



# The Sixth Form

| at Queen's College |



| 2017 - 2018 |

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# Welcome

We want the Sixth Form at Queen's to be the best two years of your life. It is a time when you will really grow, both academically and personally; not only can you specialise in those subjects which you most enjoy, but you will also have access to a new, wider range of exciting co-curricular opportunities.

You will also find the Sixth Form quite unlike your experience of school so far. There will be new freedoms, new friendships and new facilities - including the stunning new Sixth Form Centre. Staff will treat you more as an equal, allowing you to take more responsibility for your work and for your school life as a whole. This comes with responsibilities, however, as you will find yourself being looked up to by the younger pupils as a role model, whether you like it or not!

Despite all these changes, one crucial thing remains constant: you will still be a Queen's student, benefiting from the unique atmosphere and wonderful pastoral support that makes our school so special.

Next year will be a particularly exciting one, as you will be the first year group to experience our new, reformed Sixth Form curriculum. By timetabling a range of new activities alongside your A-levels, creating a more rounded Sixth Form experience, we aim to make you more attractive to future universities and employers, whilst still ensuring that you gain the very best academic qualifications you can.

There is no better time to be joining our Sixth Form, and we look forward to your being a part of it.

## Richard Tillett, Principal

What a year it has been in the sixth form at Queen's! In February we moved into our beautiful new Sixth Form Centre on the fourth floor of the College. The students have certainly been enjoying the new space and have been using it superbly – to chat, relax and work (and eat toast) throughout the day. The air conditioning throughout has also been the source of much jealousy. This excitement has not distracted from both year groups striking a good balance between their academic studies and wider interests. This year we extended our volunteering programme dramatically, which now includes volunteering with a local Primary School and at a weekly elderly persons' lunch. I am very much looking forward to the year ahead and to working with Mr Tillett on some exciting new ideas about how we can continue to develop provision for our wonderful Sixth Form students.

## Eric Wilkins, Assistant Head with responsibility for the Senior College



# Life at Queen's

The A-level period is an intense one for any sixth former.

At Queen's we have excellent facilities for our sixth form students to work in, including the stunning Senior Library and multiple computer labs. We have recently finished building a new sixth form centre on the top floor of the College which provides excellent facilities for our sixth formers to work and relax in, including a spacious new common room. Sixth form students have a portion of their timetable allocated for private study, giving each sixth former a real opportunity to stretch themselves and develop their studies independently.

As well as our beautiful premises on Harley Street, our location is one of our biggest assets. Sixth formers benefit from the surrounding areas most of all as they are old enough to explore the city by themselves and to make the most of all the cultural and educational opportunities that central London provides. Sixth formers regularly visit free lunchtime lectures at UCL, visit Art galleries and museums, and go to the theatre or the opera.

**“The atmosphere is lively and warm; and Queen's is a great place to learn.”**

Romilly, Year 12

**“The teachers here are incredibly supportive and helpful”**

Sahara, Year 12



# Leading the Community

| Queen's sixth formers hold a privileged place within the school community. |

We treat sixth formers as mature and responsible young adults. The Prefect team, led by the Head Girl, is responsible for organising major events. This year they have organised our third annual Queen's International Week, organised a surprise whole school Easter egg hunt and ran a santa's grotto at the Christmas fair, to name but a few. However, not just the Prefects but all sixth formers act as leaders within the school community and beyond, raising money for worthy charities such as Wings of Hope, volunteering in our nearby Prep School, or helping coach younger students at after school sports clubs. Leading the community means giving something back, but it also means developing skills and confidence in your own right.



**Volunteering at the Prep School was a great experience. It was fun to get to know the younger students and to help them with their work."**

Georgie, Year 12

# Academics

The teaching staff at Queen's are highly dedicated to supporting students' progress, and are always willing to spend extra time with students to support their learning.

In the sixth form dedicated teacher support is balanced with an emphasis on students ensuring their own intellectual development through independent study and research.

In the summer between Year 12 and Year 13, every sixth former completes an Independent Project, tailored towards their interests. This is often linked to a discipline that they are

considering for university. The project provides an opportunity for students to research and produce work on an area of interest outside of their normal curriculum; last year projects included drama therapy, how the evolution of farming has damaged society and the experience of women in Saudi Arabia.

When applying for university you will be fully supported and well advised. We run multiple sessions in school, and give continued help throughout the entire process. Outside speakers and former students also visit Queen's to discuss options such as studying in Scotland or further abroad, gap year opportunities and student finance.



**Queen's has a great balance between social and academic life."**

Madeleine, Year 12

**"Queen's encourages open minded learning."**

Sahara, Year 12

# Societies

Working towards your A-levels is important, but it is only part of what prepares you for university.

At Queen's we pursue learning for its own sake, not just for the pursuit of grades. This ethos shines through in our thriving societies and clubs. Holloway society, named after the first female Principal of Queen's, sees sixth formers present talks to each other on areas of particular interest. Recent examples have included a talk about the culture and history of Japan, Martin Luther and the Reformation, and real and imagined lost cities. Socratic club, the school's philosophy society, also regularly sees sixth formers give stimulating talks, and there are also popular History, Debating and Medical societies.

**"Holloway society is great because you get to hear about what other students have a passion for. I have been fascinated by the talks that some of my friends have given this year."**

Sarah, Year 13



# Sixth form Art

Exhibition 2017.



# Behind Closed Doors (based on 12 Angry Men)

Every two years there is a Senior College play, exclusively starring sixth form students. This play, always a highlight of the College calendar, is a great opportunity for sixth formers to stretch their acting and performance skills. The last play, 'Behind Closed Doors', was a superb adaptation of Reginald Rose's 'Twelve Angry Men'. We very much look forward to another brilliant production this year.



**Behind Closed Doors' was a brilliant and thought-provoking production, rehearsed and produced in only a few weeks, and acted as a fitting curtain call for the Year 13s' dramatic endeavours at the College.**

Harriet, Year 13



# Athena

| Athena is the sixth form's cultural society. |

This society regularly runs trips to the theatre, museums and galleries, talks and lectures, and the cinema. Girls are invited to suggest outings. In recent years we have visited an exhibition at the British Library about the history of Gothic literature, gone to the national theatre to see the sell-out *Angels in America*, seen the *Wildlife of the Year* exhibition at the Natural History Museum, been to a panel discussion about life as a foreign correspondent, and many more. Named after the Greek goddess of wisdom, Athena epitomises Queen's sixth formers' interest in the world around them and in exploring new ideas and subjects simply for the pleasure of doing so.

## reviews

### | *Angels in America*

*Maddie (ISD)*

We went to see the first part of *Angels in America* at the National Theatre with the Athena society on July 5th. The play is about the AIDS epidemic in America during the 1980s. I was incredibly moved by the show and inspired to find out more about the AIDS crisis.

The show is very surreal and the production used various different techniques to conjure up the atmosphere of a hallucination. A moment that was particularly memorable was where a bible sprung up from the stage and a flame surged out of the open book. This spectacle happened in the middle of a hospital room, whilst one actor was aware of it (the person having a hallucination) and the other completely oblivious. The actors and the stage effects working in tandem meant the scene captured both the loneliness of madness/illness and the humour that can arise from bleak situations.

I think what struck me most was the humour within the play, especially in scenes where the characters are talking about horrible situations. The play managed to show the audience the horrible reality of AIDS whilst making them laugh as well. The humour also made the characters more believable and consequently likeable. Moreover the laughter was a form of release for the audience in a play that is wrought with tension.

### | *Much Ado About Nothing*

*Anna (IISS)*

The Athena Society had the pleasure of watching the Royal Shakespeare Company's adaptation of *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Theatre Royal Haymarket. Simon Higlett's performance was set in Autumn 1918 with a rather *Downton Abbey* recreation, where a group of soldiers return from their grotty trenches. The plot is based upon deliberate deceptions, some malevolent and others benign. The duping of Claudio and Don Pedro results in Hero's contempt, while the ploy of her death prepares for her redemption and reconciliation with Claudio. In a more lighthearted vein, Beatrice and Benedick are fooled into thinking that each loves the other, and they actually do fall in love as a result. Shakespeare celebrates the idea that deceit is not inherently evil, but something that can be used as a means to good or bad ends. While the Queen's girls sat and watched with a bag of Revels in their hands, they enjoyed every moment of it as 'Much Ado proves both charming and wise. With its finely measured mix of farce, verbal dexterity and emotional tension, it's a seasonal treat.'

### | *Cirque d'Eloize*

*Ella (ISD)*

On the 29th September, the Seniors had an opportunity to watch a live *Cirque d'Eloize* performance called *iD*. Everyone was filled with excitement as we entered the theatre, awe-struck by the skilful set. The performances were impressive, enticing and left us at the edge of our seats. Any mistakes were passed off with joking gestures, creating a causal atmosphere, which was truly enjoyable to experience. At one moment during the performance, I glanced down the line of seats, to see the row of Queen's girls clapping vigorously. It was clear to see that our gloomy Thursday evening was greatly cheered up by this slightly unpolished, yet impressive performance.



**Athena gives you the chance to go to productions, events and exhibitions that you would not normally go to."**

Polly, Year 13

# Subjects

| Queen's College sixth form offers a large range of academic subjects at A-level. |



## ART & DESIGN

### Why study Art?

The course offered at A-level at Queen's College is intended to be exciting, lively and creative. The department adopts a dynamic approach to all aspects of art and design study, which could include drawing, painting, printmaking, textiles, fashion, construction and photography. Candidates will be entered for the general art and design qualification which will allow them to work with their own particular strengths. The course is rigorous, challenging and includes the development of a highly creative work journal. Teaching is focused on the individual and will include Life Drawing-Contextual workshops and talks by practising artists. The course offers every student the opportunity to unlock their creative potential.

If you enjoy developing your own ideas and have a creative outlook then Art and Design could be a stimulating and exciting choice for your A-level studies.

### What will I study? How will I be assessed?

The examination course followed is the Edexcel Advanced GCE in Art and Design. Over the course of the two years, there will be a detailed personal investigation unit, followed by a significant examination at the end of the second year.

### What skills will I gain? Where can Art lead?

A creative outlook is a prerequisite for many careers and there are a great many areas of specialisation within the field of art and design for future study such as:

Architecture - Animation - Applied and Decorative arts - Design, Branding and Marketing - Design Culture - Digital 3-D Design - Fashion Design - Fashion Promotion - Fine Art - Furniture Design - Graphic Design - Illustration - Interior Architecture - Interior Design - Product Design - Model-making - Photography - Printmaking - Silversmithing, Goldsmithing and Jewellery - Video Media Arts - Fashion Forecasting.

## BIOLOGY

### Why study Biology?

What are we? Where do we come from? Where are we going? If you want to know the answers to these questions, then Biology is for you.

### What will I study? How will I be assessed?

The AQA Biology course is composed of three examination papers, each two hours in length:

**Paper 1:** Biological molecules; cells; organisms exchange substances with their environment; genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.

**Paper 2:** Energy transfer in and between organisms; organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments; genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems; the control of gene expression.

**Paper 3:** Any content from papers 1 and 2, including relevant practical skills.

### What skills will I gain?

The Biology A-level course helps students develop a number of skills:

- How to collect data and evaluate it
- How to investigate facts and use deduction
- How to put over your point of view effectively
- How to take responsibility for your own learning.

### Where can Biology lead?

Biology is one of the most popular A-level subjects in the country, attracting students studying a wide range of other subjects. Many of these students enjoy the subject so much they eventually choose a biologically related degree course. Biology can lead to careers in medicine, dentistry, biological, veterinary or environmental sciences, biochemistry, genetic research, biotechnology, psychology, forensic medicine, scientific journalism, law, wildlife film and programme making, neuroscience... and many more! So, whatever field you will eventually work in, you will find Biology a very rewarding and challenging course which will develop many of the skills essential for a successful career.

## CHEMISTRY

### Why Study Chemistry?

Chemistry is the study of substances - from plastics to painkillers, metals to microchips, the air you breathe, the food you eat, the clothes you wear and the complex chemicals in living organisms. It will be challenging, interesting, rewarding and hard work. You will use computers for information retrieval and data-logging. Practical work is important and will include synthesising dyes, analysing aspirin, calculating enthalpy changes and determining the rate of a reaction.

Chemistry is quite a demanding A-level. You will need to have good grades for Science and Mathematics at GCSE. You will need to be well-organised and prepared to work hard. If you have enjoyed Chemistry at GCSE level then you will probably continue to enjoy it at A-level but you do need to bare in mind that A-level Chemistry is more mathematical.

### What will I study? How will I be assessed?

The AQA Chemistry course is composed of three examination papers, each two hours in length:

**Paper 1:** Relevant physical chemistry topics (atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, chemical equilibria, Le Chatelier's principle and K<sub>c</sub>, oxidation, reduction and redox equations, thermodynamics, equilibrium constant K<sub>p</sub> for homogenous systems, electrode potentials and electrochemical cells, acids and bases); inorganic chemistry; relevant practical skills.

**Paper 2:** Relevant physical chemistry topics (amount of substance, bonding, energetics, chemical equilibria, Le Chatelier's principle and K<sub>c</sub>, rate equations); organic chemistry; relevant practical skills.

**Paper 3:** Any content from papers 1 and 2, including relevant practical skills.

### What skills will I gain? Where can Chemistry lead?

As well as gaining knowledge in traditional fields of Chemistry (organic, inorganic, physical and analytical), most Chemistry degrees now also include modules in interdisciplinary areas (chemical biology and physics) and some may include modules in applied Chemistry (medicinal, environmental). This gives a good balance of scientific knowledge, both specialist and general.

Chemistry is also studied in an environmental and social context, so you gain awareness of its ethical implications, as well as issues relating to environmental impact and sustainability.

The study of chemistry provides you with the skills to pursue a career in a wide range of sectors. For example, around a quarter of those in full-time work chose to pursue careers in scientific research-related roles. Other popular areas of work included other technical occupations, business and finance, commercial, industrial and public sector management and education. Chemistry can lead to careers in Medicine, chemical engineering, forensics, pharmacology, dietetics, meteorology, art restoration, environmental health, scientific journalism, patent law, accounting, banking and many others.

## DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

### Why study Drama?

Whatever your previous experience, being an A-level Drama student will be thought provoking, challenging and exciting. It is vital that you enjoy being part of a team. You will also need to work as an individual researching material and putting your knowledge down on paper. You will be regularly seeing some of the world's greatest theatre, to develop your critical awareness and inspire your own performances.

### What will I study? How will I be assessed?

Over the A-level course you will study and perform a minimum of two complete and substantial performance texts and at least three key extracts from three different texts placed in the context of the whole text. You will study the work and methodologies of at least two influential theatre practitioners (individual or companies). A-level in Drama and Theatre will be assessed through a combination of a 40% written examinations and 60% Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)

**Component 1:** You will devise your own drama using a performance text as your stimulus. This is a collaborative process. You might use as your inspiration the themes within the text or a character or the structure and style of the text. You will evolve your ideas using the principles of a key theatre practitioner. You will write up an analysis and evaluation of your process and final performance in a portfolio. This is internally assessed and externally moderated and is worth 40% of the A level qualification.

**Component 2:** This unit offers you the chance to demonstrate your skills in performing extracts from two different play texts. Your first performance will be either a monologue or a duologue from a play of our choice. The second performance will be a group extract from another play, also of our choice. Component 2 is externally assessed by an external examiner and worth 20% of the A-level qualification.

**Component 3:** This is a written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes and is 40% of the qualification. There are three different elements to component 3 which will be taught during the two year course, including writing about live performances you have seen, workshoping performances yourself and studying set texts.

Component 1 & 2 also can be approached from the aspect of either a director or designer.

### What skills will I gain? Where can Drama lead?

You will develop critical and creative skills, and gain confidence in performance and evaluation of others' work. Drama also helps develop empathetic and communication skills, as well as teaching you how to work effectively as a member of a team, while also being prepared to lead and motivate others. Studying drama can lead to careers in the theatre and arts, teaching, writing and journalism, media and advertising, business and finance, politics... the list is endless!

## ECONOMICS

### Why study Economics?

Economics is like a little black dress - it goes with everything! Students who take Economics gain an improved understanding of the world and how it works, as well as an insight into major issues that affect everyone in the world today. Economics examines how the behaviour of households, firms and the government affects every aspect of our lives. It will help you to understand the real world and interpret the stories behind the headlines:

- Why do prices keep rising?
- Why does the government have so much debt?
- Why are some firms successful while others fail?
- What can the government do to promote growth?
  - Why does the UK buy so much from China?
- What will the impact of leaving the EU be on the economy

### Economics helps you understand more about the world around you.

The course will teach you to analyse and evaluate logically economic models and data and give you a keen interest in the major topical economic, political and social issues. At A-level, Economics can be combined with any other subject, although to study it at university Mathematics A-level is often required. It can lead to working as an economist, maybe at the Bank of England, or to a career in the financial sector from banking or accountancy to actuarial work or law. More generally, it can lead you anywhere you wish as students move onto a wide range of courses and careers. You will have the opportunity to take part in competitions such as the iCAEW national business competition and the IFS student investor challenge as well as entering essay competitions if you wish.

### How will I be assessed?

Assessment of the AQA A-level is in the form of three externally set examinations at the end of the two year course which include multiple-choice questions and calculations as well as essays.

**Paper One:** Individuals, firms, markets and market failure.

**Paper Two:** The national and international economy.

**Paper Three:** Economic principles and issues.



## ENGLISH LITERATURE

### Why study English?

Do you enjoy reading novels, plays and poetry, arguing about different interpretations of challenging texts, putting your thoughts on paper, exploring words and their meanings, and developing your critical judgements? English with its combination of imaginative response and rigorous close analysis is an enriching and enlightening discipline; in its teaching students how to read discerningly and how to express themselves clearly on paper, it complements all other A-level subjects. Students enjoy English in the Senior College because their contributions to lessons really matters. Reading literature introduces us to a wide variety of historical, political, philosophical, moral and psychological ideas; it enables us to question our deepest held beliefs and to engage with situations and states of mind different from our own.

### What will I study? How will I be assessed?

At Queen's, we take the Cambridge International A-level syllabus which follows seamlessly from the English Literature IGCSE. The two-year course covers a wide and varied range of texts, from Shakespeare plays to contemporary novels. You will study six texts which will be examined in three papers at the end of the II Senior year. For the first paper, you will explore poetry by Elizabeth Jennings or Robert Frost and a prose text such as E M Forster's *Howards End* or Andrea Levy's *Small Island*. The second paper focuses on drama and you will study two plays; these could include a Shakespeare play, Tennessee Williams's *Sweet Bird of Youth* or Brian Friel's *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* The third paper covers Shakespeare (*The Winter's Tale* or *Richard II*) and a pre-twentieth century text by an author such as Austen, Emily Brontë, Chaucer, Hardy or Shelley. In addition to this, you will submit a folder of two coursework essays on a free choice of texts; recent Seniors have studied works by Sylvia Plath, Jeanette Winterson, Tony Harrison, John Milton, William Blake, Tennessee Williams, Vladimir Nabokov and Ernest Hemingway.

You will be in a small, informal class, where there will be plenty of opportunity to express your ideas and to engage in vigorous debate. You will be encouraged to read widely beyond the set texts and to attend Literary Society meetings; there will also be opportunities to go to the theatre and to attend lectures and exhibitions outside school.

### What skills will I gain? Where can English Literature lead?

English is one of the most popular university subjects. While it obviously leads on to careers in arts and the media, it is also much valued by admissions tutors for those who are reading science and medicine. Every career path requires fluency in written and spoken communication, clarity of thought and the ability to understand and appraise others' ideas - skills which English develops.

## FRENCH

### Why study French?

Studying French is much more than studying a language, it is opening up a treasure trove of cultural wonders. There is something for everyone interested in contemporary French society and culture. If you are passionate about fashion how can you not speak French? Paris is the undisputed home to fashion with world-renowned designers such as Yves Saint-Laurent and Jean-Paul Gautier. "Paris c'est cool, c'est chic!"

Not only will you be able to read and enjoy great plays, poetry and novels by some of the world's finest French writers, but you may also have the opportunity to perform extracts in class and perhaps see a play in French - maybe even in Paris! If you are more a film buff than a theatre-lover, fear not. No other European country comes close to the international success of French cinema. From *La Vie en Rose* to *La Haine*, you will have many opportunities to see an amazing variety of films in school or on a trip to the *Institut Français* in London - and maybe grab a delicious *pain au chocolat* en route.

For all you news junkies you will learn to read a newspaper in French and comment on all the extraordinary events happening in contemporary French society. Through our state-of-the-art multimedia lab. You will have access to news stories as they appear on French TV. You will discover that even politics can be fascinating.

### What will I study? How will I be assessed?

The Modern Foreign Languages department at Queen's College has a long tradition of teaching French, using the most modern and innovative techniques. We have chosen the AQA examination board. Candidates will be assessed on four units. Unit 1 is a speaking test, with a role-play and topic discussion. Unit 2 is a written paper, testing the other three skills with a variety of listening, reading and writing tasks. Unit 3 is another speaking test, with the discussion of an article and a general topic discussion. Unit 4 is another written paper, again testing the other three skills. The Modern Foreign Languages department is very well resourced, and numerous audio files, DVDs, books, newspapers and periodicals are made available to girls to complement their lessons. Queen's students have the chance to have individual lessons with our Foreign Language assistant to help prepare them in the best possible way for these examinations. Moreover, we are pleased to be able to offer a weekly debating club.

### What skills will I gain? Where can French lead?

Linguistic competence at a high level opens innumerable doors in the workplace and the global economy, with linguists being given clear preference in the job market thanks to the transferable skills of communication, textual analysis and interpretation, attention to detail, to name but a few. Fluency in a language can give you access to the most unexpected professions as well as making sure you are up to date with cultural trends. *Venez nous rejoindre!!*

## GEOGRAPHY

### Why study Geography?

Geographers are excited to find out about the world they live in and they have an adventurous streak. They are keen to develop a detailed understanding of the physical and human processes which produce our landscapes today and they are interested in tackling the world's current problems. If you want to know the answers to questions like 'why do places change over time?', 'how would a huge volcanic eruption affect our climate?', or 'how can new borders cause disputes?' then Geography is the subject for you.

### What will I study? How will I be assessed?

OCR A-level Geography specification H481 has four components:

**1 Physical systems:** Earth's Life Support Systems; Glaciated Landscapes.

**2 Human interactions:** Changing Spaces; Making Places; Global migration; Power and Borders.

**3 Geographical debates:** Hazardous Earth; Exploring Oceans.

**4 Investigative geography:** Independent Investigation worth 20%.

Units 1 - 3 are assessed by examination. Unit 4 is one coursework assignment 3,000 - 4,000 words long, which will present independent analysis of data findings.

### What skills do I gain from Geography? Where can Geography lead?

Geography is an academic subject which will help you in your future studies and the world of work. You will develop an understanding of physical, social and economic processes and be able to plan, research, develop and test hypotheses and write reports. Geographers are numerate, literate and good team workers. You will learn to think analytically and critically, and will develop valuable computer skills such as how to use GIS.

You will find geographers working in a wide range of jobs, from town planning to finance, working for environmental organisations, working in travel and tourism, for international charities or as lawyers. Studying Geography can help young people achieve careers that are professionally and financially rewarding and also enjoyable.

## GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

### Why study Politics?

If you want to know what goes on behind the headlines, make sense of the confusion which passes for the 24:7 news cycle, comprehend the views of people who present politics on radio or the television and, most importantly, of those who are interviewed and confronted by them, then Politics may be the subject for you. Having a proper understanding of the pressures and challenges which face politicians each day will enable you to critically evaluate the performance of our leaders. After studying Politics you will be able to distinguish between the propaganda, terminological inexactitude and sheer rubbish disseminated by much of the media and what is actually going on.

### What will I study?

The Politics syllabus consists of three areas; the first looks closely at the working of British democracy, the Constitution, Parliament, the Executive and the role of the Judiciary and civil liberties. Study of these topics will enable you to understand the way in which Politics in Britain today works and gain insight into the challenges which face our politicians. You will also study Political Ideologies such as Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Nationalism. This aspect of the course offers an introduction to Political philosophy which will enable you to understand the ideas which have shaped the modern world and which underpin contemporary political debate. Thirdly, you will study aspects of international politics embracing international relations and organisations such as the European Union. Studying Politics at A-level is not just a matter of learning about the political system but of applying that knowledge to current events. Regular study of serious journalism, combined with critical analysis of stories which are developing during the time you are studying the subject, are therefore of paramount importance. This is a subject about the present day and the world in which you will live and work. Politics is concerned with the world as it is now; studying it will help you to prepare for your future.

### How will I be assessed?

There is no coursework in Politics. The examinations take the form of short questions, for which straightforward factual responses are required, and essay questions. Competent understanding of the material which you have studied combined with the ability to write effective essays, which you will learn during your first year of study, will ensure that you achieve good results.

### What skills will I gain? Where can Politics lead?

Students of Politics develop the ability to argue effectively and have the capacity to express their views in a clear, concise and persuasive manner. These skills are fundamental to any career. Competence in the professions, journalism, diplomacy, business, public relations, indeed in Politics itself, is built on the acquisition of these skills. Politics is therefore a subject for those who wish to study at a good university and then embark on a successful career.

## GREEK

### Why study Greek?

Essentially, the Greeks gave the West so much poetry and drama, philosophy and political theory, that our own culture cannot be understood fully without knowing our Greek roots. Much gets lost in translation when dealing with subtleties of meaning or enjoying effective verse. As you will have covered most of the grammar for GCSE there will not be too much of a step up to A-level, so you can focus on appreciating the poetry and interpreting the history or philosophy. Students of science and medicine find that Greek vocabulary is surprisingly useful for technical words.

### What will I study? The OCR specification.

You will be reading verse texts, for example sections of a Greek tragedy or comedy, or from one of Homer's epic poems The Iliad or the Odyssey. This will explore such topics such as Fate, personal conscience versus the law of the state, what makes a hero, the role of the gods and attitudes to women in the ancient world. You will also study prose texts, for example some philosophy or history. Some of the literature will be studied in translation.

### How will I be assessed?

You will translate, answer questions on, and write essays about the set texts. For unseen passages, you will translate Greek into English and answer comprehension questions. English into Greek is optional.

### What skills will I gain from studying A-level Greek?

You will develop a sharp awareness of detail, logical thinking, sheer mental discipline and the ability to analyse complex ideas.

### Where can Greek lead?

Top universities are eager to find candidates able to study the Greeks in their original language and Classics courses offer a very broad range of topics, including art and archaeology as well as Classical texts. Some Theology courses include New Testament Greek. Greek proves your intellectual stamina as well as linguistic ability, so full Classicists are welcomed in a wide range of careers, from politics, management and law, to advertising, charity work and the media.

## HISTORY

### Why Study A-level History?

History is important for everyone and a society without history is like a person without memory. No other subject causes such debate and argument about what it teaches and historical understanding is essential if we are to understand the present and avoid the mistakes of the past. History is useful to you. You will build up an immense knowledge and understanding of all aspects of human societies in a variety of periods and places. You will learn about change and continuity and cause and effect. Every subject has a past and history will help you with all your other A-levels.

### What Skills Will I gain from Studying A-level History?

- You will learn to read in depth and to take effective notes;
- You will interrogate and evaluate a range of contemporary and secondary source material;
- You will learn to plan, organise and complete effective and well-argued essay answers;
- You will engage with historical controversies and learn to analyse and evaluate conflicting historical interpretations;
- Your homework and coursework will encourage independent study and you will learn how to think - not what to think.

### What Will I Study?

Edexcel A-level History Specification 9HI0

**Paper 1:** Option 1G: Germany and West Germany, 1918-89.

**Paper 2:** Option 2G.1: The rise and fall of fascism in Italy, c1911-46.

**Paper 3:** Option 3I: Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603.

**Coursework:** Interpretations of the Holocaust.

There will be regular visits to lectures, exhibitions and museums and a residential field trip abroad to enhance your knowledge and understanding of the topics studied. Previous visits have been to Berlin and Krakow.

### How Will I Be Assessed? Where Can History Lead?

Units 1-3 are assessed by examination. Unit 4 consists of one coursework assignment of 3000 - 4000 words which analyses and evaluates historical interpretations on one topic. History can lead you anywhere. History students do all types of courses and careers: from media, law, medicine and business to teaching, journalism and museum work. For scientists it provides an invaluable fourth subject and a new perspective to your thinking. It is a serious and respected academic discipline at university.

## HISTORY OF ART

### Why study History of Art?

This is a very popular A-level choice at Queen's and a wonderful subject to learn when surrounded by the rich resources of London's galleries, museums and buildings. It often appeals to those who have taken GCSE Art but as no practical work is involved it can be a good choice for anyone interested in using their eyes: you do not need to have studied GCSE Art. To be a suitable candidate you should be literate, open-minded and above all enthusiastic about exploring intellectual concepts and visual material. Abilities in English, History and possibly Religious Studies are probably the best guide to your likely success in History of Art. You must enjoy reading, looking, writing, discussing and thinking.

*'History of Art was incomparable to any other subject I had studied at GCSE. I learnt new academic skills, but much more importantly, I understood more about myself... as History of Art is such a personal but sociable subject.'*

### What will I study?

We will follow the new Pearson (Edexcel) Specification: History of Art (9HT0). This involves studying a very wide range of artists, styles and media, both from the Western and non-Western worlds. We predominantly study painting, sculpture and architecture. Your perceptual skills are trained and refined, enabling you to analyse paintings, sculpture and buildings with confidence and literacy. We will study two thematic strands from the following: Nature, Identities, War. We will also study two set periods. At the end of the course there are two 3-hour A-level examinations with a mixture of shorter and longer answers, and including an unseen picture analysis; there is no coursework.

*'You find yourself yearning for another work of art and doing extra study simply because you want to.'*

We take art historians on many trips in London and beyond, and abroad - in recent years visiting Antwerp, Florence, Rome, Siena and Venice. *'History of Art is demanding but the most rewarding and inspiring of subjects - it makes you aware of everything.'*

### What skills will I gain? Where can History of Art lead?

You learn to open your eyes and to analyse what you see. You discover how to respond to works of art and to place them within contexts and cultures. You find out how and why art is made, and about artists, styles and influences. But History of Art is much more than an A-level. Yes, marks and grades are important (and not easy - this is a demanding and rigorous subject), but it opens up previously unimagined worlds. Few students remain unchanged - new horizons and perspectives stay fresh long after the dates and facts have fulfilled their short-term examination purpose. Many girls from Queen's have gone on to further their passions in the subject through university degrees. Career possibilities are many, including journalism, museums and galleries, heritage, media, art administration and teaching at all levels.

*'People always remember if they studied History of Art at school'. History of Art will make an impact on your life!*

## ITALIAN

### Why study Italian?

If you love the arts you will love Italian. Italy is the land of Dante, opera, beautiful architecture, paintings and sculptures... Think of Tuscan landscapes and Ligurian seascapes... and *spaghetti alle vongole!*

Learning a foreign language is a skill in itself and brings its own rewards as you learn to understand magazines, TV programmes, novels, poetry, the news, and, most importantly, people who speak the language you are learning. You will gain enormous satisfaction from communicating with Italians - they love talking! You can also learn about Italy's fascinating and ever-evolving political, cultural and contemporary life. If you enjoy literature and drama, the ability to read foreign authors in their own language - or see productions on stage, or films at the cinema - is a challenge and a delight. In London we are fortunate to have so many cultural opportunities to exploit and the Italian Cultural Institute has much to offer. The Italian department runs regular trips both to Italy and to events within London. Remember, many universities offer joint honours courses with Italian and another subject and a foreign language A-level will be a major asset in any career - journalism, business, law, medicine, science, art history... and many more.

### What will I study? How will I be assessed?

We prepare you for the Edexcel board. The first paper is an oral where you will respond to a stimulus and discuss more broadly a topic chosen by you from among those we study in class. These include youth culture and concerns, lifestyle (health and fitness), the world around us, education and employment. Paper 2 is a combination of listening, reading and writing exercises also based on these topics. In the second year you will continue to develop your oral skills for Paper 3 and in the examination will be required to express, defend and justify your opinions on a social or moral issue. In Paper 4 you will translate a passage into Italian, write a discursive or creative essay and produce an essay based on your detailed research into another topic. This could be on literature, the arts, events connected with Italy and its history. We can also put you in touch with organisations which allow you to carry out work experience or language courses in Italy.

## LATIN

### Why study Latin?

The Romans have had such an impact on the development of European languages and culture that experts still need Latin for history, law, philosophy and theology. The main reason, of course, is that what the Romans wrote is interesting and of value today.

If you have done Latin at GCSE, you will have already covered almost all of the grammar. That means that at A-level you can give most of your attention to enjoying the poetry, speeches and history.

### What will I study?

The OCR specification.

You will study a mixture of verse set texts, for example Ovid's risqué and amusing poems about love or sections of Virgil's epic The Aeneid, literature which has provided inspiration for countless poets, playwrights, musicians and artists.

For prose texts you will study, for example, a Cicero law court speech, or extracts from the historian Tacitus who wrote about the sinister period of Rome under the emperors Tiberius and Nero.

These texts are studied partly in Latin and partly in translation.

### How will I be assessed?

You will translate and answer questions on passages of the set texts and write essays on them. You will write translations and answer comprehension questions on unseen passages of verse and prose authors. Translating from English into Latin is optional.

### What skills will I gain from studying A-level Latin?

You develop the ability to probe a text, see through rhetoric, express yourself concisely, suspend judgement before leaping to a conclusion, and, of course, you acquire a solid base for understanding history, politics and culture.

### Where can Latin lead?

Full Classics at university offers options in literature, philosophy, history, art, architecture and archaeology. Universities like Latin A-level because of its focus on detail, linguistic skills and practice in analysis. Ambitious Classics graduates acquire top jobs in government, law and the media, while many opt for working with charities and in a wide range of other careers.

## MATHEMATICS

### Why study Maths?

Mathematics is one of the most difficult A-levels you can take on. But if you can cope with it, the rewards are high. You don't need to be a genius, but you obviously need to be pretty good, and you need to enjoy it! The key area is algebra. You must be proficient in algebra. If you always feel stressed about Mathematics homework forget about A-level Mathematics and do something else. If you want an opinion as to whether you have what it takes, ask your teacher (you may be pleasantly surprised!).

Quotes from ex-Queen's girls about A-level Mathematics:

*"Some people find it difficult, some people find it easy. But if you think you can cope with it, it is worth while."*

### What will I study? How will I be assessed?

The courses taught at Queen's College are Advanced Level Mathematics and Advanced Level Further Mathematics.

Did you know:

- The number of different ways of arranging the Senior students in a row is greater than the number of atoms in the entire known universe.
  - An Olympic shot-putter would always try to project the shot at an angle of 45° for maximum distance.
  - The aerodynamic force that presses a modern racing car to the floor is so great that at a speed of 100mph it could drive upside down on the ceiling.
  - Construction engineers often use the square-root of negative numbers (which, as far as your calculator and maths text-book are concerned, don't even exist!) to help them design buildings and bridges.
- All the above facts relate to areas of Mathematics that are covered at A-level.

### What skills will I gain? Where can Maths lead?

*"The only subject where there is clear evidence that studying it at A-level makes a difference to future earnings is maths, which can lead to high-salary occupations such as engineering."*

(Peter Davies, Professor of Education Policy Research at the University of Birmingham.)

## MUSIC

### Why study Music?

This course provides musicians with a platform to shine in performance, analysis and composition. We study works by the great composers in far greater depth than encountered at GCSE level exploring not only how they conveyed their musical intentions but how we utilize these skills in our own compositional work. This is teamed with a busy performance schedule, preparing recitals on solo instruments or voice alongside ensemble playing. We explore historical aspects of musicianship and learn to articulate the finer points of symphonic and contemporary writing. Composers have the opportunities to use the latest composition software as part of this course and performers will record repertoire and participate in the many concert opportunities available at the College. This course has musical understanding at its heart and offers you the chance to immerse yourself in the musical community at Queen's College.

### What will I study and how will I be assessed?

**Analysis:** The only part of Music that is an examination, this paper is divided into four sections. The first is recognizing musical features in works you study or 'set-works'. The second is recognizing musical features from unfamiliar music. The third requires you to analyze and evaluate prescribed music and the fourth asks you to reflect on music written for a purpose (40% of the total A-level).

**Composing / Techniques:** This is a coursework submission and involves composing two separate pieces of music. One composition is written to a brief set by OCR and the other is to your own brief. The total length of your compositions will be four minutes (25% of the total A-level).

**Performing:** This is a coursework submission and involves the preparation and performance on your instrument or voice. You can choose to perform either three contrasting solo pieces on different instruments OR perform a solo and an ensemble programme on one instrument. This part of the course really plays to your strengths as a performer! The recital is externally assessed via audio-visual recording and constitutes 35% of the total A-level.

### Where can Music lead?

A career in the music industry is rich and varied. Music degrees can lead to work as a performer (orchestral, solo or ensemble), music therapist, sound technician, theatre stage manager, conductor, engineering, radio producer, and broadcaster or work in music education. The study of Music at degree level will provide opportunities to study not only performance through a conservatoire but also composition, musicology, ethnomusicology, sound engineering, conducting and music education at university.

## PHYSICS

### Why study Physics?

Physics is one of the most fundamental of all the sciences. Physicists look for all the hidden laws that explain why all matter (that is every physical thing) and energy in the known universe exists, where it comes from and why it behaves the way it does. Physicists study the nature of energy and matter, and motion through space and time, on a variety of scales, ranging from the sub-microscopic particles from which all ordinary matter is made (particle physics) to the behaviour of the material universe as a whole (cosmology).

Physics is a demanding but rewarding A-level. You will need to have good grades for Science at GCSE. You will also need to have good grades in Mathematics at GCSE and enjoy solving problems, as much of Physics is assessed numerically at A-Level. You will need to be well-organised and prepared to work hard for success as with any other A-Level. If you have enjoyed Physics at GCSE level then you will enjoy exploring newer, bigger, and more recent ideas within Physics. Taking Mathematics A-Level alongside Physics is not a prerequisite but in this case you will need to be proactive and prepared to work hard towards the mathematical side.

### What will I study? How will I be assessed?

The AQA A-Level Physics course covers the following core modules:

1 Measurements and their errors, 2 Particles and radiation, 3 Waves, 4 Mechanics and materials, 5 Electricity, 6 Further mechanics and thermal physics, 7 Fields and their consequences, 8 Nuclear physics

### What skills will I gain? Where can Physics lead?

Physics is a desirable subject and can lead to many careers. Pure Physics routes can result in Physicists working in research along with other Scientists and Mathematicians. Examples of research areas are Meteorology (when combined with Chemistry and Geography), medical Physics and advances in patient imaging and screening, and Geophysics which studies the structure of the Earth.

Applied science routes for Physics, when taken with Mathematics include engineering, in mechanical, civil, chemical, naval or electrical disciplines. Engineering offers opportunities for varied and dynamic project work, world travel, and career development through accreditation such as Chartered Engineer status.

The problem solving and logical skills gained from studying Physics are applicable in a whole range of other disciplines from law (particularly intellectual property and computer law) to architecture, accountancy and finance. Many Physicists go on to work in the technology and computing industries.

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

### What will I study?

Essentially epistemology, i.e. different theories of knowledge, or, simply, how we know what we know. The heart of the course lies with the pursuit of knowledge, truth and values. You will deepen your understanding of the modern world and of the place of religion within it. You will study a huge range of influential thinkers from Plato and Aristotle, to Augustine, Aquinas, Immanuel Kant, Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, Richard Dawkins and Peter Singer to name but a few. The course comprises a dynamic blend of three main subject areas:

- 1. Philosophy:** you will learn about the classical schools of Plato and Aristotle, about traditional proofs for God's existence, responses to evil and suffering, ideas about life after death, body and soul. You will examine the nature of religious experiences and question the meaningfulness of religious language.
- 2. Ethics:** you will study key ethical theories including Natural Law, Utilitarianism, Relativism and ethics based on religion. You will apply these theories to issues surrounding euthanasia, sexual relationships and business ethics. You will question the existence of conscience and ask yourself if human behavior is determined by heredity, environment and/or psychology.
- 3. Developments in religious thought:** you will look at Christian responses to challenges posed by secularism, pluralism, Marxism and feminism. You will consider the difference between knowledge, belief and revelation.

### How will I be assessed? What skills will I gain?

This is a linear course which is examined at the end of the second year by means of three essay papers lasting 2 hours each.

Students of Religious Studies adopt not just an inquiring and critical but also a reflective approach. You will learn to read in depth, to analyse scholarly opinion critically and to argue effectively. You will be expressing your own views in a clear, concise and persuasive manner. These skills are fundamental in all areas of life and to any career.

### Where can the course lead?

This course is a thorough preparation for students wishing to study Philosophy, Theology or world faiths at university as well as numerous combination courses between RS and Anthropology, Psychology or Sociology. An A-level in Religious Studies is also particularly useful for further studies in the Arts, Humanities, International Relations or Law. The study of ethics complements work in the field of medicine, medical sciences or the caring professions, and it is valuable for those intending to enter journalism or the teaching profession.

## SPANISH

### Why study Spanish? What skills will I gain?

Spanish is the most important language that UK citizens need at the moment, in terms of trade priorities, business, emerging growth markets and diplomatic and security priorities. Speaking Spanish opens up job and travel opportunities, and having a Modern Languages degree at university could increase your potential earnings in the future.

Acquiring fluency in Spanish will open up twenty amazing countries and access to a large proportion of the global population. Imagine being able to travel from Mexico, via the Caribbean, through the Amazon rain forests, across the Andes, up to Macchu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas, down to Antarctica, able to talk to everyone along the way. Well, Queen's students have done just that and then gone on to thrive in diverse and successful career paths.

Studying and being able to speak another language opens up a wealth of histories, art forms and peoples, and gives you the cultural transferability so desperately sought by many global employers. You will also be well-placed to continue studying any modern language you wish ab initio at university too; from Portuguese to Hebrew to Japanese to Arabic, there are many further opportunities that studying a language A-level opens up.

### What will I study?

We prepare you for the AQA board specification. You will study cultural topics, such as film, literature, fashion and music alongside contemporary issues such as immigration and globalisation, with some history such as the Spanish Civil War as well. You will research your own topic to discuss in the oral and will write essays on a book or film that you have studied, as well as be tested on your listening, reading and translation skills. By the end of the course, you will be able to converse fluently and to discuss complex issues in detail in Spanish, whether verbally or on paper, as well as to understand authentic news reports and literary and cinematic texts. The course is fun, diverse and fascinating and offers either an excellent complement to other Humanities or Arts A-level courses, or the perfect contrast to Maths and Science.

“Queen's has a wonderfully diverse range of different subjects at A-level.”

Khuslen, Year 13

“Queen's has a unique learning environment, with small class sizes and teachers that are passionate about their field.”

Tiger, Year 12



# How to Apply | to Queen's College sixth form.

There has been a long and successful tradition of students joining Queen's College at 16+ for study in the Sixth Form. Admission is on the basis of an interview and a good reference (with predicted GCSE grades) from the candidate's current school.

If you would like an application form then please do visit the Sixth Form area of our website. The application form can be downloaded from the 'How to Apply' section.

Occasionally we may ask a student to sit a short test in a particular subject or subjects, and entry is always subject to a minimum performance at GCSE as follows:

- in Mathematics and English, good passes (grade C or above/5 or above) must be obtained
- in any subject to be studied at A-level, a minimum grade is required. Please contact the registrar for full details

Generous bursaries are available to academically able girls whose families might not otherwise be able to afford our fees.

# Scholarships | at Queen's College sixth form.

Academic scholarships may be awarded on entry to the sixth form. Both internal and external candidates are welcome to apply, and an Academic scholarship examination is held each year in November. Scholarships up to about 20% of the value of the tuition fees may be held for the two years' study up to A-level. At least one Music scholarship and one Art scholarship are usually awarded at this stage too.

If you would like to apply for an academic, Music or Art scholarship please contact [admissions@qcl.org.uk](mailto:admissions@qcl.org.uk) or visit the Queen's College website for further information and an application form. All scholarship applications must be made by Friday 3 November for consideration for the following September 2018.

