



The Sixth Form

| at Queen's College |



| 2018 - 2019 |

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Welcome

The Senior College is a big step up - and not just because it is based on the top floor! We are very excited about you being a part of it.

We believe that being in the Senior College at Queen's gives you the best of both worlds. You are still part of the College, taught by teachers whom you know well and who know you, but you also have a good degree more independence. This is partly the obvious things like having no uniform, being allowed to go out for lunch and having more private study periods, but it is also subtler than that; because you are older, and probably taught in even smaller classes than you are used to, the relationships with staff are more equal. We want to work very much in partnership with you to make sure you get the three good A-levels you need as well as the wider experience to make you stand out when it comes to applying for jobs. There are also all manner of extra-curricular responsibilities open only to members of the Senior College, such as the play and Athena, which we hope will help you to see school and the wider world in a new light.

Many people find the last two years to be the most enjoyable of their whole Queen's career, or maybe even of their lives so far. Enjoy exploring what we have to offer over these pages, and please do ask if there is anything you are not sure about. We look forward to working with you.

Richard Tillett, Principal

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this year's Queen's College sixth form prospectus. As I look back over the previous year, there are so many incredible activities and events to remember fondly. It is hard to pick highlights from such a busy and productive year. Inevitably, a few stand out, including a fascinating talk by Amber Rudd, then the Home Secretary, last autumn. The Senior College play was also a delight, as were many stimulating Athena trips to exhibitions, lectures and plays. Academically, we were deeply proud of the outgoing Year 13 for all that they achieved. There were so many fantastic and exciting university offers throughout the year, including two students who have recently begun studies at Oxbridge and two starting Medicine courses. Looking ahead, I am very excited about the new Sixth Form Programme, which now includes regular volunteering or work experience on a Wednesday afternoon. I am also looking forward to the inclusion of the EPQ within the sixth form and the benefit this will bring to students. Please do get in touch if you have any questions or comments!

Eric Wilkins, Assistant Head – Director of 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. Our sixth form centre on the top floor of the College provides superb facilities for our sixth formers to work and relax in, including a spacious 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.

“Queen's is just such a great family environment.”

Angelina, Year 12

“Teachers are very approachable, helpful and friendly.”

Lucy, 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 Senior Student, is responsible for organising major events. This year they have raised a significant amount of money for charity through the charity council and many other students' help, as well as helped organise events such as a whole school Easter egg hunt and tutoring sessions for younger students. However, not just the Prefects but all sixth formers act as leaders within the school community and beyond, for example; all sixth formers now volunteer or do work experience across London every Wednesday afternoon. 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.

As well as a real focus on academic progress through the A-level courses, most Queen's College sixth formers work towards an Extended Project Qualification. This emphasises research skills and is an opportunity for students to pursue an area of personal interest; it is also highly valued by universities.

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.



I just love it, it's a great school."

Annabel, Year 12

"Queen's is a place that develops not only your mind, but also your wider interests and creativity."

Catherine, Year 12



People always ask me: is it a sporty school? Is it an arty school? Is it a science school? I always answer: yes, yes, yes."

Tilly, 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 talks about stem cells, Middle Eastern architecture and human evolution. 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

| Art 2018. |



Science

| in the Senior College |

Science explains some of the most important questions that we can ask about the universe and what it means to be human. It explores ideas about the origins, both of matter and living, it asks questions about what matter is made from and considers the fundamentals of the world we live in, from the macro to micro scale. One of the things that makes science so exciting is that, for every problem it helps answer, it asks as many questions.

These are some of the reasons that make science a popular choice in the College, with around a third of students studying at least one science in the Senior years. The Science staff are experts in their field with many having worked in research or industry before joining the teaching profession. Some are also Fellows of the Royal Society of Chemistry and Royal Society of Biology and the entire team maintain close connections with their specific branch of science.

Beyond the A-level curriculum, the College offers a range of extra curricular opportunities. Our central location makes it easy for students to attend talks and events in university departments and research institutions. We regularly attend lectures at University College London, the Royal Society and Institute of Zoology. Recent trips have included visits to the Grant Museum of Zoology, the Hunterian Museum and The Wellcome Collection. We are also fortunate to have connections with researchers at University College London who have allowed students to visit their labs and carry out various work experience opportunities.

The Science Society organises a range of student-led talks and events throughout the year, recent examples including the STEAM careers day, Biology Week and Arkwright Engineering Scholarships. It also provides students with opportunities

to work with local primary schools running outreach sessions on practical science. A designated Medics Society provides students with information about careers in the medical sciences as well as supporting them in preparing for applying for university. This process includes the organisation of work experience and work placement opportunities as well as interview experience with medical professionals and local schools.

Students also enjoy the intellectual stimulation of studying science through Extended Project Qualifications that provide opportunities to carry out experimental work into aspects of science that are of particularly interest. Students also pursue their own research interests through competitions organised by universities and learned societies.



Studying the sciences at the College is about much more than preparing for examinations; it opens up opportunities to explore science in many different ways and provides students with the chance to answer questions about the universe that they find important. We hope you will want to join them on this journey.



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. Students 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

The Final Year

Alex, Year 12

On the 23rd of January, a group of I and II Seniors went to the BFI to watch a recently released documentary about the final year of the Obama administration. It concentrates on the President's foreign policy, as seen predominantly through the eyes of John Kerry, the U.S. Secretary of State, Samantha Power, the United States Ambassador to the United Nations and Ben Rhodes, the Deputy National Security Adviser. The documentary looked particularly closely at the situation in Nigeria, regarding the efforts of the U.S. Government to try and rescue the school girls abducted by Boko Haram; as well as the humanitarian crisis in Syria, and diplomatic dealings in Vietnam, Laos, Japan and Cuba, regarding past U.S. activity in those regions. The documentary gave a deeply insightful view of the emotional rigour of the job not only as President but as a senior staff member, and also the frustration of witnessing firsthand the crises affecting innocent civilians all over the world, and yet being unable, for all manner of complicated reasons, to effectively solve these devastating issues. The only conceivable criticism of the film would be that it gave an exclusively positive view of the actions and efforts of the administration, speaking of failures only when caused by another nation, such as the Russian Federation's preventing more effective action to be taken in Syria.

The documentary did not allude to serious mistakes made by the administration, and did not mention the response of Congress or the American people to any of the administration's actions at all, which may have been interesting in the context of government and how it operates, it being of course responsive to the people, and the power of the Presidency being restricted by Congress. Despite this possible criticism, I found the documentary a thoroughly enjoyable insight into the mechanics of the American Presidency, which I would recommend to anyone interested in politics, international relations or recent history.

Jane Eyre

Annabel, Year 12

Jane Eyre at the National Theatre was an unforgettable, innovative experience. Using elements of Brecht's and Edward Gordon Craig's conventions, the moods and messages of the play were clearly expressed. The simplistic climbing frame structure not only emphasized the conventions of symbolist and epic theatre, but also added to the connotations of her traumatic childhood. Dramatic lighting effects and music from a band immersed within the structure created the moods of violence, hope and anguish. I personally believe the beginning was too slow and the ending was rushed. However, the energy throughout the play makes the production compelling. Definitely a must-see.



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 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 bear 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_c, oxidation, reduction and redox equations, thermodynamics, equilibrium constant K_p 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_c, 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 and Theatre?

This is an A-level which comprises practical work, set plays, the study of theatre practitioners and work based on live productions seen. It requires a willingness to work as part of a team, communication skills and the ability for individuals to think independently. It is a challenging and demanding discipline both intellectually and artistically. The subject is ideal for those who are creative, experimental, logical and collaborative. Drama is an important tool in preparing students for a world that is increasingly team orientated. Students can enjoy a learning experience that is not only relevant and exciting for its own sake, but also balanced with key objectives to fulfil the highest standards of skill and knowledge to achieve excellence in examination results.

What will I study? How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Devising (40%) (Internally assessed)

Students devise an original piece using one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli. They must produce a written portfolio of between 2,500 - 3,000 words and the devised performance/design realisation.

Component 2: Text in Performance (20%) (Externally assessed by visiting examiner)

Students present a group performance of one key extract from a performance text and a monologue or duologue performance from a key extract from a different performance text.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (40%) (Externally assessed)

Students will sit a 2 hour 30 minute exam. This will ask students to evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen, explain how they would realise an extract from a performance text they have studied ("Page to Stage: Realising Performance Text") and produce an extended answer on another performance text they have studied ("Interpreting a Performance Text").

What skills will I gain? Where can Drama lead?

From Professor Guthrie, Department of Neurobiology, Kings College, University of London:

'Having achieved good grades in at least 2 or 3 science A-levels is a pre-requisite for entrance to university to read biomedical sciences or medicine. However, demonstrating excellence in Drama would also count towards university entrance. In recent years, the medical curriculum in particular has been modified to place increasing weight and value on the ability of students to interact with patients, show self-confidence and excellent interpersonal skills. Coping with difficult situations, being able to think creatively and spontaneously, and being able to relate to a wide range of people and scenarios are vital aspects of training to be a doctor, and indeed what are now seen as the 'transferable skills' of so many degree programmes. There is no question that Drama enhances abilities and trains students in these important areas.'

ECONOMICS

Why study Economics?

Economics examines one of the fundamental issues facing society today: the problem of how human and physical resources are developed and employed to produce the goods and services needed for survival, comfort and fulfillment. So it studies how scarcity, choice and the behaviour of households, firms and the government affects every aspect of our lives as well as how these decisions impact society and the environment.

Studying economics 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 so many people unemployed?
- 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?

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. You will have the opportunity to take part in competitions such as the Bank of England's Target 2.0 competition, the BASE national business competition and the IFS student investor challenge as well as the RES essay competition.

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, for example, at the Bank of England or to a career in the financial sector from banking or accountancy to actuarial work or law; or you will have gained the skills to work in many other professions.

How will I be assessed?

AQA A-level economics consists of:

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

Paper Two: The national and international economy.

Paper Three: Economic principles and issues.

Assessment is by way of three externally set examinations at the end of the two year course. There is no coursework.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Why study English?

Do you enjoy reading novels, plays and poetry? Discussing ideas in class? Arguing about different interpretations? Putting your thoughts on paper? Exploring words and their meanings? Forming your own critical opinions?

English, with its combination of technical and creative elements, is a peculiar subject with no clear limits – it is a humane and civilising project and, in our experience, pupils enjoy English in the Senior College because their own personal contribution really matters.

Discussion of literature ranges broadly across historical, political, philosophical, moral and psychological issues. We study literature as a means of questioning our deepest held beliefs, whilst also allowing us to empathise with situations and states of mind we are yet to encounter, so that when we do face them we are all the better prepared.

What will I study? How will I be assessed?

At Queen's, we use the Cambridge International A-level syllabus. The two-year course is varied, flexible and covers a stimulating range of texts; you will study between eight and ten books which will be examined in three modules at the end of the II Senior year. For the first module, you will explore poetry by Jennings, Frost or a selection from the anthology *Songs of Ourselves* and a prose text: Edith Wharton's novel, 'The House of Mirth' or Jhumpa Lahiri's 'The Namesake'. The second module focuses on drama and you will study two plays; these could include a Shakespeare play, Tennessee Williams' 'Sweet Bird of Youth' or Brian Friel's 'Philadelphia, Here I Come!'. The third module covers Shakespeare ('Measure for Measure' or 'Richard II') and a pre-twentieth century text by an author such as Austen, Chaucer, Dickens or Shelley. In addition to this, you will submit a folder of two fairly short coursework essays on a free choice of books so you can explore many different writers and techniques. Recent Seniors have studied, among others, Sylvia Plath, Jeanette Winterson, Tony Harrison, John Milton, William Blake, Emily Bronte, Vladimir Nabokov and Ernest Hemingway.

You will be in a small, informal class, where there will be plenty of opportunity to express your own ideas and discuss things vigorously. You will be encouraged to read widely beyond the set books 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 science and medicine. Every career path requires fluency in language as well as an interest in people and their relationships. English students are taught to think analytically, consider different interpretations and listen and respond to one another sensitively.

FRENCH

Why study French?

Linguists at QCL love their dynamic and varied lessons as well as the extra-curricular offerings such as theatre festivals, drama workshops, cinema trips and trips abroad. The study of a language is exciting and Old Queens always say how happy they are to have done an A-level in a language and never regret carrying on studying it at university, whatever sector they go on to work in afterwards.

French is the third most important language that UK citizens need at the moment, in terms of trade priorities, business, emerging growth markets and diplomatic and security priorities. French remains an important language for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and is the language most sought after by those employers looking for language skills (49%). Speaking French therefore opens up job and travel opportunities, as many Old Queens have discovered.

Studying and being able to speak French opens up a wealth of literature, cinema, history and culture, both in France and in the Francophone world. You will have access to some of the greatest cinema directors, artists and writers of all time, as you will not only speak their language but will have had an introduction to their lives, times and work in the classroom and on school trips as well. By the end of the course, you will be able to converse fluently and to discuss complex issues in detail in French. You will be set to continue studying any modern language you wish ab initio at university too, from Portuguese to Hebrew 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 Francophone music alongside contemporary issues such as immigration and multiculturalism, with some history such as the French Occupation as well. You will research your own topic to discuss in the oral and will write essays on a book and film that you have studied, as well as be tested on your listening, reading and translation skills.

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, and 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 the zeitgeist on a global scale.

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 valuable understanding of the physical and human processes which produce the landscapes of today, and they are interested in tackling the world's current problems. If you want to know the answers to questions like 'why are people still going hungry in southern Africa in 2016?', 'how would a huge volcanic eruption affect our climate?', or 'what are the problems caused by unequal flows of international trade?' 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:

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

02 Human interactions: Changing Spaces; Making Places; Trade in the Contemporary World; Power and Borders.

03 Geographical debates: Hazardous Earth; Exploring Oceans.

04 Investigative geography: Independent Investigation.

Units 01 – 03 are assessed by examination. Unit 04 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 academically robust 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.

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

GREEK

Why study Greek?

Essentially, the Greeks gave the West so much poetry and drama, philosophy and political ideas that our own culture cannot be fully understood without knowing our Greek roots and 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 stage, 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 answer questions and write essays on the set texts. For unseen passages you will translate Greek into English and answer comprehension questions.

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 the same broad range of topics as Classical Civilisation. Other subjects, such as medicine, are impressed by this rare qualification. 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 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?

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.

Where Can History Lead?

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. It is a rigorous and respected academic discipline which is highly regarded by universities.

HISTORY OF ART

Why study History of Art?

This is a 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. 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 do not need to have studied GCSE Art, and no practical work is involved.

'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 follow the Pearson Specification: A level History of Art. In the first year we cover varying aspects of art history from many different periods and cultures. Your perceptual skills are trained and refined, enabling you to analyse paintings, sculpture and buildings with confidence and literacy. You will learn about a theme (taken from Identity/War/Nature) and a special period. In the second year you will study a further theme and a further period in preparation for the two examinations at the end of the course. *'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, Paris, 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 students 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?

Linguists at QCL love their dynamic and varied lessons as well as the extra-curricular offerings such as theatre festivals, drama workshops, cinema trips and trips abroad. The study of a language is exciting and Old Queens always say how happy they are to have done an A-level in a language and never regret carrying on studying it at university, whatever sector they go on to work in afterwards.

Italian is the seventh most important language that UK citizens need at the moment, in terms of trade priorities, business, emerging growth markets and diplomatic and security priorities. There is a massive deficit of UK-born citizens who can speak Italian, with only one per cent of businesses surveyed reporting levels of Italian good enough to conduct business deals leading to exports.

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 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.

What will I study?

We prepare you for the Edexcel board specification. You will study cultural topics, such as film, literature, fashion and music alongside contemporary issues such as immigration and the mafia, with some history such as the Unification of Italy as well. You will research your own topic to discuss in the oral and will write essays on a book and film that you have studied, as well as be tested on your listening, reading and translation skills.

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.

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 this topic. If you always feel stressed about Mathematics homework then A-level Mathematics is probably not the right choice for you. If you want an opinion as to whether you have what it takes, ask your teacher.

Quotes from former Queen's students 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."

"Maths is intoxicating. You get high when you can do it. The problem is you get low when you can't!"

What will I study? How will I be assessed?

The courses taught at Queen's College are A-level Mathematics and A-level Further Mathematics.

Did you know:

- The number of different ways of arranging the Senior girls 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 number of careers that require an understanding of Mathematics is growing all the time. For example, anything to do with the computer industry (gaming, robotics, animation etc) requires Mathematics. Statistics is an area of the subject that is becoming increasingly important, particularly the manipulation and analysis of large databases. Most managers now require an understanding of, and familiarity with, the processing of numbers. Studying Mathematics at A-level will give students a confidence in their ability to understand and produce statistics in their line of work.

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 the science of nature in the broadest sense. Physicists study the behaviour and properties of matter in a wide variety of contexts, 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).

What will I study? How will I be assessed?

Physics is a demanding A-level subject; it will require a lot of dedication and hard work.

If you found Mathematics particularly difficult at GCSE then Physics is possibly not the subject for you. Take Physics if you find the subject interesting and would like to learn much more than was covered in the GCSE course.

Many of the theoretical concepts will be backed up with class practicals. These will involve using a variety of laboratory apparatus as well as computer simulations and data logging.

The Institute of Physics is nearby - they host a number of free lectures available to A-level students. Pupils may also visit the Royal Observatory and the Diamond accelerator in Oxford.

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

Paper 1: Measurements and their errors; particles and radiation; waves; mechanics and materials; electricity; periodic motion.

Paper 2: Thermal physics; fields and their consequences; nuclear physics; assumed knowledge of measurements and their errors; particles and radiation; waves; mechanics and materials; electricity; periodic motion.

Paper 3: Practical skills and data analysis; astrophysics.

What skills will I gain? Where can Physics lead?

Physics is important for a wide variety of careers. Many physicists work in research along with other scientists and mathematicians. 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. Computing plays a major part in university Physics and many students go on to work in the computer industry with the qualification.

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.

POLITICS

Why study Politics?

Politics A-level is concerned with the analysis of the nature of power, understanding of the ways in which people can participate in the processes which create, constrain and uphold the structures of power in our society and comprehension of the ideas which underpin contemporary political debate: Conservatism, Nationalism, Socialism and Liberalism.

What will I study?

The substance of the curriculum of Politics A-level consists of a comprehensive analysis of, and comparison between, the political systems of the two most successful modern democracies; those of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The nature of democratic processes – elections, political parties, interest groups activity, civil liberties – in both societies is examined in detail. The systems of government of each system – the constitutional rules and the executive, legislative and judicial functions – are analysed and compared. The political philosophies which have underpinned debate within those systems since the nineteenth century – Conservatism, Nationalism, Socialism and Liberalism – are also considered and evaluated.

How will I be assessed? What skills will I gain? Where can Politics lead?

Essay writing, based on serious reading of relevant texts, is the core skill which is developed in the course of studying Politics at A-level. The study of current developments in both the United Kingdom and the United States of America is also of central importance. Politics is a subject which is directly concerned with the contemporary world. The ability to form arguments based on the close analysis of texts, informed by serious engagement with current affairs, is fundamental to any serious career. Politics A-level is therefore a sound basis on which to proceed towards university education and thence to the demands of a modern career.

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?

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.

What skills will I gain? Where can the course lead?

Students of Religious Studies adopt not just an inquiring and critical but also a reflective approach. You will learn to read in depth, to analyze 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.

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?

Linguists at QCL love their dynamic and varied lessons as well as the extra-curricular offerings such as theatre festivals, drama workshops, cinema trips and trips abroad. The study of a language is exciting and Old Queens always say how happy they are to have done an A-level in a language and never regret carrying on studying it at university, whatever sector they go on to work in afterwards.

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.

Acquiring fluency in Spanish will open up twenty amazing countries. Imagine being able to speak to some 350 million more people! 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. How spectacular! How useful! (And Queen's girls have done just that!)

Studying and being able to speak Spanish opens up a wealth of histories and cultures. In Spain alone, there are many of the world's most beautiful cathedrals, palaces and art collections. Think Velasquez, Goya, El Greco, Picasso, Miró, Gaudí. Spain is also utterly modern, avant-garde even, with award winning cinema directors such as Almodóvar and Bardem and Guillermo del Toro (Pan's Labyrinth) to name just a few. In terms of fashion, many of the world's leading businesses are Spanish - Balenciaga, Manolo Blahnik, Paco Rabanne, Adolfo Dominguez, Zara, Mango, and others.

By the end of the course, you will be able to converse fluently and to discuss complex issues in detail in Spanish. You will be set 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 and film that you have studied, as well as be tested on your listening, reading and translation skills.

“It's really relaxed but also productive.”
Lily, Year 12

“There's something for everyone at this school.”
Mina, 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

Final criteria will be published on our website in Jan 2019

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 or visit the Queen's College website for further information and an application form. All scholarship applications must be made by Friday 9 November for consideration for the following September.

