



STRATFORD GIRLS'  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Shaping Futures



# CHOOSING YOUR CURRICULUM 2022

A complete guide to our A-level options.



# A-level Art

## Why Study Art at SGG Sixth Form?

With 'creativity' being the third most employable skill requested by industry professionals, we are passionate at SGG Sixth Form in helping students to realise their creative potential. With two practicing artist/teachers in the department and an excellent art technician, each member brings a depth of knowledge and experience from a background in the art industry, strong art history background, painting and illustration to large scale kinetic sculptures. Students are given their own studio space in January of Year 12 for the duration of the course and are encouraged to make use of our print-making facilities and dark room processes such as screen printing and cyanotype. We believe in encouraging students to find their creative voice and develop an independent practice. We therefore deliver the Art, Craft & Design A-level, as we believe this offers maximum diversity across a range of media, giving students the chance to specialise in Year 13 should they wish in: Fine Art, Textiles, Three-Dimensional Design or Graphic Communication.

## Highlights

You will generate practical work, ideas and research from sources. You will experiment with media, processes, develop and refine ideas, and present outcomes. Much of the practical work for this syllabus is studio based, which sits alongside an exciting art programme incorporating artist workshops and visits, life drawing classes, art focused lectures and visits to degree shows and art exhibitions. Here you can develop your abilities of observation and analysis of the visual world, using your growing technical skill, personal expression and imagination to build a portfolio of work. The course stimulates interest, enjoyment and personal enrichment, as well as introducing artistic exploration, encouraging abstract thought and design rationale.

## Future Opportunities

Students that have completed this course have progressed to university to study: Fine Art, Textile Design, Fashion Design, Graphics and Advertising, Photography, Multimedia, Architecture, Product Design, Illustration and studied at the respected UK universities. Many university courses are looking for a good mixture in the transferable skills you can bring to their course and an Art, Craft & Design A-level offers just that!

## What Our Students Say

"The Art Department really understand how to get the best out of individuals and their encouragement and inspiration has made me want to aim high."

"I like how Art encourages you to think differently and you have the freedom to express yourself creatively."

"I find Art so therapeutic, and enjoy having the mix of this and Maths and Physics."

"We get challenged here to work outside of our comfort zone, to try new things and be original - and I like that."

"The Art Trips – Venice was amazing and I loved the Biennale".

# Art, Craft & Design

Examination Board: WJEC Eduqas

A-level Code A650QS

**What will I learn?** The two-year WJEC Eduqas GCE in A-level Art, Craft & Design will provide a solid foundation for your progression to Foundation Courses and HE degrees, whether in a creative field or not. The Art, Craft & Design option is unrestricted, giving you the opportunity to specialise in Fine Art, Textiles, Three-Dimensional Design or Graphic Communication in Year 13 should you wish.

**What are the recommended entry requirements?** Grade 7 at GCSE in any Art and Design subject would be preferable. We are also happy to consider students who have not completed an Art GCSE for the course. Entry for this option is subject to the submission of a portfolio of art work and an interview with the Head of Art.

**How will I be assessed?** **Component 1:** Personal Investigation – 60%  
The progression within your coursework will cover all the Assessment Objectives and is broken down as follows:

Year One: You will undertake a Foundation course during the first part of the academic year. This will enable you to take creative risks, experiment with new materials and refine existing techniques. You will explore a variety of materials, processes and techniques through tutor led workshops, with the emphasis on developing practical skills and building up a diverse portfolio of work. This is in preparation for the individual Personal Project which begins in the second half of the first year.

Year Two: In the second year you will continue to draw upon previous learning experiences to undertake and direct your own learning through your Personal Project. This involves assessed practical coursework and a written related study, which is a continuous prose, with a minimum word limit of 1000 words. This research project will be integrated into your practical investigations. These two elements combined account for 60% of the total A-level mark.

**Component 2:** Externally set assignment (ESA) – 40%  
The remaining 40% of the marks are from the Externally Set Assignment (examination). The examination paper is released on 1<sup>st</sup> February of Year 13 and accounts for the remaining 40% of your final mark. You will respond to a broad-based thematic starting point to encourage independence in developing ideas, intentions and a response. There is no separate written component for this unit.

**What are the costs?** A selection of Art media such as drawing pencils, inks, oil pastels and paints for use at home. A sketchbook and an A1 size art portfolio are available for purchase through school. Cost of travel and entrance to galleries and exhibitions including those independently organised.

# A-level Biology

## Why Study Biology at SGG Sixth Form?

The Biology department at SGG is a dynamic department with consistently high results and place it within the top 25% of the country. We use a variety of engaging teaching methods to help students understand biological concepts as well as expecting you to study independently and research areas of Biology that interest you most. Our highly experienced teachers have a range of biological backgrounds, including biochemistry and biotechnology as well as experience from research and industry. Over 85% of our students go on to study biological and medical related courses including natural science and earth science at top universities. We are proud of our very strong links with our alumnae, with many students returning to give help and guidance to our sixth form, not only the A-level course itself, but life beyond SGG Sixth Form and applications for Higher Education.

## Highlights

The department offers a wealth of support and enrichment opportunities, for example:

- Mentoring scheme run by Year 13 Biology ambassadors for Year 12 students
- MedSoc is run weekly as a preparation for students considering applying to Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary. Alumnae students now studying these courses are part of the programme. They share their experiences and offer advice for future applicants. Students also have opportunities to practice interview skills through mock interview sessions.
- Students take part in the Royal Society of Biology Intermediate Olympiad with many students achieving the top awards. Younger students take part in the Biology Challenge which stimulates curiosity for the natural world and encourages students to take an interest in biology outside of school.
- STEM and Dissection club which are run by the sixth form for younger students. Dissection Club gives the students the opportunity to develop their dissection skills well beyond the specification and is particularly enjoyed by students wishing to read Biological related sciences.
- We also provide individual guidance on Personal Statement preparation.

During the course we have a number of off-site field work activities including practical work at a Site of Special Scientific Interest. We also attend a Biology Conference for A-level students and a biomedical practical day at Warwick University. All of these enrichment activities are used to support students beyond the class room and into Higher Education and/or employment.

## Future Opportunities

- The study of Biology at this level leads to a wide variety of careers and is an excellent base for a university degree in healthcare e.g. medicine, veterinary or dentistry, as well as the biological sciences, such as biochemistry, molecular biology or forensic science.
- A-level Biology complements sports science, psychology, sociology and is specified or advantageous in 25 different university degree courses.

## What Our Students Say

"It's hard, but it's worth it. Persevere when you are met with challenges. There may be a lot of content, but I know in the future I will be grateful for the number of doors it opens"

"Understanding my body and environment in a new way"

# Biology

Exam Board : OCR  
A-level Code : H420

- What will I learn?** The course encourages you to:
- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
  - develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
  - develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills
  - develop an interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
  - understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society
- What are the recommended entry requirements?** It is expected that you will have studied either Combined Science or Biology GCSE, preferably obtaining at least grade 7.
- How will I be assessed?** Content is split into six teaching modules:
- Module 1 – Development of practical skills in biology (practical endorsement for the A-level)
  - Module 2 – Foundations in biology
  - Module 3 – Exchange and transport
  - Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease
  - Module 5 – Communication, homeostasis and energy
  - Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems
- What are the costs?** Students may wish to purchase a lab coat. Cost of travel and entrance for visits organised by the department.

# A-level Business

## Why Study Business at SGG Sixth Form?

Business has changed. Not just in the real world where the traditional business models are being ripped up as brand after brand goes into bankruptcy, but also in the subject itself. The subject now incorporates far more business-relevant topics that students will end up using in their high-powered, future careers in the business world. By using the department's own real-world experience, it is in this area that the department excels. By linking up with department alumnae, students can really see where their new technical abilities, such as investment appraisal, strategy development and viral marketing can take them in the future. But technical skills only get you so far. Arguably more important in the new business world of today and the future, will be the ability to change, react and inspire. These are business skills that studying Business at SGG will develop. By interacting with local, national and international businesses, our students of today are developing into the leaders of tomorrow. This has been proven by the hugely impressive career paths of the department alumnae. Student voice is also important within Business, our students are consulted on issues such as appropriate intervention methods and topics, trip locations and assessment schedules, creating a fully immersive experience. As such, our students play a hugely important part in the department.

## Highlights

Alongside the more rigorous academic nature of the subject (compared to previous incarnations), the subject benefits from a wide range of 'practical' lessons, developing knowledge and pertinent skills through interactive games and scenario-based learning. In Year 12 you will be encouraged to use skills learnt through the subject in the school's Young Enterprise programme. The course will involve a number of trips to a wide range of businesses, both in the local area and beyond, making network connections that could well be useful in later life. In addition, understanding why specific businesses such as Topshop and Debenhams have failed recently will give insights into how students will manage future businesses to be successful.

## Future Opportunities

Business is a popular A-level subject, relevant if you wish to follow a wide range of careers in the private and public sector across all industries, not least in the business field itself. It therefore works well with the sciences, arts, languages and humanities, and each year students successfully combine Business with subjects from all these areas. Many students have continued with Business-based degrees at university in the UK and USA, either as a single or joint course, with many exciting options available both in studies and career opportunities. This course is invaluable as it prepares you to interact with the business world in some way, either professionally or personally. A number of students have completed outstanding high-level apprenticeships at organisations such as Jaguar Land Rover, Aston Martin, Listers, Mondelez, Accenture and the BBC, while others are now employed at such companies as JP Morgan Chase, Wells Fargo Investments, Ernst and Young, KPMG, Deloitte, PWC, Grant Thornton and others.

## What Our Students Say

"Studying Business has made me far more focussed on the future. I now appreciate how important things like networking and leadership are and that if I want to be successful in my future career, then now is the time to start developing these skills."

"The huge variety of topics in Business makes it constantly interesting. Even when we stick with one topic for a few lessons, by looking at it from different business perspectives, you quickly realise that nothing is black and white."

"I genuinely look forward to Business lessons. There is a real team atmosphere in the class which helps us all to improve."

# Business

Exam Board: OCR

A-level Code: H431

**What will I learn?** The course encourages you to develop a critical understanding of business organisations, the context in which they operate and the markets which they serve. This is achieved by taking a problem-solving approach to the subject, so crucial in today's business world, which involves studying the internal workings and management of organisations, together with the process of decision-making in a dynamic external environment. The different perspectives of customers, owners, managers, employees and suppliers will be considered, as will the economic, environmental, ethical and international issues which constantly arise. You will acquire a range of skills including the ability to interpret and evaluate the significance of all these issues and to make your own decisions based on the information given.

**What are the recommended entry requirements?** No previous study of Business at GCSE level is required. However, due to the increased quantitative element, we do prefer that you have achieved a minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics, and also a grade 6 in English. You will obviously need to be interested in, and keep well informed about current business-related events and news items as they occur.

**How will I be assessed?** The A-level qualification will involve three exams at the end of Year 13. All exams will focus on a case study from the world of business relevant to that exam's particular focus. The exams will combine a mixture of multiple choice, data interpretation and essay-type questions to fully assess the student's abilities. There is no coursework for this course.

**What are the costs?** You are expected to provide your own writing materials and a course-specific textbook is available to purchase if you wish to do so. You will also be asked to pay for any course trips you participate in and you will have the option of subscribing to subject relevant magazines.



# A-level Chemistry

## Why Study Chemistry at SGG Sixth Form?

Chemistry matters! We all experience chemical reactions continuously, whether it be breathing, baking a cake or listening to a battery driven iPod. How are we to keep our planet clean, generate sustainable fuel and food resources for an expanding population, keep the atmosphere safe and eradicate killer diseases? We don't yet have all the answers to these questions but we do know that Chemistry will help provide some of them.

Join one of the most popular departments in the school with a specialist and experienced team who will support your development and make the subject relevant to you and your peers. With many years of teaching and research experience in schools, universities and industry (Biochemistry and Pharmacology), your teachers will guide you through the course, challenging your understanding and allowing you to appreciate the wider applications of the content you are learning. Your progress will be monitored closely by our personalised tracking system and individualised feedback will be given that will put you in the best position to succeed

## Highlights

Opportunities to enter the Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad and Cambridge Chemistry Challenge in both years. Internal and external visits including 'Spectroscopy in a Suitcase', a visit from Warwick university where research Chemists bring in analytical instrumentation for the students to use. Biannually, sixth form students have the chance to join the Science expedition in the summer term. The most recent expedition involved students addressing plastic and marine pollution and orangutan conservation in Borneo!

## Future Opportunities

With a qualification in Chemistry you could go on to Further or Higher Education, studying Chemistry or one of the other sciences or related subjects, or work in science-based industry such as chemical engineering, materials science or biotechnology. It is essential for the medical field, pharmacy and environmental science. Chemistry is also a well-respected subject in its own right and suitable for entry into a wide range of professions.

## What Our Students Say

"Chemistry is never BORON"

"You will be inspired by passionate teachers and their subject knowledge"

"Chemistry opens many doors"

"The teachers here are very supportive and give up their free time"

# Chemistry

Examination Board: OCR

A-level Code: H432

**What will I learn?** Chemistry is the study of the elements and their compounds. It is a science subject, so practical work is an important part of the course. The aims of these courses are to encourage you to:

- develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for Chemistry, including developing an interest in further study and careers in Chemistry
- appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society
- develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of *How Science Works*
- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of Chemistry and how they relate to each other

**What are the recommended entry requirements?**

It is expected that you will have studied either Combined Science or Chemistry GCSE, preferably obtaining at least a grade 7. A grade 7 in Mathematics at GCSE is also recommended.

Other subjects that would go well with Chemistry at A-level are Biology, Physics and Mathematics. However, many other combinations of subjects are also suitable.

**How will I be assessed?**

This subject has six modules of Assessment. To get a certificate for A-level Chemistry GCE, you will need to have been assessed on your performance in all 6 modules, as well as completing a Practical Endorsement which replaces A-level coursework. The modules are as follows:

**Module 1: Development of practical skills**

**Module 2: Foundations in Chemistry**

**Module 3: Periodic table and energy**

**Module 4: Core Organic Chemistry**

**Module 5: Physical chemistry and transition elements**

**Module 6: Organic chemistry and analysis**

**Assessment for the A-level will comprise of three written papers:**

Paper 1 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5

Paper 2 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6

Paper 3 assesses content from all six modules.

**What are the costs?**

No compulsory costs (students may wish to purchase a lab coat)

# A-level Computer Science

## Why Study Computer Science at SGG Sixth Form?

A-level Computer Science at SGG is about taking your existing keen interest in the Tech industry and helping you understand the role that you will play within it beyond sixth form. You will be taught by specialist teachers with experience of industry, teaching and moderation for the exam boards. This brings a realistic understanding to what our students are required to know in preparation for their projects and final exams. Lessons are a mix of theory, workshops and practical programming challenges. Many times, games are created to explore programming paradigms and create very strong programmers - a practical subject, taught practically!

## Highlights

Students are warmly encouraged to take full advantage of the extensive resources available at SGG Sixth Form. These include: fantastic IT resources, online learning environments, Virtual Reality equipment, games engines and a plethora of classic games consoles. The Department also runs a variety of external trips throughout the course to conventions, universities, other lectures and talks. SGG Sixth Form students also have external speakers and trainers from industry attend the school during the year to help further hone your skills and develop a credible portfolio of work.

## Future Opportunities

This qualification will provide you with a range of transferable skills that are useful across the curriculum. There will also be an extended programming project which will give you an opportunity to develop your coding skills. Computer Science is a very creative subject and skills such as problem-solving and analytical thinking will be refined and explored as you progress through the learning and assessment programme. You will be able to consider a variety of careers and plan your route following sixth form. Whether it be support in applying to university, apprenticeships or anything else, we are here to help as the opportunities present themselves in this exciting and quickly developing field.

## What Our Students Say

"It challenges you and makes you think, but it's a very rewarding and fun subject."

"It's a great subject that encourages interesting discussions within the classroom setting"

"Computer Science is a great A-level where we learn about issues and information that are extremely relevant in the "real world" in a fun and supportive environment!"

"It allows you to explore your interests and creativity, whilst enabling you to develop your academic and practical skills, helping you develop important qualities for the future"

# Computer Science

Examination Board: OCR

A-level Code: H446

**What will I learn?** The A-level Computer Science qualifications will inspire and challenge students to apply the knowledge they gain with the creative and technical skills they acquire. The qualification will be focused on programming, will build on our GCSE Computing and emphasise the importance of computational thinking as a discipline. There will be an expanded maths focus, much of which will be embedded within the course; computational thinking will be at the core of this new specification.

The A-level will consist of three components, two of which will be externally marked question papers making up 80% of the qualification. The other 20% will be the coursework project, with a greater emphasis on coding and programming.

**What are the entry requirements?** Previous study of Computing at GCSE level is required, in which you must have achieved a minimum of a grade 7. You will obviously need to be interested in, and keep well informed about current Computing-related events and news items as they occur.

**How will I be assessed?** There are two exams. Both 2.5hrs and worth 40% each. They are similar in nature to Component One and Component Two that you did at GCSE. There is also a programming project worth 20% of your marks.

**What are the costs?** None, but access to a reasonable specification computer and an internet connection at home are essential. During the course there will be trips organised as enhancements to the course. These are not essential but do provide a fantastic insight into technology as a career choice.

# A-level Drama and Theatre Studies

## Why Study Drama and Theatre Studies at SGGs Sixth Form?

SGGS's Drama Department provides a challenging environment where students are able to extend their practice as theatre practitioners through tailored practical workshops and tutorial support. Specialist staff are highly qualified and skilful, supporting students in their studies and towards their chosen destinations beyond A-level.

Lessons take place in an excellent, purpose-built drama studio, allowing students to flourish in all areas in drama and theatre. Students frequently direct performances, lead Drama Clubs and have an active voice in the life of the department.

## Highlights

We love going to the theatre - it is the best homework you can possibly do and we offer opportunities to see live performance every term. Theatre is developing and reinventing itself all the time; as a member of the audience, you will be introduced to new styles and techniques that will challenge your perceptions and inspire your creativity.

There are many opportunities to work with visiting theatre practitioners and practical workshops provide considerable opportunity beyond the set texts. You can also participate in and/or lead extra-curricular activities such as Drama Clubs or school performances. We are a busy, exciting department to be part of!

## Future Opportunities

This course is an obvious choice if you are intending to pursue a career in all aspects of theatre or production. The transferable skills you will acquire are fundamental for anyone presenting ideas to others, becoming an effective communicator or working creatively within a team.

## What Our Students Say

"Be in a class with talented, like-minded people."

"Learn about multiple practitioners and debate with classmates."

"Watching live theatre and performing under the stage lights in front of an audience gives me a rush and makes me feel confident, proud and inspired."

"Live performances inspire me to act, make me feel certain that this is what I want to do."

# Drama and Theatre Studies

Examination Board: AQA

A-level Code: 7262

**What will I learn?** This course inspires students to become independent theatre makers with the skills required to progress to higher education.

There is in-depth study of written theatrical texts, the analysis of live performance and exploration of theoretical writings on the subject. The course demands practical, creative and communication skills. You will extend your ability to create drama either in a performing or production role. You will also be required to write effectively to develop your powers of analysis.

**What are the recommended entry requirements?**

It is not essential to have studied GCSE Drama, however, experience of live theatre as a performer, designer or audience member is essential.

Creativity, imagination and respect for other's ideas are essential qualities.

**How will I be assessed?**

## **Component 1 – Drama and Theatre – 40%**

What is assessed

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of two set plays (50 marks)
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers (30 marks)

How it is assessed

- Written exam: 3 hours

## **Component 2 – Creating Original Drama – 30% (Practical)**

What is assessed

- Process of creating devised drama (influenced by the work of a prescribed practitioner)
- Performance of devised drama (as performer, designer or director)

How it is assessed

- Working notebook (40 marks)
- Devised performance (20 marks)

## **Component 3 – Making Theatre – 30% (Practical)**

What is assessed

- Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts from different plays, one of which is performed as a final assessed piece (you may contribute as performer, designer or director)
- Reflective report evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts

How it is assessed

- Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks)
- Reflective report (20 marks)

**What are the costs?**

Experiencing live theatre is central to this course. The department offers a wide range of live theatre opportunities that students can opt into, as well as in-school workshops during lessons. Costs vary dependent upon the experience and the number of plays students wish to see. Students can choose to purchase their two set texts to support their studies at home.

# A-level Economics

## Why Study Economics at SGGS Sixth Form?

Whilst teaching the specification is of course critical, Economics at SGGS goes further. Whether that is through the development of important 'soft' skills such as leadership, independent problem solving or presentation skills, or through gaining a keen commercial awareness so important for future careers, you'll get so much more than just high-quality teaching of the A-level course. Economics and Business remains the school's number one destination for university courses with a remarkably high number of students taking advantage of the additional support required in this area each to go on to related undergraduate courses. The department also offers tailored support sessions to students considering one of the excellent higher-level apprenticeships available. Support in all areas is supported by a number of ex-students, now enjoying high-level careers in city-based institutions and beyond, and maintaining links with department alumni is critical to providing a valuable network to our Economics students when they leave the department and go on to the next stage of their career. Student voice is also important within Economics where students are consulted on issues such as appropriate intervention methods and topics, trip locations and assessment schedules.

## Highlights

Whilst many economic theories have survived scrutiny for decades, or even centuries, the context that they operate within is always changing. Hence you will benefit from studying a 'real-time' subject. You will develop a commercial awareness that will be vital when applying for jobs within a number of key industries, particularly those within the finance sector with the possibilities of visits to a number of city-based institutions in London as well as an annual economics conference with a number of highly regarded speakers from the world of economics, business and politics. Delving in to the highly topical news stories of the day and forming their own views on contentious issues is critical to developing core persuasive skills for later management positions which our Economics students invariably go on to achieve, as evidenced by the close links to ex-SGGS Economics students that the department maintains – contacts that frequently help current students achieve work experience positions or even graduate jobs.

## Future Opportunities

Economics is a highly regarded academic subject relevant if you wish to follow a wide range of careers such as investment banking, marketing, senior management, law and even medicine. It therefore works well with the sciences, arts, languages and humanities and each year students successfully combine Economics with subjects from all these areas. Previous students have gone on to study a wide range of Economics-based courses at top universities in the UK and USA, completed outstanding high-level apprenticeships and are now employed at such companies as JP Morgan Chase, Accenture, Wells Fargo Investments, Ernst and Young, KPMG, Mondelez, Deloitte, PWC, Grant Thornton and others.

## What Our Students Say

"Throughout school, I always knew I wanted to be a doctor. Then I studied Economics. It's a mind (and career) changing subject."

"Studying Economics at SGGS has prepared me for a future career in Business, but more importantly, it has made me twice as ambitious as I was before."

"The lessons have a clear purpose but the discussions often end up on seemingly un-related issues. Then you realise that Economics touches everything we do, nothing is un-related and the class has just had a fiery, relevant debate where we have all benefitted"

# Economics

Examination Board: AQA

A-level Code: 7136

**What will I learn?** The course encourages you to develop an understanding of economic concepts and theories through a critical consideration of current economic issues, problems and institutions of everyday life. As such, you will apply the economic theories and concepts learned in a range of contexts and appreciate their value and limitations in explaining real world phenomena. You will also analyse, explain and evaluate the market economy and the role of government in it. The subject matter of the modules is of particular relevance in today's dynamic global economy. You will develop a critical approach to various economic models and methods of enquiry, applying them to a range of present day economic problems. The ethical and social dimensions of Economics will be included, such as the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy, the relationship between rich and poor countries, the distribution of income and wealth within a particular society and the quality of life between and within economies.

You will also develop an awareness of the economic environment in which you live. It will therefore be necessary for you to keep well informed about economic events and debates as they occur.

**What are the recommended entry requirements?** No previous study of Economics is required. However, due to the increased quantitative elements on the course, it is highly recommended that you have achieved at least a minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics. Essay writing is also a key skill and we would expect students to have achieved well in GCSE English - a grade 6 is preferable.

**How will I be assessed?** The A-level qualification will involve three exams at the end of Year 13. All exams will focus on stimulus material from the world of economics relevant to that exam's particular focus. The exams will combine a mixture of multiple choice, data interpretation and essay-type questions to fully assess your abilities. There is no coursework for this course.

**What are the costs?** You are expected to provide your own writing materials and a course-specific textbook is available to purchase if the student wishes to do so. You will be asked to pay for any course trips you participate in and you will have the option of subscribing to subject relevant magazines, including *The Economist*.



# A-level English Literature

## Why Study English Literature at SGGS Sixth Form?

Studying English Literature at SGGS is as much about extending your existing love of reading as it is about success in examinations. Our excellent results are testament to the sophisticated, interpretative skills that our students hone during the two-year course. Under the guidance of experienced subject specialists, our students are encouraged to refine, develop and decipher the written word. Our classrooms become places where students put their assumptions about the world into question by reformulating their own understanding of it through the texts we study.

As discriminating consumers of the English language, we focus the students' attention on also becoming sophisticated users of English. At SGGS you can expect to read widely, discuss confidently and ultimately find your own critical voice; attributes that will set you apart in the wider world of Higher Education and Employment.

## Highlights

Students are warmly encouraged to take full advantage of the vibrant out of classroom learning opportunities at SGGS. These may include: theatre trips; we are on the doorstep of one of the nation's most famous theatres, the RSC; external lectures, such as the annual Schools Shakespeare Lecture, and visiting author workshops. The Department also runs an annual Literary Festival which is led by Sixth Form students as well as a popular weekly Creative Writing group. SGGS students have traditionally enjoyed success in a range of local and national poetry and creative writing competitions.

## Future Opportunities

Language is the defining activity of the human race. By studying English Literature, you will be demonstrating to any Higher Education establishment or future employer your capacity to engage with the real world. The interpretative and discursive skills developed during this course are highly sought after, not just in the more obvious professions such as Media or Marketing but also in fields as diverse as Medicine and Law.

Students from SGGS have gone on to read a wide range of subjects at university having studied A-level English Literature. They take with them an imaginative and purposeful use of language, creative flair and a deep sense of literary tradition and culture

## What Our Students Say

"I will be reading Politics and International Relations at Uni. Studying English has enabled me to see how political all fiction is..."

"It's great to be able to dig deep into poetry and reach epiphanies!"

"I'm applying to Cambridge to study English Literature because I love the subject. I want to be an author."

"Learning how to articulate my ideas skilfully and to challenge myself with other world views is a lesson for life."

"It's made me fall in love with Literature and I can't wait to study it for the next three years!"

# English Literature

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

A-level Code: 9ET0

**What will I learn?** For English Literature GCE Advanced Level you will study eight texts from across the genres of prose, poetry and drama, three of which will be pre-1900 (including one Shakespeare play). In addition, you are also encouraged to undertake a comprehensive programme of independent wider reading.

**What are the recommended entry requirements?** Grade 7 in English and English Literature at GCSE level is preferred.

**How will I be assessed?** A-level students will be entered for three exam components in June worth a total of 80% of the A-level course. Coursework is worth 20% of the A-level course.

Unit	Level	Name	Mode of assessment	Duration	Weighting
					GCE
1	GCE	Drama	Written examination	2 hours 15 mins	30%
2	GCE	Prose	Written examination	1 hour 15 mins	20%
3	GCE	Poetry	Written examination	2 hours 15 mins	30%
4	GCE	Coursework	Comparative essay	-	20%

**What are the costs?** You will find it helpful to buy your own copies of the set texts so that you can annotate them. This means seven texts across Year 12 and Year 13, probably amounting to approximately £40 over the two years. We will provide you with clean copies for the A-level exams. You may also want to buy some of your coursework texts, particularly the poetry or novel. We can recommend competitively priced editions and are sometimes able to secure discounts by bulk orders in school.

# A-level French

## Why Study French at SGGs Sixth Form?

The MFL department at SGGs has a long-standing tradition of helping its students to become highly proficient linguists. Our students go on to attain the highest grades, which in turn enables them to access the best universities, apprenticeships and employment. Our French course is taught by two highly experienced members of the department, with topics shared according to each teacher's specific areas of expertise. We are committed to a language immersive experience for all. Therefore, working with the French Assistant in small groups is core within our provision, supporting the development of excellent linguistic skills – our students have an average of 86% in the speaking exam over the past three years! Lessons tasks are varied and are geared towards not only language acquisition, but also skills and exam technique. A curiosity of the target language is genuinely encouraged and valued. Cultural awareness is an integral part of the course and students have the opportunity to discover French speaking countries around the world. Our course allows a student to gain a global perspective that enhances their knowledge and understanding of world that they will enter into.

## Highlights

Students benefit from ten hours of teaching a fortnight, in addition to a conversation lesson with a language assistant from the beginning of October until May. The Modern Foreign Language Department has a range of up to date resources, including online learning tools to support the independent learning of our students. which are employed in class and for home study and revision purposes. Our A-level students can also take advantage of a range of reading, viewing and listening resources available in the library and online to maximise their learning. Students also study a film and a text in the target language.

## Future Opportunities

An A-level in a Modern Foreign Language is an asset which is very highly prized by higher education institutions and by employers. In fact, foreign language study enhances one's opportunities in government, business, medicine, law, technology, military, industry and marketing amongst others.

Languages mean that you can do basically any job that you want anywhere in the world. Also, you get to move up in your selected field more easily if you can speak different languages and network or collaborate at an international level. It is also possible to receive a higher salary.

## What Our Students Say

"It's thrilling to have the skill set to converse with others in a foreign language."

"I was able to hold a conversation about the World Cup in a French hair salon."

"Getting to know a new culture has been a most interesting aspect of the course."

"Reading French literature/sources for other subjects has been a useful skill."

"Learning any new language is hard but being bilingual is cool."

"Overcoming difficult vocab/grammar to become a confident linguist."

"Learning a new language opens many opportunities, and means you gain confidence in yourself and your abilities"

# French

Examination Board: AQA

A-level Code: 7652

**What will I learn?** Among the many benefits, an A-level in French is designed to encourage you to:

- Develop the knowledge and skills acquired at GCSE level and therefore use French in a wide range of contexts
- Gain a useful insight into another culture and reflect on various aspects of contemporary society

Topics studied include : Cyber-society; Heritage; Living in a diverse society; Politics; Media; Immigration and Integration.

Some lessons will be in an IT room to take advantage of our online resources. You will have a weekly session with the French assistant.

**What are the recommended entry requirements?** A grade 7 at GCSE is preferred for entry onto this course.

**How will I be assessed?**

**Paper 1:** Listening and Writing/Reading and Writing/Translation  
2 hours 30 minutes – 50% of whole exam – 100 marks total

**Section A :** 30 marks  
Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources.  
Questions in the target language to be answered with non-verbal responses or in the target language.

**Section B :** 70 marks  
Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes  
Questions in the target language to be answered with non-verbal responses or in the target language.  
Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words.  
Translation into French ; a passage of minimum 100 words.

**Paper 2:** Writing  
2 hours – 20% of whole exam – 80 marks total  
Either one question on a set text or one question on a set film **OR** two questions on set texts.  
All questions will require a critical appreciation.  
No access to texts or films during the assessment.

**Paper 3:** Speaking  
21-23 minutes – 30% of whole exam – 60 marks in total  
Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card. The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test  
Presentation and discussion of Individual Research Project

**What are the costs?** We will provide you with a textbook, grammar exercises and worksheets, as well as online log ins for beneficial websites. Much of the course will use listening files in mp3 format, and you will also use videos. In Year 13 you may wish to purchase your own copy of the literature text studied, so that you can annotate directly in the novel. A good dictionary is also essential and you will need an A4 lever-arch file.

# A-level Geography

## Why Study Geography at SGG Sixth Form?

Our main priority is to enable you to attain your true academic potential whilst enhancing your personal skillset – a happy and healthy person, who is ready to go out into the world and ride the ‘rollercoaster of life’.

As Michael Palin so eloquently put it, ‘Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?’

In order to facilitate this, we offer you teacher expertise and a strong curriculum base, within a highly professional and supportive department.

## Highlights

Our five-day fieldtrip is an excellent opportunity for you to strengthen and make new friendships, have fun and further enhance your geographical knowledge, skills and understanding. Geography is a subject for our times, inherently multi-disciplinary, in a world that increasingly values people who have the skills needed to work across the physical and social sciences. Our geographers get to learn how to critically analyse data and to read around their subject. You will learn about geographic information systems and how to turn maps from a two-dimensional representation of a country’s physical contours into a tool that illustrates social attributes or attitudes: [not just where people live, but how, what they think](#) and [how they vote](#). You will also learn about the physics of climate change; the interaction of weather events and flood risk and the way people’s behaviour is influenced by the space around them. Its synoptic linkage results in a truly delicious ‘melting pot’ of knowledge and skills, which enhance and are in turn enhanced by other subjects; in particular Biology and Economics.

## Future Opportunities

This specification has been chosen as a good basis for geography or a related subject at higher education, as well as being of great value to anyone going directly into employment.

Geography is a broad-based subject with links to many other subjects. It can be studied as a single subject at higher education in the field of arts or sciences; this will depend upon the specific module options chosen. Geography can also be studied in a great variety of combinations with other subjects. It is a subject valued by a wide range of employers for various reasons, including the subject’s emphasis on problem solving skills as well as the analysis and synthesis of a variety of types of data. Geography students go into a very wide range of types of occupation, for example areas such as planning, leisure and tourism, journalism and management.

## What Our Students Say

“The teaching in Geography is outstanding”

“Independence on fieldtrips”

“Carrying out my own geographical enquiry on whatever I want”

“Motivation from classmates”

“Understanding the world around me in more depth”

“We get biscuits!”

“A ‘chilled’ subject”

# Geography

Examination Board: AQA

A-level Code: 7037

**What will I learn?** This subject is the study of contemporary geography studying the relationship of human populations to each other over space and time and their relationship with their environment from the local to global scale. The new specification will excite students' minds, challenge perceptions and stimulate their investigative and analytical skills. This specification is designed to be taken over two years and is therefore a linear qualification. In order to achieve the award, students must complete all assessments at the end of the two-year course. To look at a copy of the draft specification please use this link - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/as-and-a-level/geography-7037>.

**What are the recommended entry requirements?** Grade 7 or above in Geography GCSE or IGCSE.  
Any individual without a qualification in Geography at KS4 but who desperately wanted to take the subject at A-level, would need to meet with the HOD to discuss the possibility.

**How will I be assessed?**

**Component 1 physical geography exam (40% of A-level):**  
Structured multiple-choice, short and extended questions; 2-hour 30 minutes paper.

**Component 2 human geography exam (40% of A-level):**  
Structured multiple-choice, short and extended questions; 2-hour 30 minutes paper.

**Component 3 geographical investigation (20% of A-level):**  
Students complete an individual investigation of 3,000 - 4,000 words which must include data collected in the field (20% of A-level).

**What are the costs?** Basic clothing for the fieldtrip – (boots if possible – waterproofs are available free of charge at the FSC).  
Fieldtrip – approximately £450. Financial help may be available from the school bursary fund.  
**NB – With varying coronavirus restrictions, residential fieldtrips may not be possible; they have currently been replaced by day trips within the local area and the cost is therefore less than stated above.**

# A-level German

## Why Study German at SGGGS Sixth Form?

At SGGGS, German A-level results are consistently outstanding with students in recent years attaining **100% A\*-B**. In 2019, **80%** of students attained **A\*/A**. This is 31% higher than similar centres and puts Stratford Girls' Grammar amongst the top performing schools nationally, including other selective schools, independent schools, and international schools. Results since have continued to rise. Our student's benefit from teaching by highly qualified and passionate teaching experts. The teaching groups are of optimal size to ensure that students have a mutually supportive and enjoyable learning experience. This also affords individualised learning for all students. They learn in a supportive and relaxed environment, with much opportunity for collaborative learning, group discussions and development of oral fluency within a supportive atmosphere. In addition, they will have weekly conversation lessons with a language assistant. Students of German at SGGGS are passionate and enthusiastic and every year go on to study at top universities, including Oxbridge. But our aim remains to equip all students with the linguistic ability and love of the language and culture in order to move onto which ever their preferred next steps are.

## Highlights

Students will all have at least one lesson per two week timetable in a computer room, where they will have access to resources to support the independent learning of our students. Our A-level students can also take advantage of a range of reading and listening resources to maximise their learning and will all have access to online resources including the OUP online learning platform *Kerboodle*, which is accessible at school or from home. They will also study a film and a text: The award-winning film *Goodbye Lenin* and the very relevant play; *Andorra* by Max Frisch. The course allows students to develop a knowledge and understanding of current affairs, from an international perspective, in a changing, political landscape.

## Future Opportunities

In an increasingly globalised world, being able to speak and communicate in German can put you at a distinct advantage in the competitive job market. Learning German can provide many opportunities both academically and career-wise, and the ability to engage in meaningful dialogue with crucial political and trading partners is becoming more and more important. An A-level in German is an asset which is very highly prized by higher education institutions and by employers. As Germany continues to dominate European politics and ever increasingly take centre stage on global affairs, now is a fascinating as well as sensible time to learn all about its language and culture. The opportunities it will provide could prove priceless. Job vacancies for German speakers have risen by 11.6% over the last three years and German has been seen as the second language most desired by employers. Furthermore, there aren't many native English speakers who master the German language to such high levels. Now that the UK has left the EU, it has become even more important to speak German proficiently. It is not just the language - it is the understanding of the people and the culture you'll acquire that will impress.

## What Our Students Say

"Learning to speak a new language isn't always easy but it is made possible through the support and expertise of such fabulous teaching. The challenge of learning German is ultimately worthwhile for the skills and confidence gained in the process."

"I really enjoyed studying German at SGGGS – the support I received and my subsequent results have led me on to do things I never thought I would and I'm loving every minute. I thoroughly recommend German!"

"Since my time at SGGGS, I have found that even a small level of German helps you stick out in a highly competitive job market. This is certainly food for thought amongst potential A-level students!"

# German

Examination Board: AQA

A-level Code: 7662

- What will I learn?** Among the many benefits, A-level in German is designed to encourage you to:
- Develop the knowledge and skills acquired at GCSE level and therefore use German in a wide range of contexts
  - Gain a useful insight into another culture and reflect on various aspects of contemporary society
  - Enhance employment prospects, facilitate foreign travel and experience the enjoyment and motivation of improving your linguistic level.

Some lessons will be in a computer room to take advantage of online language platforms that the department subscribes to and listening material. You will have a weekly session with the German assistant.

**What are the recommended entry requirements?**

A grade 7 at GCSE is preferred for entry onto this course.

**How will I be assessed?**

**Paper 1:** Listening and Writing/Reading and Writing/Translation  
2 hours 30 minutes – 50% of whole exam – 100 marks total

**Section A :** 30 marks

Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources.

Questions in the target language to be answered with non-verbal responses or in the target language.

**Section B :** 70 marks

Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes

Questions in the target language to be answered with non-verbal responses or in the target language.

Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words.

Translation into German ; a passage of minimum 100 words.

**Paper 2:** Writing

2 hours – 20% of whole exam – 80 marks total

Either one question on a set text or one question on a set film **OR** two questions on set texts.

All questions will require a critical appreciation.

No access to texts or films during the assessment.

**Paper 3:** Speaking

21-23 minutes – 30% of whole exam – 60 marks in total

Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card. The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test

Presentation and discussion of Individual Research Project.

**What are the costs?**

We will provide you with a textbook, grammar exercises and worksheets, as well as online log ins for beneficial websites. Much of the course will use listening files in mp3 format, and you will also use videos. In Year 13 you may wish to purchase your own copy of the literature text studied, so that you can annotate directly in the novel. A good dictionary is also essential and you will need an A4 lever-arch file.



# A-level History

## Why Study History at SGGGS Sixth Form?

You cannot hope to make sense of the present without having a clear understanding of the past as everything that is happening around has been influenced by, and is a direct result of that which preceded it. History develops your analytical and critical abilities while at the same time encouraging you to provide judgements based on the information before you. These soft skills are very often the skillsets that employers are desperate for, therefore History allows you to keep your career options open.

You will have access to a team of Historians who are experts in their field with a wide range of teaching experiences to draw upon. Above all you should study History at SGGGS because it will stimulate you intellectually and we know that you will enjoy it.

## Highlights

Year 12 guided tour and workshop on Tudor history at Hampton Court Palace, which provides an insight into the importance of the role of the monarchy in Tudor government. The current Year 12 and 13 students will be visiting Paris in order to discover more about how the French Revolution developed and changed society, not just in France but across Europe.

Access to a range of relevant historical articles, journals and books as part of the course.

Outstanding teaching in an intellectually stimulating environment.

## Future Opportunities

- Apart from being interesting, fun and thrilling, History is incredibly useful. Through the study of history, skills are developed that can be applied to many careers including teaching, finance, the law, journalism and human resources.
- Graduate prospects for those who have studied History are generally very high.
- A-level History fosters independence in thought and actions.
- If you wish to apply for Oxbridge, you will have access to application sessions that the History and Politics Department run. These sessions focus upon deepening and developing your Historical understanding, improving your ability to communicate complex historical concepts (both orally and in the written form), preparing you for the production of an intelligent and insightful answer to the HAT and the development of your interview skills technique during the Autumn term of Year 13.

## What Our Students Say

"History develops my ability to form opinions and justify them"

"I can learn about the present from the study of History"

"History provides me with the skills to challenge the perspective of others, as well as my own."

"History allows you to be wrong in a safe environment."

# History

Examination Board: AQA

Specification: 7042

A-level Components: 1C, 2H, 3A or 3B

**What will I learn?** An interest in and enthusiasm for history and an understanding of its intrinsic value and significance. The specification encourages you to:

- acquire, and effectively communicate, knowledge and understanding of selected periods of history
- develop an understanding of historical terms and concepts
- explore the significance of events, individual issues and societies in history
- understand the nature of historical evidence and the methods used by historians in analysis and evaluation
- develop an understanding of how the past has been interpreted and represented
- develop an understanding of the nature of historical study that history is concerned with judgements based on available evidence and that historical judgements may be provisional.

**What are the recommended entry requirements?**

If History has been studied at GCSE then a grade 7 is preferable. A GCSE in History is not an essential requirement, and in this instance a grade 7 in English is required.

**How will I be assessed?**

## **Unit 1 - The Tudors 1485-1603**

There is one paper of 2 hours and 30 minutes in length making up 40% of the total A-level mark. The written paper consists of two sections made up of three questions, one of which is compulsory. The compulsory question in section A will be linked to historical interpretations and will be worth 30 marks. The section B part of the paper will have a choice of four essays of which the candidate will choose two to complete.

## **Unit 2 – France in Revolution 1774-1815**

There is one paper of 2 hours and 30 minutes in length making up 40% of the total A-level mark. The written paper consists of two sections made up of three questions, one of which is compulsory. The compulsory question in section A will be linked to primary sources and will be worth 30 marks. The section B part of the paper will have a choice of three essays of which the candidate will choose two to complete.

## **Component Three: The Historical Investigation**

A personal study based on the topic of the student's choice from a list of 6 questions, in the form of a 4500 word essay. This component will make up 20% of the total A-level mark. The Historical Investigation will be marked by the department and moderated by AQA.

**What are the costs?**

None

# A-level Maths & Further Maths

## Why Study Maths and Further Maths at SGGs Sixth Form?

The Maths Department at SGGs has an outstanding record of achievement at all levels. We are an exceptional team of subject specialist teachers whose depth and enthusiasm for Mathematics is second to none. We work together to pursue the same goal of providing you with the best experience of A-level Maths; supporting you both inside and outside of classroom, allowing you to become resilient and independent learners and preparing you for life beyond sixth form. We have a wealth of teaching experience within the department and an in-depth understanding of the exam requirements, ensuring that both an appreciation of the subject and exam success are achieved.

You may opt to study Maths A-level at SGGs Sixth Form for a number of reasons - to pursue Maths further, for a valued qualification, or to help with other subjects. Our aim is to instil in you the confidence and skills necessary to achieve your mathematical potential. A-level Maths enables you to broaden your mathematical skills, deepen your understanding and develop your problem-solving skills. You will improve your resilience and the skills of thinking logically, analytically, creatively and strategically, and will learn to justify and prove statements by recognising the importance of rigour in your solutions.

We are proud that Maths at SGGs is one of the most popular and successful A-level subjects in the Sixth Form.

## Highlights

- The enjoyment of working on Maths problems
- The opportunity to enter the national Senior Maths Challenge
- Masterclasses and lectures at local universities

## Future Opportunities

Mathematics complements a wide variety of other A-level courses and in addition, Mathematics A-level provides an understanding of the mathematical tools and techniques that are an integral part of many degree courses. Further Maths is beneficial if you are considering either a Maths or other STEM degree.

## What Our Students Say

"Maths opens doors"

"That moment when something I didn't understand clicks, really spurs me on to practice more for that moment again"

"Maths is hard but it pushes me to work hard to achieve my goals and improve myself as a student"

"It helps me realise what I can do"

"The department is well organised, all the teachers know the subject well and are great at teaching"

"Further maths is outstanding, inspiring, challenging, empowering: it has some tricky concepts but it's so exciting to go beyond the normal reach of maths"

"I'm learning more than I ever imagined"

# Mathematics

Examination Board: AQA

A-level Code: 7357

**What will I learn?** The skills developed by studying mathematics in the sixth form are highly valued by employees and universities across a wide range of careers from medicine and law to engineering and management. Mathematical skills aid the development of powers of analysis and strong problem-solving skills.

Some of the aims of the specification are to encourage you to:

- develop your understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment
- extend your range of mathematical skills and techniques and use them in more difficult unstructured problems
- use mathematics as an effective means of communication
- take increasing responsibility for your own learning and the evaluation of your own mathematical development.

**What are the recommended entry requirements?**

Grade 7 or above at GCSE Maths is preferable.

**How will I be assessed?**

There will be 3 equally weighted papers, each of 2 hours duration, and each marked out of 100.

**Summary of subject content:**

**The content of A-level Maths Courses is the same for every exam board, the difference will be in the assessment structure**

Pure

Proof,  
Coordinate geometry in the  $(x,y)$  plane  
Trigonometry  
Differentiation  
Numerical methods  
Algebra and functions  
Sequences and series  
Exponentials and logarithms  
Integration  
Vectors

Applied

Data presentation and interpretation  
Statistical distributions  
Statistical sampling  
Probability  
Statistical hypothesis testing  
  
Quantities and units in mechanics  
Forces and Newton's laws  
Kinematics  
Moments

**What are the costs?**

Calculator: it must be able to calculate probabilities from standard distributions, so most GCSE scientific ones will not be suitable. Advice will be given on suitable calculators.

# Further Mathematics

Examination Board: AQA  
A-level Code: 7367

**This course is for those students who wish to study Further Maths in addition to Maths**

## What are the recommended entry requirements?

Grade 8 or above at GCSE Maths is preferable. This is a 4<sup>th</sup> A-level so strong GCSE grades across all subjects are a requirement.

## How will I be assessed?

As well as the content detailed on the Maths page, the following additional content will be covered for the Further Maths papers

There will be 3 equally weighted papers, each of 2 hours duration, and each marked out of 100.

### Paper 1

#### What's assessed

May assess content from the following sections:

- A: Proof
- B: Complex numbers
- C: Matrices
- D: Further Algebra and Functions
- E: Further Calculus
- F: Further Vectors
- G: Polar coordinates
- H: Hyperbolic functions
- I: Differential equations
- J: Trigonometry
- L: Coordinate geometry

### Paper 2

#### What's assessed

May assess content from the following sections:

- A: Proof
- B: Complex numbers
- C: Matrices
- D: Further Algebra and Functions
- E: Further Calculus
- F: Further Vectors
- G: Polar coordinates
- H: Hyperbolic functions
- I: Differential equations
- J: Trigonometry
- L: Coordinate geometry

### Paper 3

#### What's assessed

This will be a paper on the applied topics and we have chosen of

- Mechanics and Discrete

## What are the costs?

Calculator: it must be able to calculate probabilities from standard distributions, so most GCSE scientific ones will not be suitable. Advice will be given on suitable calculators.

# A-level Music

## Why Study Music at SGGs Sixth Form?

The Music course at SGGs is personalised to the specific needs and interests of our students every year. Staff are versatile and keen to support students to develop as individual musicians, with their own areas of expertise. There are many opportunities at SGGs to perform in outstanding ensembles, as well as to conduct, direct, arrange and accompany. Our team of peripatetic staff are all private specialists who have been selected personally by the Music Department. SGGs Sixth Form has strong links with Warwickshire performance venues and our students are encouraged to perform regularly; as budding professional musicians, we give them the skills and trust them with the responsibilities, which is fantastic preparation for a wide variety of future careers. Finally, our biannual music tour to New York is incredible, where students can perform in venues such as the Cathedral of St John the Divine, Swing 46 Jazz Club, One World Observatory and work with music professors from Julliard, choral directors, TONY award winners and Broadway stars. The New York tour is legendary and is only made possible by the network of contacts built up by SGGs's Music Department.

## Highlights

Music students have many opportunities to perform and take part in concerts held in school and out throughout the year. They also produce some outstanding compositions and we have useful links with Birmingham Conservatoire's composition department and Stratford's resident orchestra, The Orchestra of the Swan. Members of the orchestra have recorded student compositions and given them expert advice on writing for different instruments. A-level students are encouraged to broaden their academic and practical studies; former students have had work published in The British Music Society magazine and we regularly support students to gain places in NYO, Birmingham Junior Conservatoire and to obtain music scholarships to their chosen universities. Exciting Music Department tours have included trips to New York, Tuscany and Paris

## Future Opportunities

Each year students go on to study Music, Music Technology or Musical Theatre at degree level. Students are fully prepared for the move to further education and are supported and advised by staff as to appropriate courses and universities.

Universities and employers value Music A-level for its breadth of skills and production of confident and independent students. We maintain contact with all our alumnae and they are always happy to give our current students the benefit of their experiences

## What Our Students Say

"We had the opportunity to do EVERYTHING at SGGs. Whether it be conducting, composing, performing or writing contextual essays, we practised all skills and they have come in useful at University. The skills you learn from music are extremely applicable to a variety of paths, be it helping with confidence or thinking outside of the box."

"Before SGGs I had no plans to study Music, or take it any further than a hobby. It is now my profession. I LOVED Music A-level, and my extra-curricular music experience was the main reason I got in to university."

"Prior to SGGs, I had never experienced chamber music before, so being involved in both a quartet and an octet was a brilliant experience. I was also able to focus on my singing and was encouraged and supported to apply for choral scholarships. This has led to amazing opportunities singing in venues such as St John's Smith Square, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Westminster Cathedral and recording for Classic FM and BBC Radio 3."

# Music

Examination Board: AQA

A-level Code: 7272

**What will I learn?** An exciting and expressive course, channelling creativity and developing an enviable range of academic skills. Individuality is encouraged and the focus is very much on the growth and maturity of you as an all-round musician, preparing you for a wide range of careers and/or pastimes.

**What are the recommended entry requirements?** It is advisable to have achieved grade 5 both on an instrument/voice and music theory. GCSE music is not essential, but will have provided opportunities for you to experience performance and composition.

**How will I be assessed?**

**Component 1: Appraising Music (40%)**  
Listening, analysis and contextual understanding assessed through a written exam. There are seven areas of study. Students must study Area of Study 1 and choose two from 2-7:

1. Western classical tradition 1650–1910 (compulsory)
2. Pop music
3. Music for media
4. Music for theatre
5. Jazz
6. Contemporary traditional music
7. Art music since 1910.

**Component 2: Performance (35%)**

A performance that lasts between 10 and 12 minutes, recorded in school between March and May. Externally assessed by AQA examiners.

**Component 3: Composition (25%)**

Composition to a brief

Free composition

The compositions should last for between 4 ½ and 6 minutes in total. Externally assessed by AQA examiners.

**What are the costs** Students always have access to facilities in school, but it is an advantage to have music software (such as Sibelius) at home or on a laptop.

You would also be expected to take private instrumental lessons on your chosen performance discipline; these can be provided by the school, or organised privately.

# A-level Physics

## Why Study Physics at SGGGS Sixth Form?

SGGS is a unique school environment. Not only will you be able to study the most fundamental of all sciences, but you will be in a class of like-minded individuals who will help you to thrive and to succeed. This is an incredibly exciting time for Physics at SGGGS as we enter the next stage in our development cycle. Physics is much more than principles. Here we will teach you not just how to understand and appreciate the subject even more, but also how to apply your knowledge to different situations, and the life-long skill of logical approach and the scientific method.

## Highlights

You will attend various trips, to such places as Jodrell Bank Radio Observatory, as well as visits to the Diamond Light Synchrotron and lectures at local universities. You will also have the opportunity to be entered for the Physics Olympiad both in Year 12 and Year 13. This is an extremely prestigious event that will stretch and challenge your existing knowledge of Physics, as well as having the chance of certification for your efforts. Achieving a Gold Certificate in the Olympiad is a worthy achievement and is looked upon favourably by universities. You will have an understanding of how the universe works and realise the awe and wonder of the place that we occupy in the cosmos!

## Future Opportunities

Physics A-level supports a very wide range of future study and careers. If you want a career in business, the media, science, medicine, engineering, law, finance, architecture and almost anything that you can think of, Physics can help.

There are over 700 courses available in Physics and Applied Physics, often combined with other subjects such as Biomedical Engineering, Marketing or Philosophy. In the last few years students have gone on to follow university courses in; Architecture, Art, Astronomy, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, History, Law, Mathematics, Medicine, Music, Philosophy, Physics, Radiography, Sound Recording, Sports Science, Veterinary Science and Zoology to name a few!

The study of Physics should also be seen as making a contribution towards life-long learning and an understanding of technological advances and their impact on modern day society.

## What Our Students Say

"Physics leads on to interesting careers"

"Physics allows you to broaden your horizons"

"Physics is a practical subject and you will provide 'hands on' learning"

"Physics allows you to model what happens in the real world."



# Physics

Examination Board: OCR

A-level Code: H556

<b>What will I learn?</b>	<p>The course has been developed for a study of Physics after GCSE and is designed to help you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other</li><li>• develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods</li><li>• develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills</li><li>• develop your interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject</li><li>• understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society</li></ul>
<b>What are the entry requirements?</b>	<p>It is expected that you will have studied either Combined Science or Separate Physics GCSE, gaining at least grade 7 in all Physics components. You will also need to have achieved a minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.</p>
<b>How will I be assessed?</b>	<p>Physics content is split into six teaching modules. Modules 1 to 6, combined with the Practical Endorsement, constitute the full A-level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Module 1 – Development of practical skills in physics</li><li>• Module 2 – Foundations of physics</li><li>• Module 3 – Forces and motion</li><li>• Module 4 – Electrons, waves and photons</li><li>• Module 5 – Newtonian world and astrophysics</li><li>• Module 6 – Particles and medical physics</li></ul>
<b>What are the costs?</b>	<p>None</p>

# A-level Politics

## Why Study Politics at SGG Sixth Form?

Politics is a fantastic A-level subject that shows you exactly how Politics shapes and influences your life. The subject will help you to discover and clarify your own political beliefs, while at the same time aid you in understanding your rights and responsibilities within a Liberal Democracy. Politics is a living, breathing subject that is changing from day to day and this is an exciting aspect of the course, which will in turn prepare you for adult life. Students invariably become incredibly involved in the debate, discussion and argument around Politics, developing a love of this unique subject.

## Highlights

A visit to Parliament with a tour around the Houses of Parliament. Access to the Pre-Chewed politics website and a main textbook with an e-version resource from home.

In addition, speakers are invited in to discuss political issues. In recent years we have had visits from Nadhim Zahawi MP for Stratford upon Avon, Chami Chakrabarti, Natalie Bennett, Isabel Hardman (The Spectator), Jess Phillips MP, Kate Allen (Amnesty International) plus Warwick University lecturers. This provides access to a range of real people who are influential in the development and analysis of our Political system.

If you wish to apply for Oxbridge you will have access to application sessions that the History and Politics department run which focus upon deepening and developing your Political understanding, improving your ability to communicate complex Political concepts both orally and in the written form, preparing you for the production of an intelligent and insightful answer to the HAT and the development of your interview skills technique all during the Autumn term.

## Future Opportunities

This subject supports progression into further education such as a Politics or International Relations degree. Politics A-level will also be useful in related degree subjects such as History, Geography, Economics and Social Policy. From social and political research to journalism, marketing and HR, the civil service and public relations a degree in Politics and International Relations opens up a broad range of career opportunities.

## What Our Students Say

"Politics helps us form opinions and allows us to share those opinions with others."

"Politics allowed me to believe in my own opinions, even if they were not shared by the majority"

"You don't have to like someone's opinion but you have to respect their right to share it"

"If you want to know about Brexit, then this is the place to come"

# Politics

Examination Board: Edexcel

A-level Code: 9PLO

## What will I learn? Aims

- to develop a critical awareness of the nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes
- to understand the structures of authority and power within the political system of the UK, and how these may differ from other political systems (USA)
- to understand the rights and responsibilities of individuals, and to prepare citizens for active participation in society
- to develop personal effectiveness through a critical awareness of political events and issues, and the skills required to argue a case with relevance and coherence
- to gain a clear understanding of the theories, motives and values that underpin political processes and governmental decision-making and the role of institutions in resolving conflicts and allocating scarce resources
- to learn to think for yourself, develop your own views, discuss, debate and argue

## What are the recommended entry requirements?

Students will not have studied this subject to GCSE. A grade 7 or above in History and/or English is preferred.

## How will I be assessed?

### Component 1 - UK Politics

**Political Participation, democracy, voting systems and behaviour, media. Conservatism, Socialism, Liberalism.**

One exam lasting two hours consisting of one source based question and two structured essay questions.

### Component 2 - UK Government and Political ideas

**Constitution, Parliament, Prime Minister, Cabinet, House of Lords, Judiciary. One from Anarchism, Feminism, Ecologism, Nationalism, Multiculturalism.**

One exam lasting two hours consisting of one source based question and two structured essay questions.

### Component 3 - Comparative Politics - USA

**US Constitution, Presidency, Congress, Supreme Court, Civil Rights.**

One exam lasting two hours consisting of three structured essay questions and a source based question.

## What are the costs?

None

# A-level Psychology

## Why Study Psychology at SGGGS Sixth Form?

Psychology is the study of Mind and Behaviour so as such it challenges your ideas and aims to give you a greater understanding of yourself, of others and the society you can build for the future. With high quality teaching of the specification, by staff with extensive examiner experience, you will study and evaluate psychological research, from classical studies – check out Freud - to contemporary research using techniques of such as fMRI scans to determine the functions of the brain. Once you delve into the realms of Psychology you will want to know more; follow the journey from a criminal act through to court and imprisonment. The course is skills focused and consequently develops communication, problem-solving and numeracy skills, as well as encouraging working with others. The department also offers support for all students, both individually and within the group setting. Psychology at SGGGS encourages everyone to be an individual and challenge themselves but fosters the belief that this can best be achieved together.

"The whole is greater than the sum of its parts" **Gestalt psychologist Kurt Koffka**

## Highlights

Psychology theories can be dated back to the Ancient Greeks and yet the world and the behaviours of those who inhabit it are constantly changing. You will gain a deeper understanding of why people behave as they do within their social setting, from the forming of prejudices to what makes a criminal, to our growing awareness and understanding of mental illness. To enhance this understanding there are possibilities to see court cases in action, with a visit to Warwick Law Courts, and to see inside the walls on a prison. The overall philosophy of the department is to promote an appreciation and understanding of individual, social and cultural diversity, and to develop tolerance and sensitivity in dealing with others.

## Future Opportunities

With an understanding of people and how they behave and the synoptic skills developed, Psychology students can pursue a number of higher education options either as a single subject or with a great variety of combined subjects. The career opportunities with such a skill set consequently is also diverse, ranging from HR, advertising, marketing and physiotherapy, as well as careers specifically within psychology such as Educational or Clinical Psychology

## What Our Students Say

"Psychology is an insightful subject covering interesting and exciting topics. A subject that challenges your perceptions."

"In Psychology lessons be prepared to think – really think!"

"Studying Psychology has really made me think about what I really want to achieve in life."

# Psychology

Examination Board: OCR

A-level Code: H567

## What will I learn?

The course encourages you to

- develop your interest in and enthusiasm for Psychology, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
- understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society
- promote an appreciation and understanding of individuals, society and cultural diversity
- develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- develop practical, mathematical and problem solving skills

## What are the recommended entry requirements?

The course entry does not require you to have studied GCSE Psychology. A grade 6 or above in English, Maths and Biology is preferred.

## How will I be assessed?

<b>Component 1</b> Research Methods	90 marks	2 Hours	30% of total A-level
<b>Component 2</b> Psychological themes through core studies	105 marks	2 Hours	35% of total A-level
<b>Component 3</b> Applied Psychology	105 marks	2 Hours	35% of total A-level

### Component 1: Research Methods

You are expected to carry out your own small-scale practical activities using the four main techniques for collecting and analysing data. These are: self-report, experiment, observation and correlation.

### Component 2: Core Studies

You are expected to understand, analyse and evaluate 20 psychological research studies which link to major themes and areas in psychology: Social, Cognitive, Developmental, Biological and Mental Disorders.

### Component 3: Applied Psychology

This component consists of one compulsory section on issues in mental health and the following two applied psychology options:

- Child Psychology - attachment, cognitive development, perceptual development
- Criminal Psychology - interviewing techniques, court proceedings, punishments

## What are the costs?

Voluntary payments are requested for visits.

# A-level Religious Studies

## Why Study Religious Studies at SGGS Sixth Form?

A consistent record of exceptional results. Experienced and enthusiastic teachers who have masters-level qualifications and have examined for this exam board. Students frequently cite the nature of the subject and the quality of the teaching as significant factors in their success in a range of exciting qualifications and careers. RS at SGGS Sixth Form is challenging, supportive, rigorous and enjoyable. Your brain will hurt but you will surprise yourself; within weeks you will be comparing Plato's rationalism with Aristotle's empiricism and arguing with passion and skill. The knowledge and wisdom you gain will benefit all your studies and enable you to understand and question the world around you. RS at SGGS is for life!

## Highlights

Our RS classes are supportive yet challenging communities of enquiry that explore a range of philosophical, ethical and theological issues. You will engage with some of the most influential thinkers and examine some of the most enduring ethical questions, from Plato's rejection of the physical world to Kant's categorical imperative. You will consider the problem of evil and examine the claim that Jesus' teaching was essentially Marxist. You will be offered study days with students from other schools and RS conferences. In recent years we have welcomed academics from top universities and taken students to Rome; we are always looking for ways to enrich your experience of RS.

## Future Opportunities

A-level Religious Studies is a well-regarded, rigorous academic qualification that appeals to universities and employers. Enjoyable and challenging in itself, it is also a useful subject for those considering a career in medicine, law, journalism, business, politics, teaching... in fact, any field in which you need to think critically and develop coherent arguments. Religious Studies complements humanities, arts and science-based subjects. The Russell Group of universities has identified RS as providing suitable preparation for entry to university along with subjects such as Economics. Past RS pupils have studied a variety of subjects at top universities including Cambridge, Manchester, Kings College London and Edinburgh – with subjects ranging from philosophy to engineering. Employers also increasingly value RS qualifications: major companies are actively recruiting graduates with philosophical backgrounds to help steer them through the ever-changing world with their ability to think critically and creatively. The multi-disciplinary nature of RS means you will be introduced to a range of disciplines including Sociology, Psychology and Politics. Many students have pursued studies in areas that they have encountered in RS, including Criminology and International Relations. Who knows where it could take you...

## What Our Students Say

"RS is really useful for developing skills in arguing and writing essays. In terms of university entrance, RS was very useful in developing my discussion skills for situations, such as interviews, due to the polemical issues contained within the course and the small class size which stimulated group participation."

"Religious Studies has been a highlight of the last two years for me. . .the lessons were so, so fun and the support of the teachers was second to none."

"Thanks for all the encouragement and amazing preparation for my course - I feel I have a very good foundation of knowledge!! I am now at King's College London studying French and Philosophy, and feeling incredibly grateful for the amazing teaching I received at SGGS Sixth Form."

# Religious studies

Exam Board: OCR

A-level Code: H573

- What will I learn?** In this subject we examine the nature of knowledge, life, death, God, morality and more.
- In the Philosophy unit you will study arguments for and against the existence of God and debates surrounding the soul, mind and body. You will explore philosophical ideas developed by major thinkers including Plato, Kant, Wittgenstein and Dawkins
  - In the Ethics unit you will study ethical theories and issues. You will learn about concepts such as free will and conscience, as well as the works of scholars like Kant and Freud, applying them to sex, euthanasia and business
  - In the Developments in Religious Thought unit you will explore the ways in which Christianity has developed and responded to challenges and contemporary social issues. This will include the study of Secularism, Pluralism, Liberation Theology and Feminist Theology

## Aims

- To engage with a range of disciplines (philosophy, ethics, theology, psychology, social sciences etc.) to develop your understanding of important issues related to religion
- To develop your knowledge and understanding appropriate to a specialist study of philosophy, ethics and theology
- To adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach
- To learn how to build a sustained, balanced and justified line of argument
- To reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of your study

## What are the recommended entry requirements?

English grade 6 or above; a GCSE in RS is not an essential requirement

## How will I be assessed?

Each of the three units will be assessed by a two-hour exam at the end of the course.

## What are the costs?

You may wish to buy recommended revision guides and subscriptions. You may also be asked to pay for RS-related trips and events. Financial assistance will be available.

# A-level Spanish

## Why Study Spanish at SGG Sixth Form?

The course is taught by two highly experienced members of the department, and students are also allocated conversation practice slots with our Spanish assistant on a weekly basis. Lesson content is varied and geared towards language acquisition through an entirely communicative approach aimed at building skills, confidence and exam technique. With an average score of 80%, we excel in developing our students' essay writing skills - a challenging component of any A-level language qualification – and we know that they outperform many others therefore, which ultimately helps build their confidence across the whole course. In addition, our students are given the unique opportunity to experience and immerse themselves in the Hispanic culture through a residential trip in Spain. For a week, students partake in culturally enriching activities, in preparation not only for their A-level exams but also for their academic life beyond SGG.

## Highlights

You will benefit from excellent teaching in addition to a conversation lesson with a language assistant from the beginning of October until May. The Spanish Department has a wide range of resources to support independent learning, and our A-level students can take advantage of a range of reading and listening resources to maximise their learning. Students are aimed to develop their critical-thinking skills and reflect on issues that affect Hispanic society and culture. In addition to studying a film and a text as part of their course, students choose a topic of their interest to conduct an independent research project. Furthermore, our students are offered the opportunity to spend a week on a residential trip in Spain, where topics covered in the syllabus are brought to life in a real setting.

## Future Opportunities

An A-level in a Modern Foreign Language is an asset which is very highly prized by higher education institutions and by employers, according to the CiLT – the National Centre for Languages. In addition, in the report published by the British Council in 2013, *Languages for the future: which languages the UK needs the most and why*, Spanish was clearly ranked as the most important language for the UK out of a list of ten with a 76 point score – followed by Arabic on a second place with 54.

## What Our Students Say

"I really enjoyed staying with Spanish people on the exchange and ONLY speaking Spanish"

"It's great to learn about new cultures in the Spanish-speaking world"

"It enables us to communicate in lots of other parts of the world"

"I enjoy being able to have conversations with people in Spanish confidently"

"Learning Spanish at A-level was the best decision I ever made. The topics at A-level are [very] interesting it's fun to study a Spanish film and play."

"The diverse and relevant issues we studied were so thought-provoking and really nourished every other aspect of our academic lives, no matter what our aspirations or what other subjects we'd chosen."

"To this day I am very glad I took Spanish at A-level and believe the advantages I experienced can be applied to all science careers. As a medical student, having a Spanish A-level has given me the opportunity to travel to Central America (Guatemala and Nicaragua) as part of a work placement; something which I would never have been able to do if I were not able to speak the language."



# Spanish

Examination Board: AQA

A-level Code: 7692

- What will I learn?** Among the many benefits, A-level in Spanish is designed to encourage you to:
- Develop the knowledge and skills acquired at GCSE level and therefore use Spanish in a wide range of contexts
  - Gain a useful insight into another culture and reflect on various aspects of contemporary society
  - Enhance employment prospects, facilitate foreign travel and experience the enjoyment and motivation of improving your linguistic level.
- Some lessons will be in an IT room to take advantage of our online resources. You will have a weekly session with the Spanish assistant to develop your speaking skills, and will be offered the opportunity to take part in our Sixth Form Exchange Programme with our partner school in Seville.

**What are the recommended entry requirements?** A grade 7 at GCSE is preferred for entry onto this course.

**How will I be assessed?** **Paper 1:** Listening and Writing/Reading and Writing/Translation  
2 hours 30 minutes – 50% of whole exam – 100 marks total

**Section A:** 30 marks

Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources.  
Questions in the target language to be answered with non-verbal responses or in the target language.

**Section B:** 70 marks

Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes  
Questions to be answered with non-verbal responses or in the target language.  
Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words.  
Translation into Spanish; a passage of minimum 100 words.

**Paper 2:** Writing

2 hours – 20% of whole exam – 80 marks total  
One question on a set text and one question on a set film.  
All questions will require a critical appreciation.  
No access to texts or films during the assessment.

**Paper 3:** Speaking

21-23 minutes – 30% of whole exam – 60 marks in total  
Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card. The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test  
Presentation and discussion of Individual Research Project.

**What are the costs?** We will provide you with a textbook, grammar exercises and worksheets, as well as online accounts for beneficial websites. A personal laptop is advisable as much of the course will use videos and listening files in mp3 format as well as Teams as main line of communication. The school can provide a laptop only for assessment purposes. In Year 13 you may wish to purchase your own copy of the literature text studied, so that you can annotate directly in the novel. You will need an A4 lever-arch file and dividers to keep your resources.

Your Notes...