saying it. All media products carry a message. You need to know what that message is and then question why that message exists. You need to look at film, TV, the news, advertising, the World Wide Web and many other media products in order to understand what is going on around you – under your very nose.

What is Media Studies @ DLD?

Media Studies is taught in a well equipped environment with state of the art facilities. A wide range of teaching methods is employed by an enthusiastic team of media tutors. Much of the A level specification revolves around independent research and production work and tutors are fully experienced at guiding and encouraging such activities.

What do I need?

You consume the media all the time, but you probably do not read a quality newspaper every day or watch the news on TV. Or perhaps you rarely watch foreign subtitled programmes or listen to documentaries on the radio. You will need to bring an open mind to media lessons and a willingness to watch, read and listen to media products that may well be quite new to you.

Good subject combinations

This depends very much on what your future plans are. We have many students who follow the humanities route and study Media with subjects like English and Sociology. Then there are those who study Media with Art and Photography or Theatre Studies.

It is important to remember that Media Studies combines much that is theoretical with an equal amount that is practical. At AS, 50% of the course involves practical productions.

There are those who study Media because in many ways it is possible to argue that it is one of the most important and valuable subjects that exists at A level, combining some elements of politics, sociology, history, economics, creativity, analysis, evaluation, and above all a critical way of looking at the world.

After DLD

It is possible to continue your study of the media in virtually every university in the country – either as a single subject or jointly with another subject such as Graphic Design, English, Drama – the list is endless. In fact when you look up Media Studies in the UCAS Guidebook you will probably find yourself spoilt for choice. There are academic studies of the media, vocational degrees that will actually help you train in a particular skill and many other specialist courses available – even a degree in special effects. What is important is that you have a notion of what you want to go on and do after you have a degree, so you can then find the degree that fits.

Questions

Q Do I need to have studied Media Studies at GCSE?

A No.

Q Can I do the course in one year?

A It has been done. It involves a great deal of work and is very time consuming.



MUSIC

“Music is one of the best subjects at DLD College. The department is amazing and has all the resources you need to make music. The teachers are so enthusiastic and the classes are fun. There are lots of opportunities to perform in events both inside and outside the College.”

Melanie Harikrishna, DLD Graduate

What is Music?

The full Music A Level course offers an excellent opportunity to develop your musical skills and knowledge in many ways. You will gain experience of composition, be given the opportunity to perform in whatever style you choose and you will learn how to listen perceptively to every type of music from the Renaissance to the present day. The course encompasses a huge variety of music from classical, pop, rock, dance, jazz, to film music and is ideal for anyone wanting to deepen their appreciation of music as well as those wishing to make it their career.

What is Music @ DLD?

Music lessons are centred on the individual needs of students and taught by expert staff. We have an open house policy, which permits students to use the music facilities when they are not being used for teaching. We offer regular performance opportunities for all DLD students in our end-of-term concerts and events such “DLD’s Got Talent”. Private music lessons are available for piano, guitar, voice and drum kit. The department is extremely well equipped and includes a recording studio and practice rooms. All our rooms are soundproofed from the rest of the College and can be quickly converted for recording.

How is it assessed?

	Weighting	Format
Unit 1	15% (30%)	Coursework: Performing
Unit 2	15% (30%)	Coursework: Composing
Unit 3	20% (40%)	2 hour exam: Developing Musical Understanding
Unit 4	15%	Coursework: Extended Performance
Unit 5	15%	Coursework: Compositions and/or Technical Studies
Unit 6	20%	2 hour exam: Further Musical Understanding

What do I need?

GCSE students will have had experience of composing but don’t worry if you have not: the tasks are clearly structured and the style is entirely up to you - you don’t have to compose in the style of Bach if you don’t want to. The choice of performance pieces is up to you, as long as they are approaching grade 5 (or equivalent) standard, then these will be at the right level for the course. Finally, you should be open to new styles of music from different periods and parts of the world because you will always learn something new and find new sources of inspiration. The Director of Music teaches the music theory required for the course in separate lessons.

Good subject combinations

Music is an arts subject and can be combined with any other subject which requires similar skills of critical analysis and formation of arguments with evidence support. Other subjects could include English, History of Art, Classical Civilisation, Theatre Studies or a Modern Language. If you are a singer, languages are particularly useful. However, if you are considering a course in Music Technology or Studio Music Mathematics, Physics, Computing or Music Technology should be considered.

After DLD

A good pass in A Level Music is usually needed in order to be able to study it at a higher level. For many courses you have to pass a performance test and/or offer a pass at a high level in the Associated Board grade examinations. You can take a Music degree at university, where you will be studying alongside students in other disciplines, or at a Music College or Conservatoire, which caters only for music students. Two examples of the latter are the Royal College and the Royal Academy of Music. Past students have gone on to study for degrees in performance or even to train to become music tutors themselves.

Questions

- Q Can I do the course in one year?

A No.
- Q Do I need to be able to read music?

A You should learn the notes of the treble clef before you start the course.



MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

“Music tech helps me explore my musical interests without boundaries. Tutors create a friendly atmosphere which makes learning fun and more effective. Most of the teaching is one-to-one and we use the latest studio facilities.”

Karolina Nevoina, DLD Graduate

What is Music Technology?

Music Technology A level has three main components - audio engineering, arranging/composing and written examination. The audio engineering part involves learning about microphones, recording techniques, mixing desks, audio production and producing finished recorded tracks to a professional standard.

Coursework compositions and arrangements are computer-based, using software packages such as Cubase, Reason and Sibelius. Some recording of real instruments is also involved.

Written examinations test the technical knowledge that you accumulate while doing coursework. They also assume that you will have a broad knowledge of the main developments in popular music over the last hundred years.

What is Music Technology @ DLD?

Tuition is based around our fully equipped recording studio, which features a 24 channel mixing desk, a comprehensive set of professional microphones, a control room and live rooms. In-house instruments include an 8-piece drum-kit, bass guitar, electric guitar, two acoustic guitars, acoustic and electric pianos, a vintage sampler and a range of ethnic percussion. The studio control room doubles as a tuition room with Apple i-Mac workstations where students are encouraged to pursue their own projects outside teaching hours. The studio is available for multi-track recording during the evening if it is not being used for coursework assignments. Our tutors include professional producers, engineers and recording artists.

How is it assessed?

	Weighting	Format
Unit 1	35% (70%)	Sequencing, Arranging & Recording coursework assessed by an external examiner.
Unit 2	15% (30%)	Written exam: Listening & Analysing
Unit 3	30%	Sequencing, Composing & Recording coursework assessed by an external examiner.
Unit 4	20%	Written & practical exam: Analysing & Producing

What do I need?

GCSE Music is a great start. More important are a genuine enthusiasm for the subject, good knowledge of all forms of popular music and natural musicality. You should definitely be able to listen to a melody and pick out its notes on a keyboard by ear. Familiarity with computer-based sequencing packages is useful, though you will be taught all the skills you need from scratch. You don't have to be a musician, nor do you need to sight-read musical notation, some of our most successful students have not been performers. The Director of Music teaches the music theory required for the course in separate lessons.

Good subject combinations

As well as composition and arrangement, the arts side of Music Technology involves critical analysis, constructing arguments and using research to support arguments. Subjects that develop such skills include English, History of Art, Classical Civilisation and Modern Languages. The science side of the subject will be helped by knowledge of Physics and increasingly, Computer Science. Drama and Media Studies will provide a good insight into the crucial part that sound design plays in the entertainment and information industries. Studying Music at A level will make the listening and analysis work much easier and will enhance your composition skills. However, all composition coursework assignments now include options for pieces based on sound design.

After DLD

A good pass in A Level is usually needed in order to study Music Technology at a higher level. However some departments will offer places based on a portfolio of work. Several colleges have an on-line assessment system with which you create audition tracks, get feedback from tutors and students then progress through successive levels to being offered a place on the course.

Course content varies greatly, some concentrate on contemporary composition; others are highly scientific, focusing on equipment and software design. An increasing number of courses are appearing that are specifically geared to producing commercial music for adverts, games and movies.

Questions

Q Can I do the course in one year?
A No.



PHOTOGRAPHY

“I chose DLD because of the high results in media and art based subjects, the professional teachers and the facilities. It took me a while to settle in but the College was very supportive, understanding and helpful. My favourite subject was photography as students are given a lot of artistic freedom to develop their skills.”

Katrina Kizenbaha, DLD Graduate

What is Photography?

Photography is the appreciation and production of film and digital images reflecting personal viewpoints and interests. This involves developing knowledge and a wide range of skills, including visual analysis, problem solving, methodical planning, scientific exploration, technological and developing creative awareness. Photography includes the use of the cameras, studios, locations, dark room and computer suite facilities.

What is Photography @ DLD?

Students learn the techniques and processes within the “language” of photography and how to “read” and analyse their images. This is supported by contextual understanding and is developed through theoretical and practical lessons and demonstrations. Photographic exhibitions are visited throughout the course, often in tandem with the Art department. This enables students to broaden their understanding of contemporary developments in photography. Students are taught in small groups, monitored in one to one tutorials and have access to the facilities throughout the day.

How is it assessed?

As Photography (One year course)

	Weighting	Format
Unit 1	60%	Coursework (Portfolio)
Unit 2	40%	Externally set assignment (10 Hour Exam)

Progress on to:

A-Level Photography (one year course)

	Weighting	Format
Unit 1	60%	Coursework (Personal Investigation)
Unit 2	40%	Externally set assignment (15 Hour Exam)

What do I need?

An interest in visual and photographic communication, a DSLR camera is essential, as well as imagination, curiosity, enthusiasm and patience.

Good subject combinations

Studying Photography is complementary to Art, Media Studies and Art History because it involves analysing and responding to visual culture, society and contemporary issues. Many subjects are also complementary because Photography involves elements of English, History, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Sociology and Psychology.

After DLD

A high percentage of DLD Photography students’ progress to Art and Photography foundation courses and higher degrees in Photography and lens based media. Options after these courses within the Photographic industry include fashion, advertising, journalistic, media, location and studio photography. Wider ranging applications include media and design companies and the film and television industries.

Questions

- Q Can I do the course in one year?
A No
- Q Do I need a camera?
A Yes, a DSLR Camera.
- Q Will I have to work outside of lesson time?
A Yes, you should expect 5 hours of independent work per week at home and in the photography studio.



PHYSICS

“What makes the study of physics so exciting is that you can truly start to appreciate how the world around you works. You will never look at a mobile phone, a plane or a star in the same way again.”

Emma Perry, DLD Graduate

What is Physics?

“The important thing is not to stop questioning... One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvellous structure of reality.”

Albert Einstein

The world in which we live has been completely transformed by the scientific developments of the last 200 years. These developments have been built upon the work of scientists like Isaac Newton, James Clerk Maxwell and Albert Einstein who sought to discover and describe the physical laws that govern this amazing universe we live in. In GCSE Physics, you will have been introduced to some of these people and their discoveries, but A level Physics gives you a closer look and a deeper understanding of the laws of the universe.

What is Physics @ DLD?

During the course you will explore:

- The different properties of materials; why certain materials are used to make computers, buildings and replacement body parts.
- The existence and behaviour of waves; how musical instruments produce their notes.
- The wave-particle paradox.
- How electricity is created; how early televisions were invented.
- How atoms were discovered; what you get when you smash an atom into pieces.
- How we have developed theories of the lives of stars and the size of the universe without ever leaving the Solar System.

How is it assessed?

New Specification (teaching starts September 2015)

AS Level

Paper	Weighting	Format
1	50%	Written paper 2 hrs 15 mins covering the whole syllabus 70 marks
2	50%	Written paper 2 hrs 15 mins covering the whole syllabus 70 marks

A Level

Paper	Weighting	Format
1	37%	Written paper 2 hrs 15 mins on Modules 1,2,3 and 5 100 marks
2	37%	Written paper 2 hrs 15 mins on Modules 1,2,4 and 6 100 marks
3	26%	Written paper 1 hr 30 mins covering the whole syllabus
4	-	Non-exam assessment. Does not contribute to A level grade. Additional mark given.

Practical work: 12 practicals must be completed to create a portfolio. Questions about these practicals will appear on the written papers.

What do I need?

Physics requires an enquiring mind, a desire to see how things work and to uncover the basic rules which govern the universe. You should be a person who never accepts blindly what you are told but always looks for the evidence which backs it up.

Good subject combinations

You need to be comfortable with using Maths as a tool. Although it is not essential to take Maths at A level you will find it a great help – indeed many students study Maths and Further Maths along with Physics. Chemistry and Biology are obvious choices to study alongside Physics if you want to study a science based course at university, Economics if you are thinking of an Engineering or Economics course and Art if you are considering Architecture or Design.

After DLD

Physics trains you to think logically, develop reasoned arguments and look for relevant information in a large amount of data. Some career choices are obvious: Physics, Engineering, Aeronautics, and Architecture for example. However, the skills you will develop are also highly desirable for careers in law, finance and management.

Questions

Q Can I study the course in one year?

A Yes but only if you already have experience at A level or its equivalent. A one year A Level course is not suitable for a student who has just completed Year 11.



PSYCHOLOGY

“Psychology has allowed me to explore what could be described as the true essence of being human: the mind. It challenges and expands my knowledge of myself and others, rendering it to be a truly fascinating course.”

Cassandra Villeneuve, DLD Graduate

What is Psychology?

Psychology is the science of the mind. The human mind is the most complex machine on Earth. It is the source of all thought and behaviour. Any attempt to explain why humans think and behave in the way that we do will inevitably be linked to one or another branch of psychology. The different disciplines of Psychology are extremely wide-ranging. At A level they include: Cognitive Psychology: Memory, Developmental Psychology: Attachment, Social Psychology: Social influence and Psychopathology. What all these different approaches to Psychology have in common is a desire to explain the behaviour of individuals based on the workings of the mind. In every area, psychologists apply scientific methodology; they formulate theories, test hypotheses through observation and experiment, and analyse with statistical techniques that help them identify important findings.

What is Psychology @ DLD?

By studying Psychology at DLD you will participate in a journey through some of the classic and most influential studies in each discipline, combined with modern day thinking. Teaching consists of a range of methods and activities that allow for different learning styles and encourages individuals to express their knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways. Activities include writing a report in the role of a psychologist, class replications of original studies and crucially, exam technique practice. As well as teaching the subject fully, the classes aim to prepare you for higher education with emphasis on confident critical thinking and independent learning, in a relaxed and supportive environment.

How is it assessed?

For the AS qualification the assessment is as follows:

	Weighting	Format
Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology	50%	1 hour 30 minutes
Paper 2: Psychology in context	50%	1 hour 30 minutes

For the 2 year A-level qualification the assessment is as follows:

	Weighting	Format
Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology	33.3%	2 hours
Paper 2: Psychology in context	33.3%	2 hours
Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology	33.3%	2 hours

What do I need?

You need to be interested in understanding and explaining human behaviour. You do not need to have studied Psychology before, indeed most students haven't. Appreciation that it is a scientific subject which requires analysis of the research methods, data and conclusions presented by psychologists is important for academic success in this subject.

Good subject combinations

Psychology lies at the intersection of many other different disciplines, including Biology, Medicine, Philosophy, Anthropology, Sociology, and Linguistics. For example, Neuropsychology is allied with Biology, since the aim is to map different areas of the brain and explain how each relates to different brain functions like memory or language. However a number of students successfully combine Psychology with English, Drama or Art.

After DLD

Since Psychology is the study of what underpins human behaviour, its application in future careers is widespread. This can range from managing people, marketing products, practising Law and specialising as a psychologist. For a career in Psychology you would need to first obtain an undergraduate degree that is recognised by the British Psychological Society and then specialise in one area, for example, Clinical & Counselling Psychology; Forensic Psychology; Sport Psychology; Health Psychology; Occupational Psychology and Neuropsychology. University courses in Psychology are popular and vast, but we are available to help you find a course that is right for you.

Questions

Q Can I do the course in one year?
A Yes.

Q Will I meet Professor Philip Zimbardo?
A Quite possibly!



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

“Religious Studies is an intellectually stimulating and satisfying subject which challenges your beliefs and values by addressing life’s most important questions. I enjoy the stimulating, ethical and philosophical debates considering many of the most important issues in the contemporary world, from both religious and secular points of view. RS has introduced me to many new ideas and broadened my intellectual horizons in an enjoyable way.”

Elmo Spethmann, current DLD student

What is RS?

RS is a wide-ranging, academic discipline and one of the fastest growing subjects in UK schools. An understanding of issues central to Religious Studies is of great value in making sense of today’s world, indeed of human life as a whole. The subject will appeal to students who enjoy the analysis and discussion of many of life’s fundamental questions, or who want to understand the convictions of others, as well as examining their own beliefs and values.

What is RS @ DLD?

The course focuses on Philosophy of Religion and Ethics. It also involves detailed reference to the Judeo-Christian tradition, as well as to other religions including Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. Contemporary issues and secular perspectives are also considered. The course is taught primarily through class discussion, study of textual extracts and relevant video materials and homework tasks include writing essays, evaluating textbook chapters and revising for class tests.

How is it assessed?

We study the following units from the AQA syllabus:

		Weighting	Format
Unit 1	AS Ethics	25% (50%)	1 hour 15 minute exam
Unit 2	Religion, Philosophy and Science	25% (50%)	1 hour 15 minute exam
Unit 3	A2 Ethics	25%	1 hour 30 minute exam
Unit 4	Religion and Human Experience: Life, Death and Beyond	25%	1 hour 30 minute exam

What do I need?

You need to have a genuine interest in this subject. You should also have the ability to discuss and reflect upon a wide variety of ideas and opinions in a thoughtful and broad-minded way. Given this, you are likely to enjoy the course and gain much benefit from it.

Good subject combinations

Due to its wide-ranging nature, Religious Studies has connections with many other A-level courses. For example, the following topics that we study illustrate these links:

- English: considering varying interpretations of the Genesis creation story; virtue and vice in Dante’s Divine Comedy.
- Psychology: the religious thinking of Freud and Jung; psychological understandings of religious experience, near-death and paranormal experience.
- Sociology: the religious thought of Marx; secularisation; fundamentalism.
- Politics: Liberal and conservative religious perspectives; utilitarianism; utopianism; human rights.
- History: history of ideas; the Enlightenment; Nazism and Communism.
- Science: Big Bang and evolutionary theories; medical ethics; the ethics of science and technology.
- Geography: environmentalism; global issues, e.g. population.

After DLD

The academic nature of Religious Studies and its emphasis on essay writing and critical thinking skills mean that it provides an ideal preparation for future study at university. An A level qualification in Religious Studies is highly regarded by universities when considering student applications. Issues relating to religion are of increasing significance and relevance in today’s society and a grounding in religious ideas, as well as the skills developed in Religious Studies, would be of great value in many professions, including the media, the arts, psychology and law.

Questions

- Q Can I do the course in one year?

A Yes, by joining both AS and A2 groups.
- Q Do I need to be religious to take this subject?

A You may belong to any religion or none.



RUSSIAN

“I look forward to my Russian lessons because they are always very interesting and informative. There is a friendly and warm atmosphere within the classroom. It is easy to express my opinion there, and have a healthy debate, whilst still maintaining a great relationship with the teacher. I feel the lessons are effective and productive and have facilitated my progress in terms of providing me with knowledge of British and Russian culture, current affairs and literature.”

Dariya Omarova, Current DLD student

What is Russian?

Russian is one of the world’s leading languages, being the third most widely spoken European language. A level Russian is a fascinating mix of culture, society and language. It provides an opportunity for you to improve your ability to write, understand and speak Russian at a high level. The course focuses primarily on language skills and aims to enable you to discuss and write about a range of issues from youth culture to the environment and social issues. This combination of developing sophisticated linguistic skills while at the same time studying Russian literature (A.S.Pushkin, N.V.Baranskaya, etc.) makes Russian A level enormously rewarding and challenging.

If you enjoy communicating with other people and learning about Russian culture and traditions, this subject is an excellent choice for you.

What is Russian @ DLD?

The Russian department at DLD follows the Edexcel Advanced Specification in Russian. The full A level qualification is made up of two AS units and two at A2. The department makes use of a wide range of resources including textbooks, handouts, films, newspapers, magazines and assorted subject-specific web sites. Lesson time is split up in a variety of ways to meet the exam requirements – class discussions, oral and listening practice, essay writing, individual research and ‘traditional’ teaching of grammar and punctuation. There are regular tests to help the students monitor their own progress but also to become accomplished and confident in essay writing or translating. The aim is to provide a full, dynamic and highly enjoyable programme of work.

How is it assessed?

		Weighting	Format
Unit 1	Spoken Expression and Response in Russian	5% (30%)	Oral
Unit 2	Understanding and Written Response in Russian	35% (70%)	2 hour 30 minute exam
Unit 3	Understanding and Spoken Response in Russian	17.5%	Oral
Unit 4	Research, Understanding and Written Response in Russian	32.5%	2 hour 30 minute exam

What do I need?

It is vitally important that you enjoy the subject. There is a lot of reading to do, vocabulary to learn and written work to produce, so it is essential that students love being around language. A GCSE pass is required, although there are times when real enthusiasm is almost worth a grade in itself.

Good subject combinations

Languages are universally useful. Russian A level combines with courses in other languages, such as humanities, especially English or History but mathematicians and scientists often learn a language, too. Any subject fits.

After DLD

One of the enormous advantages of studying a language is that it is always a treasured and useful skill that many employers and higher education providers value. Students may go on to study languages at degree level either as single honours or combined with subjects as diverse as Philosophy, Economics, Business Studies, Human or International Relations, Marketing and Psychology. Russian may also provide students with entry qualifications to a degree course in Slavonic Studies, Linguistics or Interpreting. Language graduates go on to pursue careers in business, investment banking, medicine, law, the media and teaching because they offer skills which are unique: clear communication, confidence while speaking in public, linguistic independence in dealing with international business partners and cultural awareness. The list is endless.

With broadening economic, political and cultural contacts between Russia and other countries, knowledge of Russian can greatly increase a student’s employment potential and generally improve their prospects of success.

Questions

- Q Can I do the course in one year?

A Yes.
- Q If I am from the former Soviet Republic, will universities still consider my a Level grade?

A Yes - the majority of institutions will.



SOCIOLOGY

“I was very worried when I first started taking Sociology as it was totally different from what I had taken in high school. The one-to-one feedback I got as well as the full support from my teacher really helped me achieve what I aimed for and even led to me winning the CIFE Social Sciences Award! The range of topics I studied during my two years was very interesting and made me more aware of various interactions happening around me in society. The subject was made more intriguing through the investigation of various issues from very different perspectives such as Marxists, Feminists and Functionalists All in all, choosing to study Sociology at DLD was the right decision!”

Caroline San Kyi, DLD Graduate

What is Sociology?

Sociology can be defined as the systematic study of human action and interaction from a social or group perspective. It can include the study of social structures both big and small. For example, a sociologist could study the ways in which individual customers engage with individual shop assistants within retail as well as the social norms and values that lie behind international trade relations.

Sociology is a lively, interesting and often exciting subject to study. It can give you a much greater appreciation of society, and the different groups of people within it. Furthermore, Sociology helps you develop a historical understanding of society and an understanding of how and why society might, or might not, change in the future.

What is Sociology @ DLD?

The course is very student centred. There is an emphasis upon class discussion, debate and argument. You will get involved in group presentations and learn to think independently and to be someone who takes responsibility for their own progress and achievement. DLD is equipped with modern facilities and ICT equipment, which enhance the learning experience,so studying Sociology at DLD is fun, interesting and exciting.

How is it assessed?

AS Weighting Format

		Weighting	Format
Paper 1	Education with Method in Context	50%	1 hour 30 mins exam
Paper 2	Research Methods and Families and Households	50%	1 hour 30 mins exam

A Level Weighting Format

		Weighting	Format
Paper 1	Education with Theory and Methods	33.3%	2 hour exam
Paper 2	Families and Households; Beliefs in Society	33.3%	2 hour exam
Paper 3	Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods	33.3%	2 hour exam

What do I need?

The most important thing that you need is an interest in why we behave in the way that we do. For most sociologists, behaviour is not natural; it is learned. We are socialised in certain ways and so if you are interested in the processes that shape our sense of self this subject is for you. Sociology at DLD is concerned with real-world issues with policy relevance, such as social inequality, organised crime, the social basis of political conflict and changes in family relationships and gender roles.

Good subject combinations

Sociology is complemented by the arts and humanities because these subjects also develop an understanding of key sociological perspectives. So, for example, in English you may explore a Marxist or feminist interpretation of a text like 'Great Expectations'. In Geography you will study demography – trends in the size and characteristics of populations – and in Sociology, you will study the social forces that produce these patterns. Psychology and Sociology are compatible too. In particular there is significant overlap in research methods. Moreover, Sociology is, as August Comte once said, the 'Queen of the Sciences'. While you will not be working in a lab testing hypotheses, you will be putting sociological arguments to the test in a systematic, objective and logical way. Indeed Sociologists uncover 'social facts' in the same way that Biologists, Chemists and Physicists uncover 'facts of nature'. It is a subject that is compatible with all other academic disciplines.

After DLD

In giving you a greater understanding of the broad social structures that shape human action and interaction, Sociology could, to provide just a few examples, lead to a career in

- Advertising
- Personnel
- Management
- Journalism
- Public Health
- The Non-Government Sector
- Public Relations

Questions

- Q Can I do the course in one year?
A Yes

SPANISH

“The combination of a comfortable working environment, where I was able to develop my conversational techniques with confidence, as well as exemplary teaching allowed me to attain a fantastic grasp of a language I now pride myself on understanding. If you are looking for a stimulating and intriguing Spanish language course, DLD is the place to find it.”

Ed Sibley, DLD Graduate

What is Spanish?

The Spanish A level course is aimed at students with a passion for languages and who are fans of Hispanic culture. Spanish A level will give you the opportunity to acquire an impressive range of linguistic skills including an extensive vocabulary and range of grammatical structures. You will have the choice of a range of options such as discovering different aspects of Spanish society (food, fashion, tourism or music), expressing your opinions on current issues in written and oral form or even studying a novel in your A2 course. A visit to a Spanish-speaking country at some point during the two year course is strongly advised.

What is Spanish @ DLD?

The aim of the course is to make students active participants and encourage them to explore the Spanish-speaking world as much as possible. Students who choose to do Spanish at DLD will be exposed to intensive practice of the different language skills: reading, listening, oral and writing using a variety of textbooks, internet resources, films, magazine and newspaper materials, podcasts etc. Regular testing of vocabulary and grammar structures is part of the course dynamic as students need to develop these two areas considerably. The Spanish department organise cultural visits as part of the course such as museum exhibitions, trips to the cinema and other events that complement class activities.

How is it assessed?

	Weighting	Format
Unit 1	15% (30%)	Oral
Unit 2	35% (70%)	2 hour 30 minute exam
Unit 3	17.5%	Oral
Unit 4	32.5%	2 hour 30 minute exam

What do I need?

Ideally you should have previous knowledge of the language and a pass at GCSE level or equivalent. Studying a language is not just learning a set of grammar rules and vocabulary lists. It is also learning about and experiencing the culture of other countries. Spanish is so widely spoken in the world that the cultural aspects of the subject open so many possibilities for you to explore and this course gives you plenty of opportunities to do this.

Good subject combinations

Spanish is a subject that can be easily combined with a large range of subjects. Students from both sciences and humanities find that learning a foreign language complements and adds to the skills they require for their other subjects.

After DLD

Apart from the enjoyment of being able to understand and speak a foreign language, the Spanish A level course is both academic and culturally enriching. Spanish can be combined with virtually any university course you can think of from Economics to Environmental Sciences. It may open up possibilities if you are planning to do a year abroad as part of your degree: for example a year in South America studying, working or travelling can be a wonderful experience.

Questions

- Q Can I do the course in one year?
A Yes - if the initial assessment suggests you will cope with the demands of the intensive course.
- Q Do I need to have done GCSE Spanish?
A No.



BTEC BUSINESS

“In Business, teachers are always willing to go above and beyond and try to aid our complete understanding of the subject. Lessons are really interactive and teachers use real business examples, which really brings the subject to life, and makes it easy for me to relate to.”

Anna Shimwell, DLD Graduate

Why choose to study BTEC Business?

In BTEC Business, students are encouraged to develop a range of important skills which are transferable to any walk of life. Students can focus on their career aspirations or work area within the specification, of which there are six specialist pathways consisting of Finance, Management, Marketing, Law, Administration, and Human Resources. Tutors have carefully chosen units of study that complement students interests and what universities/ employers are looking for.

The course is designed to replicate the Business working environment, therefore you will;

- Gain a broad understanding of business and be able to study selected areas in more depth
- Develop skills, knowledge and understanding in business
- Have an opportunity to apply learning in a practical and realistic way
- Follow a programme of study which enables progression to both higher education and employment within business
- Develop personal learning and thinking skills, which are highly valued by employers and universities
- Gain confidence through developing independent learning skills

What is BTEC Business @ DLD?

At DLD, BTEC Business is taught through individual and group presentations by students as well as class notes and assignments. Video materials and News articles are used as the basis of discussion and the emphasis is always on the practical application of theory. Students are encouraged to challenge the content of what they read and offer their opinions. The aim is to emphasise to students that running a business involves a series of decisions which are usually made with incomplete knowledge and that there is often no 'right' answer. We strive to make classroom learning as interactive and dynamic as possible.

Exam Board:

At DLD College we are currently studying BTEC Business through the Edexcel Exam Board.

How is it assessed?

There is no final exam with BTEC, all units are continuously assessed. Throughout each unit students will complete coursework. These units are graded Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Students will study 18 units which is the equivalent to 3 A-Level's, 9 units in the first year of the programme and 9 units in the second year.

What do I need?

The BTEC qualification is not only preparing you for university, it is also aiding you to develop skills that you will need in the workplace. Through this course we endeavour to send well rounded individuals into the workplace with the potential of being successful business men/women. Therefore, it is important that students who commence the course do so with a positive attitude and a willingness to participate in class, perform independent research under guidance and above all, learn from their mistakes.

Candidates should possess good time management and organisational skills. These skills will aid the success on the course as you will complete assignments after each unit, for which deadlines will be set. Ideally students should have GCSE English and Maths or equivalent.

After DLD:

The theory taught in BTEC Business is useful in all walks of life since most of us who do not become entrepreneurs work as employees. Through gaining a BTEC qualification it gives students the opportunity to continue with third level education or the qualification provides them the skills to enter the business environment.

Students can apply for a wide range of Business undergraduate degrees at well-known universities or gain a trainee placement in a city firm. The BTEC qualification can act as a platform for students to gain access into either of their chosen routes. While most students at DLD go on to undergraduate degrees, there are some who go straight into work for family businesses or other aspects in the business environment.

Questions:

Q Can I do the course in one year?

A Individual needs will be reviewed upon application

Q Can I use the A level to apply for a gap year internship?

A Yes



BTEC MEDIA PRODUCTION

“The BTEC Media qualification is fun and interactive and assignments range from making a College magazine to planning and producing your own short film. You accumulate a diverse portfolio of work that leaves you well equipped for both university and future employers.”

Michael Murphy, DLD Graduate

What is BTEC Media Production?

If you see yourself working in film, television, music, publishing or advertising then our course offers you a wealth of practical and theoretical knowledge needed to get ahead. The BTEC Media Production qualification is a fun and exciting practical course that is the equivalent of three full A-Levels.

You can get your first step towards a career in the creative industries by studying BTEC Media Production. Media is a challenging and creative industry and it requires people with imagination and enthusiasm.

Many students progress from their level 3 BTEC on to undergraduate courses and some may even go straight into employment within the creative sector.

What will I study on the course?

During the course you will produce a portfolio of media work that includes short films, music videos, live television broadcasts and digital publishing. Rather than taking an exam, you demonstrate your knowledge practically and assessment methods are varied, therefore giving you the best opportunities to succeed.

We have state of the art facilities designed to replicate the technology you will use in the industry. In lessons you will utilise a variety of teaching methods, our facilities include; a portable 4K television broadcasting unit and a Mac editing suite complete with Final Cut Pro, Adobe InDesign, Photoshop and After Effects. We also have a range of equipment available for students to book out and use inside and outside of lessons, including Go Pro HD cameras, Canon, JVC and Nikon digital cameras.

We have an impressive array of guest speakers and educational visits. Previous guest speakers have included Mike Hodges (director of Get Carter), Jason Cowley (editor of The New Statesman), Helen O'Hara (freelance film journalist) and Justin Gorman (Head of Entertainment at Channel 4). We have a regular visit to BBC Broadcasting House and we have also visited Warner House and the Harry Potter studios.

How is the course assessed?

Rather than studying for an exam, you can demonstrate your knowledge practically and you will find that assessment methods are varied, giving you the best opportunities to succeed. You will have a variety of assessment tasks, from creating presentations to writing scripts or filming and editing video footage.

What are the entry requirements?

You will be expected to have achieved five GCSEs, including a C grade in English. We also ask that you demonstrate an enthusiasm for media.

What can I do after the course?

Students can continue to study media production at universities around the UK. Universities can offer a more specialised route of study, such as post-production or creative writing. Some students move directly into industry. The variety of techniques gained during the course make our students desirable to both universities and employers alike. Our BTEC graduates have been accepted to study degree programmes in International Marketing, Sociology, Film and Television Production at a range of universities including Central Film School, Nottingham, Middlesex, Ravensbourne and Westminster.

Questions:

Q Do I need to have studied Media Studies at GCSE?

A No.

Q Do I need to own my own video camera?

A No. We have a range of equipment available for students to use throughout the course.

Q Can you go to university with a BTEC?

A Of course, last year, all of our BTEC graduates were offered university places.





BTEC MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

What is the BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Music Technology?

This course enables students to develop the skills needed to work within the sound and music industry and prepare for university courses in music technology related subjects. In year one students will study for a Subsidiary Diploma (equivalent to one A-level). Successful students will be invited to study for the Diploma (equivalent to two A-levels) which they will complete in year two of the course.

What will I learn?

A wide range of music technology related themes will be studied including music production techniques and audio engineering principles, marketing and promotion, music sequencing, the sound and music industry, live sound techniques and acoustics.

Students are taught by specialist tutors and are assessed through coursework and vocationally relevant lessons that incorporate demonstrations, micro-teaching and tutor guided support. Delivery methods will include practical workshop sessions, classroom-based theory sessions, self-directed independent learning using resources on the online VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) and in-house masterclasses delivered by visiting industry professionals. There will also be opportunities to obtain a valuable insight into the music profession through visits to areas of the music industry, gaining knowledge, skills and advice from professionals.

What qualification do I gain?

During the first year the students will work towards a BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma (equivalent to one A-level). Successful students will be able to progress onto the second year where they will work towards the BTEC Level 3 Diploma (equivalent to two A-levels). Throughout the duration of the course students will develop a portfolio of work, music industry knowledge and the skills to assist them in finding employment within an area of the music industry or support an application for a higher education course at university.

What are the entry requirements?

English Language and Mathematics grade C or above is essential. GCSE Music or Level 2 equivalent and the ability to play an instrument are not essential but welcomed, as are ICT skills. All applicants will attend an interview.

What can I do after the course?

Upon successful completion of the program, students may progress to a Degree, Foundation Degree or Higher National Diploma courses in Music Technology-related subjects or entry to the music industry workplace.



INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION PROGRAMME IN ART

What is the Art Foundation Programme?

The foundation is for advanced students who wish to build up a portfolio to progress onto Higher Education. This course is normally a requirement for entry to BA (Hons) degree programmes at prestigious art schools. It gives you the opportunity to explore your creative potential and specialist area of study.

The Foundation Diploma is a 1-year practical, creative and intensive course. The course is diagnostic in approach, enabling students to explore a wide range of specialist areas before deciding on a future direction within the subject. Students find this course exciting challenging and rewarding. If you are interested in a creative and commercial career and are interested in the art and design world, this could be the course for you!

Key course features:

- Qualification: Level 4 Diploma
- Accreditation: Pearson
- Level: 4
- Mode: Full-time
- Duration: 1 year
- Start Date: 1 September 2015

Who is the course for?

Advanced students who wish to build up a portfolio in order to progress to higher education. You may be thinking of a career in Art and Design but unsure of what possible directions you could take. You may feel you haven't really tried out many areas of Art and Design. You might be unclear about the contents of the portfolio required when applying for a degree course. Our foundation course is designed to answer your creative questions, help you make the right choices and reach your potential. It will give you confidence, practical skills and the theoretical understanding to take the next step towards an exciting and creative career.

How will I learn?

You will have access to state of the art facilities in our creative arts department. An enthusiastic and experienced team of specialist teaching staff will teach you on a daily basis.

Throughout the course students will take part in group discussions and analysis of their own work and others. Exploration of historical, contemporary artists and designers practices are integrated into practical project work. Students make regular trips to visit exhibitions and fashion events throughout London.

The year is structured into 3 stages:

Stage 1 Exploratory stage: A broad introduction providing you with new processes and techniques, through projects that build on A-level experience. Intensive 1 and 2 week projects are designed to challenge your preconceptions of Art and Design, encouraging experimentation and ambition.

This stage allows you to try out many different specialisms whilst helping you to focus your attention on choosing future degree courses. Tutors provide extensive support to prepare for interviews and the presentation of your portfolio.

Stage 2 Specialist Pathways: This stage allows you to develop a portfolio of work through extended specialist projects within the following areas. Fine Art (painting sculpture, printmaking, multimedia) Lens based media (photography, animation) Graphic design, Illustration, Textiles, (interior design / architecture, product design, etc.)

Stage 3 Confirmatory (Final Major Project): This stage is an opportunity to produce self-motivated and more independent work within your chosen specialist pathway. An exhibition of the work open to the public is the culmination of the course.

How will I be assessed?

The Foundation Diploma is 100% coursework assessed. Projects are submitted for marking on a regular basis throughout the course. Work is graded and written feedback provided enabling students to gauge how well they are doing on the course. Feedback helps students to see the strengths of their work, as well as reflecting on areas, which can be developed further. Students must pass each stage of the course before they can go onto the next. Final grades are awarded on the work produced during the summer term and presented in the exhibition.

Progression:

The Foundation Diploma is recognised as the best route to a degree in Art and Design after completing A-levels. This course is primarily a springboard to universities throughout the UK, preparing students to make the most of higher education, advising them on the most appropriate specialist course. DLD's Art department has an excellent record of students gaining places in the most competitive degree courses.

NB: The majority of Art and Design degree courses specify that students should complete a Foundation Diploma as an entry requirement.

Standard entry requirements:

- Age: 17 years +
- One 'A' level (UK domestic students only) or other relevant qualification in Art and Design;
- 4 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C, or equivalent;
- Portfolio submission;
- IELTS 5.0+, or equivalent;
- Passing an interview which will assess English language ability and motivation.

Mature and or under-qualified students are encouraged to apply with exceptional ability, as they may also be considered. However, it is the student's portfolio that will be used to assess suitability for the course. Students will be asked to submit a portfolio of their own work. This should include a selection of art works (paintings, observational drawings, design work, photography) and especially work you may have carried out in your own time. Sketchbooks and design sheets are seen as vital in making this decision. You will be interviewed, and this will give you the opportunity to ask detailed questions about the course and show us a portfolio of your work, demonstrating your skills and interest. You will also be asked to complete a creative task that demonstrates your artistic dexterity, and fluent ability in English at level 5.0 IELTS or above.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION PROGRAMME IN BUSINESS

“What I like about the IFP course is that it’s a fast track way to university as the course is just one year. The teachers are approachable and are always there if you have any problems.”

Jason Htet, DLD Graduate

What is the International Foundation Programme?

International Foundation Programmes (IFP) are one-year courses, designed as an alternative to A-levels, which prepare students for undergraduate education in the UK. The IFP is also an opportunity for students to become familiar with the approach to education in the UK and improve their written and spoken English.

The International Foundation Programme @ DLD

At DLD, there are foundation programmes in Business, Art and Music. The IFP in Business covers Mathematics, ICT, Presentation Skills, Economics and Business. Economics and Business make up 75% of the course. Students are taught the principles of starting new businesses, business management and business law. The Economics modules cover micro, macro and international economics. The course gives students, the knowledge and research skills to succeed at university and the confidence to demonstrate their knowledge. The teaching is done in small classes where students are treated as individual learners and supported by experienced, caring members of staff.

How is it assessed?

The programme is externally accredited and moderated by NCFE.

Element	Weighting	Format
Core Skills	25%	Written exams: Maths 1, Maths 2, and ICT Essay and oral presentation: Research and Presentation Skills
Business	37.5%	Written exams: Business 1, 2 and 3
Economics	37.5%	Written exams: Economics 1, 2 and 3

Students without an Academic English score of 6.5 or higher are also required to attend classes in Academic English as part of their programme.

What do I need?

Students should have score in Academic English of 4.5 or the equivalent. They should also have completed compulsory education as well as one year of high school education in their home country.

After DLD

The International Foundation Programme is recognised and approved by over 50 institutions, including those in the Russell Group. Successful graduation from the IFP in business may lead to entry to undergraduate programmes in Economics, Business, Management, Marketing and Law.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION PROGRAMME IN MUSIC

What is the International Music Foundation Programme at DLD?

Our International Foundation Programme in Music is designed to prepare you for undergraduate study at a Music conservatoire or university. It also gives a firm grounding in the study skills required to study in the UK. If you have an IELTS score below 6.5 (or equivalent) you will follow a course in Academic English to satisfy the language requirements higher education. You will also study for a one year A level in your first language, or in Mathematics. Uniquely we have on-site boarding and an International Study centre which will further help integrate you into college life. You will benefit from an excellent pastoral system which supports you all the way as you arrive in the UK. And of course, where better in the world to study Music, London is the world’s beating capital [or heart] of music and offers an extremely rich Arts culture with an infinite variety of musical opportunity.

What will I study?

After one year of tuition students you’ll have completed:

- AS Music (Edexcel). For details please see ‘A level Music’.
- Academic English lessons in preparation for the IELTS examination.
- A one year A level course in a subject other than Music. A level Music Technology may also be offered to suitable candidates.
- Private lessons in your principle instrument or voice, in preparation for the Grade 8 ABRSM examination.
- Students are encouraged to study a second instrument. Piano is highly recommended.
- Grade 5 theory (minimum). Please note that Music conservatoires see Grade 8 theory (ABRSM) as an alternative to a full A level in Music.
- A course in Alexander Technique.

How do I qualify for the course?

A score of Academic English 4.5 or equivalent, and to have finished compulsory education in your home country. You will need to demonstrate exceptional ability on your instrument or voice. It is expected that you’ll be working at Grade 8 level (or equivalent) and are capable of achieving a distinction. You’ll audition by submitting a video recording of a recent recital (8 minutes minimum), and will also be interviewed. Applications for conservatoires have to be completed within the first month of joining DLD and auditions for undergraduate study commence the following November.

After DLD

All of our students have progressed to studying Music or Music Technology related courses at university, and many have gone on to study at top music conservatoires in the UK. We have a strong relationship with our former students, many of whom have built successful music related careers. We have a regular programme of guest speakers from the music industry, who are able to offer professional advice as well as opportunities for our students.

ART & DESIGN

What do I need?
Above all you will need an interest in art & design, and a willingness to learn and develop your skills and ideas. We recommend that you have access to your own digital camera (preferably 10 megapixels) and a 2 – 4 GB USB stick.

A range of drawing, painting and craft materials would also help you to develop your skills in homework and in art & design lessons.



“My journey from GCSE Art to AS Art has been an exciting yet a challenging transition. With the support of my teachers, my experience of studying GCSE Art at DLD College meant that I was encouraged to learn and push myself in my studies. I feel that with the effort I have put into my studies, Art has helped stretch my horizon!”

Elmo Spethmann, Current DLD Student

What is Art & Design?

This is a broad course exploring practical and critical/contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and mixed media and photography. It is an unendorsed course where candidates can work in appropriate art, craft and design materials and processes. Students will produce practical and contextual work associated with the exploration of Fine Art, Graphic Design, Three- Dimensional Design, Photography and Textiles. Art is a fascinating and rewarding subject that encourages the use of your imagination and creativity, whilst acquiring a range of skills, abilities and directions you will engage with the world in a visual and tactile way.

What will I study?

Two projects (units) during the year: in Unit 1 (Portfolio of work) and Unit 2 (Externally Set Task) students will work on projects exploring and developing skills and technical ability in a range of materials and processes. Following the initial skills building period students can then choose the particular areas of Art they would like to explore in more depth in their Portfolio Unit and in Unit 2. Students will need to complete two sketchbooks per unit showing the development of their art in lessons and through a range of practical homework. Annotation, explanation and written analysis are required to explain sketch book work.

How is it assessed?

	Weighting	Format
Unit 1	60%	Portfolio of work
Unit 2	40%	Externally Set Task (10 Hour Exam)

BIOLOGY

Notes/Reading List
GCSE Biology OCR 21st Century Revision Guide CGP (2011)
ISBN 978 1 84762 6127

GCSE Biology OCR 21st Century Revision Workbook CGP (2011)
ISBN: 978 1 84762 6130

“Studying Biology at DLD is a new and wonderful experience. Great teachers with amazing teaching styles that make learning Biology interesting.”

Huong Trang To, Current DLD Student

What is Biology?

The dramatic breakthroughs of modern Biology have provided an unprecedented understanding of living organisms. Advances in Biology often make headlines as they affect our lives in a myriad of ways. These include: developing new medicines, using biotechnology and enhancing global food production with the techniques of molecular biology.

What will I study?

The GCSE Biology course is divided into seven chapters that cover genes and inheritance (B1), human health (B2), life on earth (B3), the processes of life (B4), growth and development (B5) and the brain and mind (B6). The final chapter (B7) explores these topics in greater depth.

Why should I study Biology?

Biology is relevant to everyone who wants to know more about how their body works and how all life on earth is inter-related. It develops skills of data analysis and evaluation as well as practical and investigative skills.

How is it assessed?

Unit	Modules	Weighting	Format
A161	B1, B2, B3	25%	1 hour exam
A162	B4, B5, B6	25%	1 hour exam
A163	B7	25%	1 hour exam
A164		25%	Controlled Assessment

What do I need?

To succeed in this course, students should have a genuine interest in learning about the processes that underlie life, especially with regards to human biology. Due to the accelerated nature of this course, regular revision and good organisational skills are important to develop a thorough understanding and to achieve good exam results.



BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

What is Business and Communication Systems?

It has become increasingly important in the global workplace to confidently use and understand ICT software, particularly in the context of running a successful business organisation. By the end of this course you will have the vital skills required for further study and employment in both ICT and Business Studies.

What will I study?

This engaging course teaches current and emerging ICT systems within a business context. Students will gain knowledge and confidence in using office software by ensuring they have the practical skills needed to use and operate standard office software. You will explore and suggest improvements to business communication systems, considering the impact on the business and its stakeholders. You will also evaluate the role of business within society.

Why should I study Business Communication Systems?

In a 21st century globalised market economy, the role of business and information technology is a key component to its continuation. Whilst learning to appreciate the core elements that go into making the system work it is also important to question the role that business has in society.

This course can enlighten you as to what makes good customer service, whether McDonalds™ or Nike™ really are ethically sound companies to purchase from and what it is that makes up a significant threat to data security.

How is it assessed?

There are three units:

Unit A265	Unit A266	Unit A267
Businesses and their Communication Systems	Developing Business Communication Systems	ICT Skills
Written examination – 1 hour 30 minutes	Controlled Assessment – up to 10 hours research and up to 5 hours writing up.	Practical Examination
50%	25%	1 hour 25%

What do I need?

An interest and aptitude for ICT. An interest in business and economic activities. The ability to build arguments and distinguish facts from opinions.

Reading List:

OCR Business and Communication Systems for GCSE published by Hodder.
ISBN 9780340984437



CHEMISTRY

“Before September, I had never studied GCSE Chemistry. I really enjoy the lessons and now I am almost at my exams, I feel that I have made immense progress over the year.”

Rio Hockey-Morley, Current DLD Student

What is Chemistry?

- Can we do anything about global warming?
- What is nanotechnology?
- What happens when substances change state?
- Why do some things react quickly and others slowly?

Do you have questions about the world around you? Come and study Chemistry to get some answers!

What will I study?

We want to help develop an interest and an enthusiasm for Chemistry. Students are given the opportunity to acquire the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning. In addition to developing an understanding of scientific concepts, the course is designed to develop scientific literacy. It is intended that students understand how scientific knowledge is obtained, how it is reported and the impacts of this knowledge on society.

Why should I study Chemistry?

Chemistry tends to focus on the materials which make up our world, both living and non-living. This course will help you to understand the underlying ideas that help us explain what we observe.

How is it assessed?

Unit	Modules	Weighting	Format
A171	C1, C2, C3 2	5%	1 hour exam
A172	C4, C5, C6	25%	1 hour exam
A173	C7	25%	1 hour exam
A174		25%	Controlled Assessment

What do I need?

Over the last couple of years we have had excellent results. To succeed you need a lot of enthusiasm and the capacity to work hard. The pace is fast so regular work and organisation is needed from the start of the year.

Notes/Reading List

GCSE OCR Chemistry 21st Century Revision Guide CGP (2011)

ISBN: 978 1 84762 624 0

GCSE Chemistry OCR 21st Century work book CGP (2011)

ISBN: 978 1 84762 625 7



DRAMA

“Drama is simply amazing. This is where we learn to express ourselves, work as a team and learn to trust. The teachers are fantastic, they not only teach us, but also care for us and our welfare.”

Huong Trang To, Current DLD Student

What is Drama?

GCSE Drama is a practical, artistic subject which aims to develop creative and imaginative powers. It is all about understanding what it is like to put yourself in someone else's shoes. You will play many parts in different imaginary situations. This is a course of self-expression, play and creating a group dynamic from which anything is possible. Theatre visits form an integral part of the course, with at least one being reviewed in detail for assessment.

What will I study?

- How drama is created, including all the acting and staging skills that are needed to put a piece of drama onto the stage
- How to create a character and play this character in a performance
- Exploring different play scripts and how a playwright structures their ideas
- Various stimuli to help prompt and develop improvised scenes
- Many skills that are highly valued in any walk of life including teamwork and confidently presenting yourself in public.

Why should I study Drama?

‘We will not succeed in navigating the complex environment of the future by peering relentlessly into a rear view mirror. To do so, we would be out of our minds’

Sir Ken Robinson

Creativity is the greatest gift of human intelligence. The more complex the world becomes, the more creative we need to be to meet its challenges.

How is it assessed?

There are 3 units and almost all assessment is practical. There are no written examinations although you will be required to keep a thorough written record of your practical work and the live theatre review. You will explore themes, ideas and plays in a wholly practical way and your teacher will assess how well you have done. In Unit 3 you will be required to perform in a play or contribute a form of design to a production such as costume, lighting or sound. You will perform the play with a visiting examiner in the audience.

What do I need?

Above all, enjoyment and imagination but also the ability to:

- Express yourself in an active and exciting way
- Work corroboratively in a group
- Contribute your ideas and take on board those of others
- Explore ideas by putting yourself in other people's shoes
- Play many parts in different imaginary situations
- Create your own drama work
- Study plays written by other people

Notes/Reading List

A blank journal and plays by Harold Pinter.

For more information, take a look at current GCSE students discussing their work on the DLD website.



ECONOMICS

What is Economics?

GCSE Economics offers students a great opportunity to learn about how everyday individuals, organisations and governments are faced with making economic choices in terms of how best to use the limited amount of resources that they have available.

What will I study?

The OCR course offers students the chance to be introduced to concepts related to Microeconomics enabling them to explore how markets function. Learners will also consider Macroeconomic theories helping reflect on how the economy of a country functions. In their second year of study, students focus on the convergence of markets and the issues that arise from this.

Why should I study GCSE Economics?

Economics is a fascinating subject to study, which is not only well respected but also extremely relevant to the real world. Throughout the course students will be able to develop their skills of analysis and evaluation as they learn to apply economic theory to different contexts. The course lays excellent foundations for AS and A Level study.

How is it assessed?

The course is assessed through three external written examinations which will be taken at the end of the second year:

		Weighting	Format
A591:	How the Market Works	25%	1 hour exam
A592:	How the Economy Works	25%	1 hour exam
A593:	The UK Economy and Globalisation	50%	1 hour 30 minutes exam

What do I need?

Students who succeed on the course will have an interest in current affairs and desire to understand how the economy works. They should be willing to undertake research and share their thoughts and opinions on the economic climate. A willingness to work with numerical data to help form analysis is crucial.

Notes/Reading List:

OCR GCSE Economics: Student Book
By C.Bancroft and A.Chapman
ISBN-10: 0435849050



ENGLISH

“The one year English course is challenging but fun.
The teachers are very enthusiastic.”

Zane Thadani, Current DLD Student

What is English?

During the course you will learn how to analyse a wide variety of written and spoken texts, including media texts, literary texts, and the spoken word. You will be taught how to make your own written expression more accurate and more effective in analytical, persuasive and creative writing. English is the stand alone qualification for students who are not studying English Literature.

What will I study?

The focus will be on improving your skills and confidence, developing Year 10 learning, but not necessarily using the same texts. The whole of the qualification will be covered in the year, so the pace is brisk but enjoyable: DLD teachers have a very good record of building improvement and success in a one year course.

Why should I study English?

English is a core subject, which helps you to develop your powers of self-expression and improve your reading and writing. It is a qualification essential for your future school and university studies and for life.

How is it assessed?

Unit		Weighting	Format
Unit A641	Reading literary texts	20%	Controlled assessment
Unit A642	Imaginative Writing	20%	Controlled assessment
Unit A643	Speaking and listening	Three activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- a drama-focussed activity- a group activity- an individual extended contribution	
Unit A680	Information and Ideas	60%	Written exam

What do I need?

The willingness to step up from Year 10 studies and, with clear guidance and support, to build a platform of accurate, analytical and expressive writing and speaking skills, invaluable for your future learning.

Reading List

Drama:

Shakespeare - Julius Caesar; Romeo and Juliet.

Poetry:

The OCR Anthology including poetry by: Wilfred Owen; Simon Armitage; Carol-Ann Duffy; Benjamin Zephaniah.

Prose:

Jane Austen - Pride and Prejudice; Thomas Hardy - The Withered Arm and other Wessex Tales; John Steinbeck - Of Mice and Men.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE / LITERATURE

“The IGCSE English course which includes both English Language and English Literature has been one of my favourites at DLD this year. The coursework is interesting to discuss in class, which also makes assignments easier to enjoy. Through this course I have also been able to apply my knowledge to other subjects where writing is needed and this has been very helpful.”

Caroline Vain, Current DLD Student

What is IGCSE English and English Literature?

IGCSE English Language and English Literature is an intellectually rigorous course suitable for students who are genuinely interested in exploring literary texts and who have good or very good written skills in English. You should enjoy analysing novels, poems and plays in class and in essays, and already be getting good marks for doing so. The qualification is very highly rated by schools and universities and combines two GCSEs: it is essential for students who want the option of studying English Lit in the Sixth Form. It is very strongly recommended for students who want to study any essay based analytical A level subject, such as English Lang/ Lit, History, Politics, Classical Civilisation or Media Studies.

What is IGCSE English/Lit @ DLD?

The course will cover material for both GCSEs fully in one year. We will help you make the step up from Year 10 work, with new texts and with sufficient contact hours to improve your skills over a wide range of activities. A Speaking and Listening certificate of achievement will also be taken as part of the course.

Why should I study IGCSE English/Lit?

Choose this course if you like studying literature. You will analyse written and spoken texts of all kinds, with an emphasis on literature, but also with the opportunity for creative writing, discussion and debate. You will be encouraged to improve your own powers of self-expression, to see what might lie beneath the seemingly innocent surface of words and to interrogate the way authors, journalists and all of us use language.

How is it assessed?

English	Weighting	Format
Reading Passages	50%	Exam
Coursework Portfolio	50%	Three assignments, 500-800 words each
Speaking & Listening	Separately endorsed	Individual activity, Pair-based activity, Group activity

English	Weighting	Format
Set Texts	75%	Exam
Coursework Portfolio	25%	Two assignments

What do I need?

This is a demanding but rewarding course. To do well you must be willing to do plenty of reading and thinking outside of the lessons, and generally have a good record of writing successfully about literary texts - novels, poems and plays.

Reading List

Drama - The Merchant of Venice

Poetry - Thomas Hardy

Prose - Short Story Anthology

The Merchant of Venice (Oxford School Shakespeare ISBN: 978-0-19-832867-4) Thomas Hardy,
Selected Poems (Penguin, ed. Harry Thomas).

Stories of Ourselves, Prose Anthology (Cambridge University Press ISBN: 978-0-52172791-4)



FRENCH

“I love studying French at DLD because the teacher always makes sure that the course is enjoyable and interesting for students and that everyone fully understands each aspects of the course.”

Current DLD student

What is French?

French IGCSE is primarily a chance for students to discover how exciting it can be to learn a new language. The course focuses on language skills with an optional oral exam. The specification is designed to cater for a range of abilities and offers content which the student will feel at home with.

What will I study?

You will study a comprehensive grammar course which will cover the basics (though not absolutely from zero) as well as moving on to more advanced tenses and structures. You will take part in oral discussions and write on a range of topics from television and celebrity through to your family and life at home.

Why should I study French?

Studying a language is one of the most valuable skills a young person can learn. It helps enormously to build a student's self-confidence and develops disciplines that can be used in other subjects.

How is it assessed?

Unit	Weighting	Format
Unit 1	25%	Listening
Unit 2	50%	Reading / Writing
Unit 3	25%	Speaking

What do I need?

It is important that you enjoy languages. It is also important that you have some knowledge of French already - apart from that, bundles of enthusiasm and a willingness to learn verbs and vocabulary will be your most useful tools.

Notes/Reading List

Tricolore 4A!

GEOGRAPHY

“Geography opens a new perspective to the world and gives opportunities to see the problems of the past, present and future.”

Vasily Rublev, Current DLD Student

What is Geography?

Geography is about understanding the earth and our place within it. It examines how places and countries differ, how natural and human environments interact, and it explores the connections between places, resources, people and development. Geography examines why some places develop, while others remain in a state of instability, why some places are inflicted by catastrophic disasters while others not, and how the physical world can have such a dramatic influence on our daily lives.

What will I study?

- The Restless Earth
- Water on the Land
- The Coastal Zone
- Population Change
- Changing Urban Environments
- Tourism
- Field Skills
- Cartographic Skills

How is it assessed?

Unit		Weighting	Format
Unit 1	Physical Geography	37.5%	1 hour 30 minute exam
Unit 2	Human Geography	37.5%	1 hour 30 minute exam
Unit 3	Local Fieldwork Investigation	25%	Fieldwork Trip and Coursework

What do I need?

A healthy interest in our planet and the processes which shape the physical and human worlds. A desire to understand the science behind how our planet functions and the complex inter-relationships within it. A sound ability to read and write as essays are required. Basic mathematical skill as a range of graphing, field and cartographic skills will require some maths.

Notes/Reading List

AQA GCSE Geography A: Student Book

By Ross, Canavan and Rae ISBN 13:978-1408502716

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

What is Global Citizenship?

The IGCSE Global Citizenship course is concerned with issues confronting the international community and the impact of power and politics on people's lives in developed and developing economies. The course teaches students to evaluate in a comparative way the political, environmental, social and technological aspects of key global issues, and introduces students to the question of rights and responsibilities and the problems entailed in civic participation. It also allows them to gain a practical understanding of what it means to 'think globally and act locally' in today's rapidly changing world.

What will I study?

The course has five main components:

- How communities develop
- Democracy and political representation
- The impact of changing technologies on communities
- Patterns of wealth and inequality in the world today
- How the individual can make a difference

How is it assessed?

The course is assessed in one externally examined two hour paper

Unit	Topic	Weighting
Section A	Community Action	25%
Section B/C	Local and Global Issues	50%
Section D	Perspectives	25%

What do I need?

An interest in politics and current affairs, including economic, social and environmental issues will be useful. Also useful will be a willingness to read a wide variety of articles from the Internet and printed media sources, as well as a general interest in the ways humans both affect and are affected by their environment.

The course would be an ideal choice for any student wishing to study A-Level Government and Politics.

HISTORY

"History at DLD is a fun and interesting subject that allows you to discover and explore various aspects of history from a variety of time periods."

Ben Evans, Current DLD Student

What is History?

The study of the past is fascinating in itself but it also puts the present into appropriate context. Indeed, the present cannot be properly understood without studying the past. The present is the product of processes, the actions of individuals and pure chance. Everything and everyone has a history and as such everything is a source with a story to tell. The trick lies in having the skills to analyse and interpret sources and to write a history based on one's findings.

"He lives doubly who also enjoys the past" (*Martial*).

What will I study?

The course covers a broad spectrum of modern history. The themes covered are: International Relations 1918-39; Superpower Relations 1946-1968, Revolutionary Soviet Union, and the changing nature of warfare.

How is it assessed?

The International GCSE is assessed through two 1 hour 30 minute examinations, set and marked by Edexcel. There is no coursework in this subject.

What do I need?

The most important attribute in studying History is a good dose of enthusiasm. It is also important to enjoy writing and reading. The subject requires considerable amounts of both.

MATHS

“I was never afraid to ask if I didn’t understand something. It’s important that you understand what you’re doing before moving on.”

DLD student

What is Maths?

Maths is a core subject and a grade C is often an essential qualification for progression to the next stage of your education. If you want to study Maths at A level you must complete the GCSE at Higher level and aim for at least an A.

You will be taught to solve problems in a systematic way by teachers who are patient and sympathetic and very familiar with the difficulties faced by students.

What will I study?

Some of the major topics are: trigonometry, areas and volumes, simplifying and factorising algebraic expressions, ratios, percentages and statistics.

The above topics will be covered in more depth at the Higher level and the specification will also include many algebraic topics not dealt with at the Foundation level.

Why should I study Maths?

A grade C in GCSE Maths is a minimum requirement for entry to university in any course. In addition, Mathematics today is a diverse discipline that deals with data, measurements and observations from science, inference, deduction, proofs as well as with mathematical models of natural phenomena, human behaviour and social systems: you will certainly come across applications of mathematics at some stage in your future careers.

How is it assessed?

The exam is externally assessed and comprises of 2 written papers one of which is a non-calculator. Each paper lasts for 1.45 hours. The highest grade you can achieve on a Foundation level is a C.

What do I need?

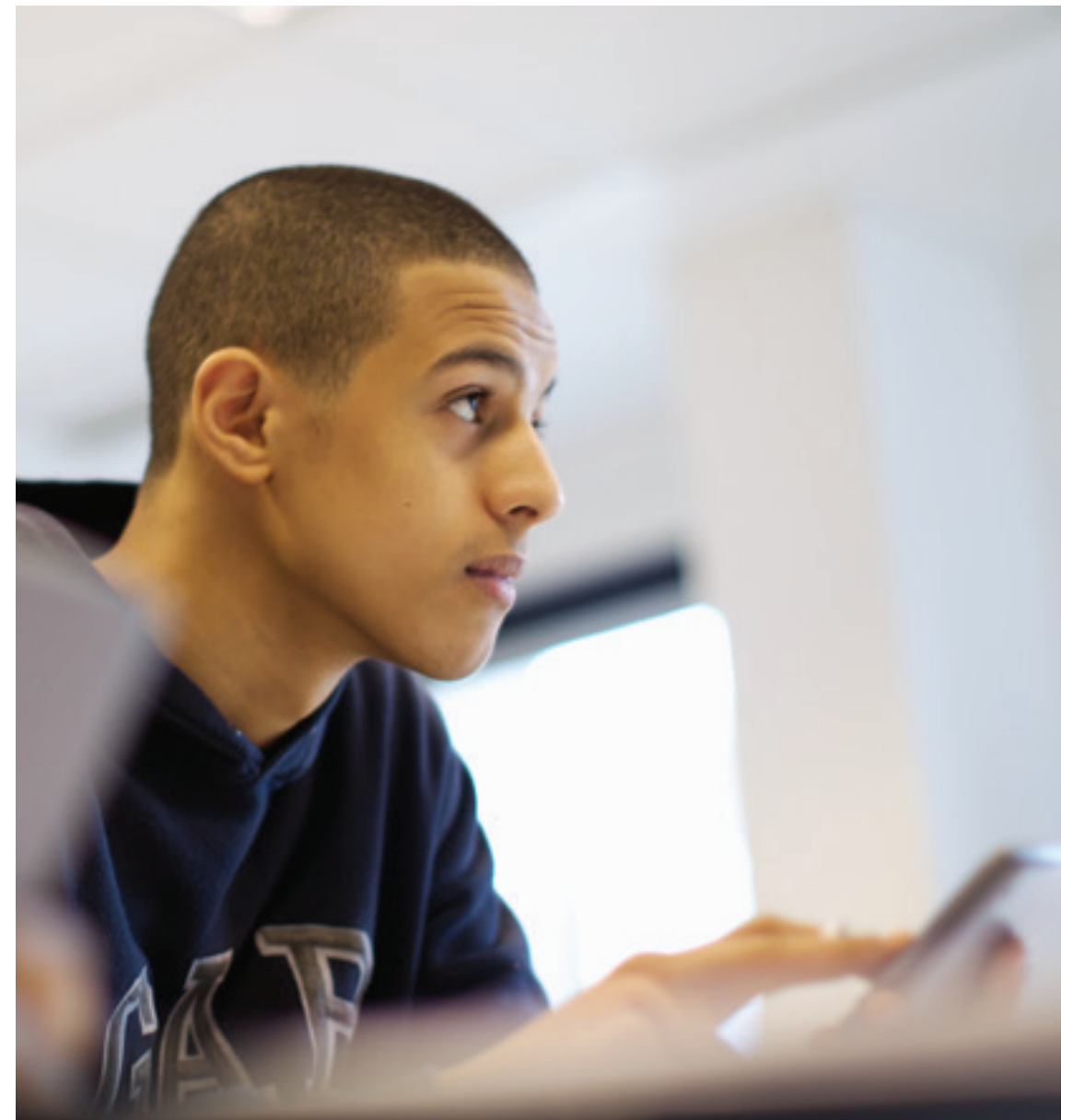
If you have found Maths difficult in the past we can help you approach the subject with confidence. Equally, if you are good at Maths you will be stretched to achieve your best possible result.

We ask however that you be focussed whilst in class - be organised, follow instructions and practise outside class. There is no reason why students who work consistently hard using techniques taught by their teachers cannot do well in the exam.

Notes/Reading List

Edexcel GCSE Maths Higher Text Book by Alan Smith

Edexcel GCSE Maths Higher Student Book (Whole Course) by Keith Pledger



MUSIC

“Music is one of my favourite subjects at DLD, not only because of the course itself, but because of all the amazing support and encouragement I get from my tutors, as well as my peers. Taking the GCSE music course at DLD has helped to expand my knowledge of music and also explore different aspects of the music business such as writing, recording, and producing, helping me to think about what I may want to do with music in the future. The DLD music department is filled with many talented individuals with a passion for music, and I’m very pleased to be a part of it.”

Caroline Vain, Current DLD Student

What is Music?

If you are curious about music and want to create it then GCSE Music is for you. You can perform in a traditional way (e.g. piano or guitar) or instead produce music electronically. You will also have the chance to compose and study music from different periods and parts of the world.

What will I study?

Throughout the course you are expected to compose, perform, listen to and then comment on music. This GCSE course will introduce you to a wide range of music. You will perform, compose and listen to styles ranging from pop to classical music and music from around the world. Only 20% is a written exam.

Why should I study Music?

Music involves many different types of exciting activities such as performing, composing and learning how music from a variety of cultures and times is made. If you are concerned about performing in front of people, don’t worry, you can work in the music studio instead, (e.g. sequencing, recording and mixing).



PHYSICS

“Before coming to DLD, I had never learnt Physics and I thought Physics was just another subject involving maths. Now after spending a year doing GCSE Physics I have a better understanding of the world, the universe and life. Question everything. The teachers care a lot about you and they answer all questions, even the deepest ones (the simplest ones are the deepest). I am so grateful to be blessed with lovely teachers.”

Aliya Hendra, Current DLD Student

What is Physics?

The world we live in has been completely transformed by the scientific developments of the last 200 years. In GCSE Physics you will learn about some of the most important discoveries and gain an understanding of how some of the advances were made and verified.

What will I study?

The GCSE course covers many interesting and fundamentally important areas of Physics, including forces and motion, electricity, waves, space and astronomy, sustainable energy, radioactive decay and radiation. Along with these ideas it is also important to understand how the scientific process works.

Why should I study Physics?

Physics helps you to understand how the world works, from everyday things like microwave ovens and mobile phones, to the birth and death of stars and what happens inside atoms. It trains you to think logically and solve problems. It is great preparation for many careers including engineering, architecture, law, science and medicine.

How is it assessed?

There will be 3 exams and a controlled assessment task. For the controlled assessment you will plan and carry out a practical investigation, then write a written report in controlled conditions in class. The investigation title is set by OCR.

How is it assessed?

Unit	Modules	Weighting	Format
A181	P1,P2,P3	25%	1 hour exam
A182	P4,P5,P6	25%	1 hour exam
A183	P7	25%	1 hour exam
A184		25%	Controlled Assessment

What do I need?

Physics requires an enquiring mind, a desire to see how things work and to uncover the basic rules that govern the universe. You should be a person who never accepts blindly what you are told but always looks for the evidence which backs it up. It helps if you can think logically and if you are good with maths.

Notes/Reading List

Textbook

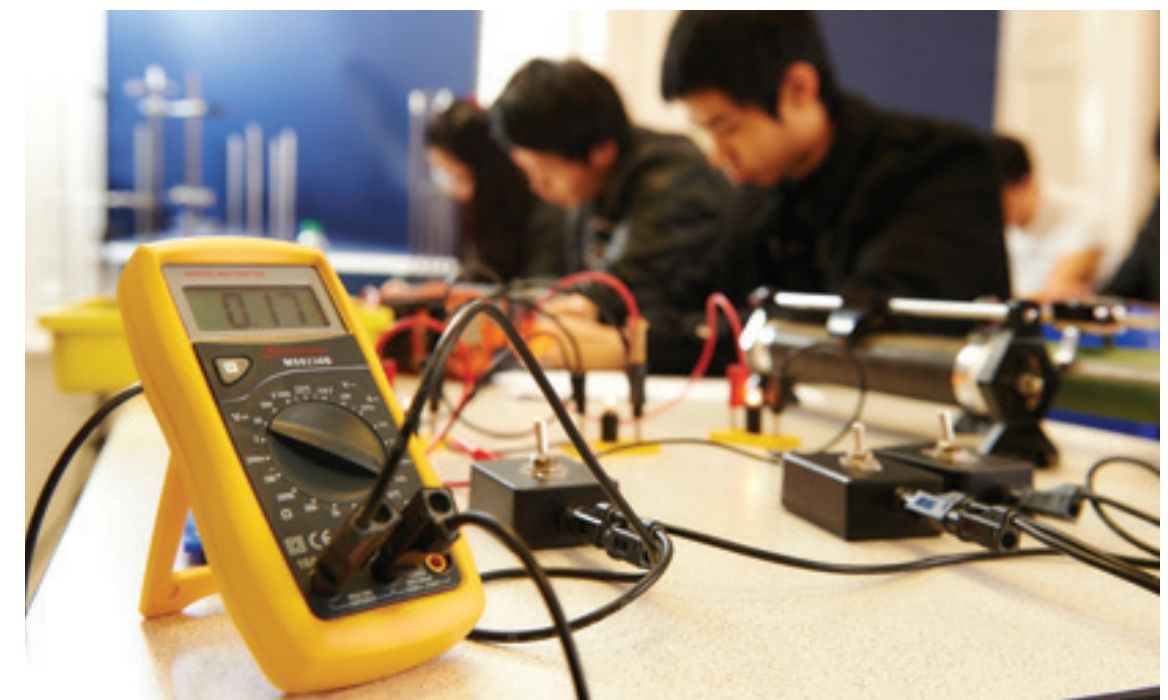
OCR 21st Century Science GCSE Physics
Publisher: Oxford University Press
ISBN: 978-0-19-9138425

Revision guide

GCSE Physics OCR 21st Century Revision Guide (2011)
Publisher: CGP
ISBN: 978 1 84762 636 3

Workbook

GCSE Physics OCR 21st Century Workbook (2011)
Publisher: CGP
ISBN: 978 1 84762 637 0



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

“Studying GCSE Religious Studies at DLD was an enriching experience and definitely the right decision for me as I enjoyed the challenge of studying two major world religions. The diversity of beliefs in the class also provided stimulating debate on a range of important contemporary issues.”

Serena Bhandari, DLD Graduate

Why Study Religious Studies?

Religious beliefs and practices continue to play an essential part in today's world. A clear understanding of them can help us to better comprehend the world around us, its possible futures as much as its past. Religious Studies involves discussion, debate and critical thinking on major issues such as the existence of God, medical ethics and the relationship between different religions. It naturally complements subjects such as English, History and Art and is an increasingly popular option at GCSE nationwide.

Students of Religious Studies may or may not be religious themselves, though they will wish to understand the beliefs of others and be willing to examine and develop their own assumptions and convictions. Teaching relates topics, where appropriate, to the context of contemporary society and typically involves class discussion, debate and study through videos, set texts and research.

What You Will Study

The Edexcel GCSE course consists of two units, each of which is assessed by an exam of 90 minutes:

1. Christianity and Society

- (a) Morality and Human Rights
- (b) The Environment
- (c) Medical Ethics
- (d) War and Peace
- (e) Crime and Punishment

2. Islam

- (a) Key Beliefs
- (b) The Five Pillars
- (c) The Shariah
- (d) The Mosque



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All the information in this booklet was correct at the time of printing but please note that subsequently there may be minor changes to the curriculum.