



Sixth Form Curriculum Booklet 2011 / 2012

A 2-18 co-educational day school



Sherrardswood School

Welwyn Hertfordshire

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# Background Information

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## Introduction to Sixth Form Study

Most subjects are examined in two AS units and two A2 units. Sciences, Mathematics, Applied ICT and Music have three units of assessment at each level.

## How are AS and A level qualifications constructed?

From September 2008 all AS and A Level specifications were revised. Most subjects will be examined in two AS units and two A2 units. Sciences, Mathematics and Music will continue to have three units of assessment at each level. The level of performance at AS represents a further step beyond GCSE. Students with good GCSE grades should find the transition from GCSE to AS level challenging, but within their capabilities.

The level of performance at A2 is more demanding than AS, as the content includes higher order concepts and a requirement to draw together knowledge and skills.

## How many subjects do I take?

In Year 12, most students will follow four AS subjects of their choice. They will have seven teaching periods a week in each AS subject and be expected to spend a similar amount of time on research, preparation and homework assignments outside of lessons.

Some students find it difficult to adjust to AS level study and may at first feel overwhelmed by the amount and nature of the work.

If you are experiencing real problems, or if you achieve mostly grade Cs at GCSE, it may be possible, after consultation with your teachers, to concentrate on only three AS levels. This decision will be made after discussion with the Head of Sixth Form and relevant subject staff.

In Year 13 students generally follow three of their subjects to full A level standard, although you may wish to continue with four, or with an additional AS, especially if you intend to apply to university. The number of teaching periods for each subject remains at seven. Please note that courses running are dependent on the number of students interested.

## Mark and Point System

Many universities ask for tariff points, which can be aggregated in a number of ways, but usually include a minimum of 2 full A levels, plus perhaps another 60-80 points which could be made up from AS levels and other qualifications. No two universities have identical requirements so you must check carefully before applying.

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## Marks

The minimum uniform mark for each grade is shown below.

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
<b>AS</b>					
Where maximum uniform mark is 200	160	140	120	100	80
Where maximum uniform mark is 300	240	210	180	150	120
<b>A2</b>					
There maximum uniform mark is 400	320	280	240	200	160
Where maximum uniform mark is 600	480	420	360	300	240

At Advanced Level an A\* grade will be awarded to candidates who achieve an A grade in all AS and A2 units and over 90% for all A2 units. A\* will not be awarded for AS qualifications.

## Points

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E
AS	n/a	60	50	40	30	20
A2	140	120	100	80	60	40

## Entry Requirements

This course provides a full and comprehensive grounding in the principles of Accounting and Finance. If students have taken GCSE Business Studies or Maths, a grade C or above is required to study Accounting at A Level.

Students should have:

- Good maths skills,
- An interest in the world of finance,
- An understanding of the importance of financial decision making in the business world and
- A keen interest in the wider world of business.

## Content and Assessment

### AS

#### Unit F011 - Accounting Principles

- 1 hour written paper  
(40% of AS, 20% of full A Level)
- 2 compulsory questions

Requiring both numerical and written components

#### Unit F012 - Accounting Applications

- 2 hour written paper  
(60% of AS, 30% of full A Level)
- 4 compulsory questions

Requiring both numerical and written components

### A2

#### Unit F013 - Company Accounts and interpretation

- 1½ hour written paper  
(20% of A Level)
  - 3 compulsory questions
- Containing both numerical and written components

#### Unit F014 - Management Accounting

- 2 hour written paper  
(30% of A Level)
  - 4 compulsory questions
- Containing both numerical and written components

## Career Opportunities

Students can study Accounting, Business Studies, Economics or any other business related course at University. It could also lead to professional examinations in Accounting e.g. AAT, CIMA, ACA. Work in the finance department of private/public sector organisations, management consultancy, financial advisor, management accountant, chartered accountant and financial analyst are also possible career paths.

## Entry Requirements

Students can study AS Art and Design if they have obtained grade C or above in GCSE Art and Design.

Students wishing to study this course at AS level, but who have not studied GCE Art and Design, are required to attend an interview with Members of the Art Department. Students needing AS Art or Photography to progress into their desired career will have this taken into account.

## Content and Assessment

We offer endorsed sections in Fine Art, Photography, Graphics, Textiles and Sculpture. An unendorsed route exists for candidates wanting to submit work from more than one endorsement. The department has very good ICT equipment, a darkroom, kiln, textiles room and individual study spaces for Sixth Form students.

We teach students to develop their ability to appreciate the visual world, respond in a personal and creative way and, through their work, stimulate an aesthetic response in others and we help students to develop interview techniques for Art College. Coursework units are internally set and externally moderated. Examined units are externally set through an early release exam paper, internally marked and externally moderated. Examinations' series are available in June only.

## AS Level

### Mandatory Unit - Coursework Portfolio

- Candidates produce a portfolio of work from starting points, topics or themes determined by their centre.
- The focus is on including work that shows exploration, research, acquisition of techniques and skills.
- Candidates must produce and submit practical work that shows evidence from at least two of the endorsed areas.

### Mandatory Unit - Controlled Assignment

- Candidates select one starting point from an early release question paper.
- Candidates will go to visit exhibitions to support their research
- Candidates are given a minimum of 3 working weeks (usually 6 weeks) in which to plan and prepare.
- Candidates are then given 5 hours of controlled time to work on developing their idea into a realisation/outcome.
- Candidates can choose a specific endorsement route to follow for this unit but it must be one they have studied.

## A2 Level

### Mandatory Unit - Personal Investigation

- Candidates submit one major project which has a personal significance.
- The investigation includes a related personal study that must be between 1000 and 3000 words.
- Candidates can choose a specific endorsement route to follow for this unit.

## Mandatory Unit - Controlled Assignment

- Candidates select one starting point from an early release question paper.
- Candidates are given a minimum of 3 working weeks (usually 6 weeks) in which to plan and prepare.
- In 15 hours of controlled time, candidates work to plan and then realise ideas into a final outcome.
- Candidates can choose a specific endorsement route to follow for this unit.
- Art Clubs are available to support students with their studies (lunch and after school).

## Career Opportunities

Once students have built up a good portfolio of work, they will be ready to develop their art studies further. Many students go on to do a one year foundation course at art college. Students then make a selection as to which degree course (BA) they would like to follow. Art staff are always glad to help with advice.

After a degree course students can take up jobs in a wide range of areas including fashion design, product design, photography, advertising, publishing, architecture, set design and many more. A careers booklet is available in the Art Department.

## Entry Requirements

To gain entry onto this course, students should have achieved a minimum of a B grade at GCSE in single Science or Additional Science. The course considers the synthesis of biological molecules and their organization within organisms. A significant amount of the course, at AS level, relies on students having a sound background knowledge in Chemistry. Assessment at AS will be by Examination papers for Units 1 and 2. Unit 3 will be assessed on individual ability in investigative skills and practical work.

## Content and Assessment

### AS Unit 1, BIOL1; Biology and disease

- Examination paper 1 hour 15 minutes
- 5-7 short answer questions plus 2 longer questions (a short comprehension and a structured question requiring continuous prose) (33.3% of the total AS marks; 16.7% of the total A Level marks)

### Unit 2, BIOL2; The variety of living organisms

- Examination paper 1 hour 45 minutes
- 7-9 short answer questions plus 2 longer questions (1 data handling and 1 assessing analysis and evaluation) (46.7% of the total AS marks; 23.3% of the total A Level marks)

### Unit 3 Internal Assessment; Investigative and practical skills in AS Biology Either BIO3T, Centre Marked Route T

- Practical Skills Assessment
- Investigative Skills Assignment

### Or BIO3X, Externally Marked Route X

- Practical Skills Verification
- Externally Marked Practical Assignment (20% of total AS marks; 10% of total A level marks)

## A2

Students who pass AS units at an appropriate level will progress onto the A2 component of the Biology A Level course.

### Unit 4, BIOL4: Populations and environment

- Examination paper 1 hour 30 minutes
- 6-9 short answer questions plus 2 longer questions involving continuous prose and How Science Works (16.7% of the total A Level marks)

### Unit 5, BIOL5; Control in cells and organisms

- Examination paper 2 hours 15 minutes
- 8-10 short answer questions plus 2 longer questions (a data-handling question and a synoptic essay - choice of 1 out of 2) (23.3% of the total A Level marks)

### Unit 6, Internal Assessment; Investigative and practical skills in A2 Biology Either BIO6T, Centre Marked Route T

- Practical Skills Assessment
- Investigative Skills

### BIO6X, Externally Marked Route X

- Practical Skills
- Externally Marked Practical Assignment (10% of the total A Level marks)

## Career Opportunities

At the end of this course, students may be able to obtain places on highly competitive degree courses including medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, forensic sciences and physiotherapy. Biology A level would also be advantageous to those seeking employment in land management or the catering industry.

## Entry Requirements

Prior study of Business Studies, i.e. G.C.S.E., is not essential, although students should have obtained at least a grade C if they have studied GCSE Business Studies. Students should be interested in business and financial events and will be expected to follow current business affairs through the media and the Internet.

## Content and Assessment

Business Studies at AS/A2 level will help candidates develop a critical understanding of business organisations, markets, financial affairs, personnel matters and strategic decision making in a changing environment.

Students will learn:

- Governmental and economic factors affecting a business
- Key influences affecting organisations
- Financial, marketing, personnel and organisational strategies
- Starting up and managing business units
- Case study techniques and business methods
- Decision making approaches and general management ideas
- Experience of all six Key Skills

## AS

### AS unit F291 - An Introduction to Business

- Five questions with a combination of short answer and data response 1 hr (20% of A2 Level)

## AS unit F292 - Business Functions

- Section A: Candidates answer one six part question
- Section B: Four questions based on a pre-release case study 2 hrs (30% of A2 Level)

## A2

### A2 Unit F294 - Accounting

- Six questions based on a case study. 1hr and 30 minutes (20% of A2 Level)

### A2 Unit F297 - Strategic Management

- Six questions based on a pre-released long case study. 1 hr and 30 minutes (30% of A2 Level)

## Career Opportunities

Business Studies is an increasingly popular course in Higher and Further Education which often combines with languages, law, statistics, ICT, politics, etc.

The subject is also useful for almost any career but has particular relevance for management, banking and financial services.

## Entry Requirements

All students need a minimum B grade in Additional Science, or Chemistry and Maths. This course extends principles from GCSE and includes the study of climate change; green chemistry; synthesis of pharmaceuticals; forensics; fuel cells.

## Content and Assessment

**AS** consists of 3 units, 2 written papers examined in January and June and a practical unit assessed in class.

### Unit F321, Atoms, Bonds and Groups,

Sub-divided into 3 modules:

- Atoms and reactions
- Electrons, bonding and structure
- The Periodic Table

This unit is assessed by a 1 hour written paper. All questions are compulsory. (30% of the total AS marks, 15% of total A2 marks)

### Unit F322, Chains, Energy and Resources

Sub-divided into 4 modules

- Basic concepts and hydrocarbons
- Alcohols, Halogenoalkanes and analysis
- Energy
- Green chemistry

This unit is assessed by a 1 hour 45 minutes written paper. All questions are compulsory. (50% of total AS marks, 25% of total A2 marks)

### Unit F326, Practical work

Assessed using ISA style exams and the 3 best marks are submitted by May. (10% of total A2 marks)

**A2** also consists of 3 units, 2 written papers examined in January and June and a practical unit. The **A2** unit contains 'stretch and challenge' components which enable A\* grades to be gained.

### Unit F324, Rings, polymers and analysis

This unit is assessed by a 1 hour written paper. All questions are compulsory. (15% of the total A2 marks)

### Unit F325, Equilibria, energetic and elements

This unit is assessed by a 1 hour 45 minutes written paper. All questions are compulsory. (25% of total A2 marks)

### Unit F326, Practical work

Assessed using ISA style exams and the 3 best marks are submitted by May. (10% of total A2 marks)

## Resources

The course is accompanied by two text books and revision guides which are written by Examiners of OCR Chemistry. In addition, there are Exam Café computer disks accompanying each text book. Students are provided with worksheets for every practical activity.

## Career Opportunities

GCE Chemistry is viewed by employers as an excellent academic qualification. Chemistry may be studied at University alone, or in conjunction with many other subjects, such as Sports Science, Law etc. GCE Chemistry is compulsory for courses in medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy and dentistry.

## Entry Requirements

Students do not need to have studied Design and Technology at GCSE in order to take an AS level or A2 level course in this subject, but must be prepared to do the extra work needed to cover GCSE course content. Students should have a strong interest in designing, modelling, making, evaluating products and an understanding of the impact that designers have upon society.

## Content and Assessment

Advanced GCE Design and Technology aims to provide an opportunity for students to develop their own creativity, capability and entrepreneurial skills, enabling them to gain knowledge and understanding of a range of technological activities and to develop critical thinking and collaborative skills. The assessment of the Advanced GCE involves examinations and coursework projects and provides opportunities for developing and generating evidence for assessing key skills. Students are required to produce a Portfolio of Creative Skills for the coursework element of their AS qualification. This is divided into three discrete areas of study: product investigation, product design

and product manufacture. Each of these areas is unique and not necessarily linked to each other. The Portfolio of Creative Skills will be internally marked and externally moderated. There will be a written examination, Design and Technology in Practice, about the knowledge and understanding of:

- Industrial and commercial products and practices
- Materials, components and systems.

The Portfolio of Creative Skills is worth 60% of the final mark and the written examination is worth 40% of the final mark.

The A2 course also involves a written exam, Designing for the Future, worth 40% of the final mark and a coursework element, Commercial Design, worth 60%. The coursework element of the A2 course is a full design and make activity. The specification is designed to:

- Build on and extend knowledge, understanding and skills established in GCSE Design and Technology
- Provide progression through A level to encourage a suitable foundation for the study of Design and Technology related courses in further education or employment

- Encourage the development of independent learning, creativity and innovation
- Meet the needs of students who wish to broaden their studies.

## Career Opportunities

Design and Technology supports application for almost any art or science based university degree course. Further study could then lead to a wide range of exciting and rewarding careers including Graphics Courses, Theatre Design, Architecture, Fashion Design, Product Design and Engineering.

Students may decide to progress directly into industry rather than entering further education. AS and A2 Design and Technology develops transferable skills and key skills which employers appreciate. Employment opportunities exist in Architecture, Building Surveying, Construction Industry, Local Authority Services and various branches of the Engineering Industry.

## Entry Requirements

Students do not need to have studied Drama at GCSE in order to take Drama and Theatre Studies as an AS level or A2 course in this subject. However, they must be prepared to do the extra work needed to cover the technical terms and understanding of the subject. Students should have a strong interest in live theatre of all varieties, a passion for either performing, directing, set or costume design and a desire to study different theatrical practices. A minimum of 4 students are required to run this course.

## Content and Assessment

The Drama and Theatre Studies specification is designed to provide a balance across a range of learning activities. It combines the activities of exploring plays, creating theatre, the performing of plays, the analysis of theatre and the critical evaluation of all of these elements. Students completing the course successfully will hone their analytical and creative skills and have a thorough understanding of drama and theatre and an ability to communicate effectively with others. The skills required for A Level Drama and Theatre Studies are useful for any fields where good self-presentation, people and project management are desirable.

## GCE Advanced Subsidiary level

Unit 1 introduces students to the content of plays written for the theatre. They will learn how to analyse plays in a variety of ways so that they become familiar with the way written plays can be interpreted for realisation in performance.

This internally assessed unit requires students to explore two contrasting play texts, chosen by the centre, in a practical and active way. At least one of the plays must be explored in the light of a recognised theatre practitioner.

Unit 2 offers students the chance to demonstrate skills in a performance environment. The knowledge and understanding gained during the study of two plays in Unit 1 can now be applied with a view to delivering a performance to an audience.

This is an externally assessed unit. The first section requires students to offer either a monologue or duologue. The second section requires students to contribute to a performance of a professionally published play by a known writer.

Students may offer either acting or a design form and must also provide a concept of the interpretation of their chosen roles or designs.

## GCE Advanced level

Unit 3 requires the creation of a unique and original piece of theatre. The knowledge and understanding gained in the AS units can now be applied to a created production. Students will be assessed on both the process of creation and the finished product in the form of a performance to an invited audience. Students will be assessed on the research and development of their work as well as the final performance in front of an identified audience. They are also required to complete an evaluation on both the process and performance of their work.

Unit 4 externally examined written unit requires the detailed study of one set play text and one prescribed historical period of theatrical development.

This externally assessed unit takes the form of a 2-hour-and-30-minute written paper in three sections. Sections A and B require students to explore one play, from a choice of three set play texts, from the point of view of a director in both an academic and practical way. In Section C a selection must be made of one, from a choice of three, historic periods of theatre history. A live performance of a play from the chosen period must be experienced and evaluated and a comparison made with the original staging conditions of the play.

## Career Opportunities

Drama and Theatre Studies are an excellent option for those wishing to pursue Theatre as a career, whether that is as a performer, director, designer or writer. It is also a good basis for those with aspirations of a career in teaching. Many universities look on an AS or A2 level in Drama and Theatre studies in a good light as the general aspects of the course provide candidates with excellent people skills.

## Entry Requirements

In order to study English Literature at AS Level, you will need to achieve a grade B or above in your English Literature GCSE. In addition, you should:

- Have a love of reading and literature;
- Want to develop your analytical skills and understanding of the author's craft;
- Have an interest in texts' historical context;
- Enjoy constructing and substantiating your own arguments;
- Enjoy independent research;
- Be prepared to discuss your own ideas and engage with the ideas of others;
- Be able to empathise with characters and be interested in social issues;
- Want to broaden your knowledge of your literary heritage.

By taking the English Literature AS and A2 course, we hope you will develop your interest in and enjoyment of English Literature. You should be prepared to read widely and independently, across centuries, genre and gender. You will also need to study texts closely, drawing comparisons between them and consider how context adds to meaning.

## Course Content and Assessment

At both AS and A2 level students work towards an examination and produce a piece of coursework.

### AS

#### Unit 1 - Texts in Context

This unit involves the study of a poetry set text and assesses candidates' wider reading around the theme of 'The Struggle for Modern Identity'. It is assessed in a two hour examination.

#### Unit 2 - Creative Study

This unit assesses a set prose and drama text. Study also focuses on the theme 'The Struggle for Modern Identity'. Candidates produce a coursework folder containing two pieces of writing comprising 2,000 words in total.

### A2

#### Unit 3 - Reading for Meaning

This unit culminates in a two hour examination, in which students analyse four unprepared texts and demonstrate their wider reading on the theme of 'Love through the Ages'.

#### Unit 4 - Extended Essay and Shakespeare Study

In this unit, students produce a piece of coursework: a 3,000 word essay on three texts, one of which the students choose. The texts include a Shakespeare play.

## Career Opportunities

The study of English Literature equips students with developed skills of analysis, communication and independent research. These skills are required in a multitude of careers. English Literature is, however, an excellent foundation for further studies in Media Studies, Journalism, American Studies, Communication Studies, Information Management, Commerce, Humanities and English Language and Literature.

## Entry Requirements

In order to study A level geography students should:

- Have a good understanding of the concepts and ideas studied in GCSE geography;
- Have mastered the geographical skills used in the GCSE course.

## Content and Assessment

### AS

The AS course is divided into two sections:

### Unit 1: Physical Geography

A compulsory unit studying rivers and flood management and an optional module studying coastal zones and their management.

### Unit 2: Human Geography

A compulsory unit on population geography and an optional module on energy issues.

These are examined in Unit 1 as a 2 hour exam worth 35% of the final A level grade. The second AS unit (worth 15%) is a structured skills and fieldwork exam paper (1 hour). The skills will be taught as an integrated part of the physical and human geography topics. Students will, for this section, need to undertake a personal fieldwork investigation which will be assessed via the exam paper. The work for this will be carried out on an organised field visit.

### A2

The A2 course develops an issues approach.

### Unit 3: Contemporary Geographical Issues

Is divided into physical and human options. These engage the students with important, interesting themes and environments. Examples of subject areas include:

- Plate tectonics and associated hazards;
- Weather and climate and associated hazards;
- World cities, evolution or revolution;

This unit is worth 30% of the A level marks and is assessed via a 2 hour and 30 minute exam.

### Unit 4

Unit 4 can be examined as either a geographical issues evaluation exam or a geographical skills exam and it accounts for the final 20% of the marks (2 hour and 30 minute exam). When deciding on the module studied, the strengths of pupils is the main consideration

### Career Opportunities

The skills students use and develop in Geography will provide an excellent foundation for students progressing on to further academic study as well as being of potential interest to a wide range of employers.

## Entry Requirements

Above all this course requires an open, enquiring mind. It is usual that candidates will have studied GCSE History but it is not an essential requirement. A good standard of literacy is required as there is an emphasis on reading widely and a need to produce a coherent written argument. An interest in the past and in understanding why events occurred and why people behaved as they did is also essential.

## Content and Assessment

Students will study a range of Historical periods both British and non-British. The aim is for students to:

- Develop an interest and enthusiasm for history
- Acquire an understanding of differences between groups in history, for example, political groups
- Develop critical and reflective thinking skills
- Develop ability to ask relevant questions and research different aspects of the past
- Acquire an understanding that historical judgements may be provisional
- Develop understanding of historical terms and concepts
- Make links and draw comparisons within and/or across different periods and aspects of history
- Organise and communicate historical knowledge in different ways, arguing a case and reaching judgements.

The AS modules provide the link from GCSE and focus on short periods which encourage acquiring a detailed knowledge of a period and country. The A2 modules develop the skills acquired at AS and are more concerned with the skills of evaluation and analysis.

Unit and module	Level	Name	Duration of exam	AS	A2
Unit 1 1HIS1G	AS	Britain 1815-1865	1 hr 15 min	50%	25%
Unit 2 HIS2G	AS	Life in Nazi Germany 1933-1945	1 hr 30 min	50%	25%
Unit 3 HIS3G	A2	The British State and people 1865-1915	1 hr 30 min		30%
Unit 4 HIS4X	A2	Historical enquiry Coursework of a 100 year period	Approx. 3,500 words		20%

Unit 1 of the AS concentrates on the question of change and continuity over a period of time Unit 2 of the AS examines a period of change and the historical issues of that period. Unit 3 of the A2 concentrates on change and continuity over a long period of time Unit 4 of the A2 is the coursework unit and requires the analysis of an historical issue. Students study a 100-year period and from that framework they select a topic for more detailed study or choose to look at the whole 100 year period. Students look at a range of sources and evaluate them.

Examples: How wars begin: European powers and the origins of two world wars or Britain and Ireland 1893-1998.

## Career Opportunities

A Level History gives students the knowledge and skills which will prepare them for higher education and which are also useful in any career. Students who specialise in History can go on to become historical researchers , work in heritage organisations or become teachers. History also supports other career paths, like journalism, politics, law, social work and public services. When combined with sciences it can also ensure that students have the communication skills so necessary in any scientific field.

## Entry Requirements

It would be helpful if you have studied ICT at GCSE, although prior knowledge is not essential. It is probable that you will have demonstrated suitable GCE potential by achieving some success at ICT at an earlier stage.

## Content and Assessment

The world is increasingly dominated by the use of Information and Communications Technology. Many aspects of our daily lives rely on ICT on a practical level. This course will introduce you to the fundamentals of ICT, providing a foundation from which to extend your knowledge of this growing area. Through the course you will develop an understanding of the principles of problem solving using ICT. You will learn about a range of ICT applications and the effects of their use. The course aims for you to be able to apply this knowledge and understanding through practical experience when developing ICT solutions to problems.

The AS and Advanced GCE in Information and Communication Technology have been designed to form qualifications which provide knowledge and understanding of this vocational area. They are ideal qualifications for those students who want a broad background in Information and Communication Technology which will allow them to progress to further or higher education, training or employment. Progression through Advanced Level will provide a suitable basis for further study in related subjects in Higher Education as well as a valuable preparation for careers in any area of Information and Communication Technology.

## AS Level

In order to obtain the GCE Advanced Subsidiary Single Award, candidates must take the following units:

- AS Unit 1 - The Information Age: Create an ebook to show research on "Life in the Information Age"
- AS Unit 2 - The Digital Economy: Studying a transactional website; creating a multi-table relational database
- AS Unit 3 The Knowledge Worker: Using spreadsheet models to make business decisions

Unit 3 will be externally assessed with a 2 hour and 30 minute exam. Units 1 and 2 will be internally assessed through portfolio evidence.

## A level

In order to obtain the GCE Advanced Level candidates must take the following additional units:

- Unit 7 Using Database Software
- Unit 8 Managing ICT Projects

Plus either:

- Unit 10 Using Multimedia Software or
- Unit 11 Using Spreadsheet software

Unit 7 will be external assessed with a practical database exam. Units 8 and 10 or 11 will be internally assessed through portfolio evidence.

## Career Opportunities

With a qualification in ICT you could go on to Higher Education or work in one of the many vocational areas emerging to reflect the importance of information technology in the modern world. Many students choose ICT A Level so that they have high level ICT skills to help in their University studies or their future employment.

## Entry Requirements

A confident knowledge of the Higher Tier at GCSE is essential. Students with a flair for mathematics will find this course challenging and rewarding.

## Content and Assessment

The course consists mainly of Core Mathematics; algebra, geometry, trigonometry, computational methods and a completely new topic, calculus. You will also study either Mechanics or Statistics. Mechanics tends to be linked closely with Physics, whereas Statistics might complement Biology or could be appropriate for a non-Physicist.

At AS level students will complete three modules, two Core and either Mechanics or Statistics. Students take Core 1 in January and the other two modules in June. Each module exam lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes. Successful completion of these exams leads to the AS qualification in Mathematics.

Those students wishing to continue the course into Year 13 will follow the A2 course and will take three further modules in the area of Core Mathematics and Statistics. There is no coursework element for this course.

Graphical calculators are an essential tool of the A level course, which the department will supply.

We also run classes for the STEP paper in Year 13 for those who wish to continue with mathematics or related subjects at university.

Further Mathematics is also offered at AS Level. This involves an additional three modules and must be taken in conjunction with A Level Mathematics. It is very demanding, but suitable for students considering a mathematics or engineering degree.

## Career Opportunities

As well as a subject in its own right, it is also taken by many to complement A level science subjects, geography and economics.

If you are planning to study medicine, engineering or any finance related degree you will find having A level Maths essential.

## Entry Requirements

Students need to achieve at least grade B at GCSE (Higher Tier). They will need to feel confident at this level in the four language skills of Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking and have a sound knowledge of grammatical rules at GCSE level.

The kind of student suitable for this course must be prepared to:

- Spend a considerable amount of time reading, learning vocabulary and writing essays;
- Make an active contribution to class discussions;
- Spend at least 2 weeks in the target language country with a family, on a language course and/or work experience;
- Be interested in world news, current affairs and the culture of the target language country.

## Content and Assessment

The course will help you to develop your general study skills, but most of all you will learn to communicate at a higher level in the language that you have chosen. You will also learn much more about a wide range of aspects of the society or societies in which

the language is spoken. You will continue to develop the language skills of reading, listening, speaking and writing through:

- Reading from authentic sources, such as magazines and newspapers, reports, books or the internet.
- Listening to a range of sources such as news reports on the radio or TV, weather forecasts, announcements, interviews and discussions.
- Writing essays or longer pieces and holding conversations and discussions in the target language.

## AS

### Unit 1 (35% of A Level)

Listening, Reading and Writing (2 hours)

### Unit 2 (15% of A Level)

Speaking: 20 minutes preparation and 15 minutes conversation.

## A2

### Unit 3 (35% of A Level)

Listening, Reading and Writing (2 1/2 hours)

### Unit 4 (15% of A Level)

Speaking: 20 minutes of preparation and 15 minutes conversation.

## Career Opportunities

Some students choose to do degree courses in languages; others choose to pursue a Higher Education course in another subject, but choose a language option alongside it. Having a language at AS or A level will certainly improve your employability, in particular with companies which have international branches.

## Entry Requirements

To study this course with confidence, you must be able to read music and play a musical instrument, at least Grade 5 standard. It is useful if you have studied GCSE Music, but it is not a pre-requisite.

## Content and Assessment

At AS the areas of Study are as follows:

- Tonality (The Language of Western Harmony)
- The Expressive Use of Instrumental Techniques (repertoire, instruments, performing techniques, principal contexts in which used)

At A2 the areas of Study are as follows:

- Tonality (more complex harmony and tonal processes)
- Interpretation - the performer as interpreter, the composer as interpreter, the critical listener

## AS

### Unit G351: Performing Music 1 (40%)

This takes the form of a practical examination assessed by a visiting examiner. You will be expected to prepare a solo recital of at least two pieces on any instrument or voice lasting up to 8 minutes. Further performing gives you the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency on a second instrument; or as part of an ensemble; to perform your own composition(s) or prepare an improvisation in a short programme

of up to 4 minutes. There will be a short 5 minute discussion with the examiner about the performance, programme and preparation for it.

### Unit G352: Composing Music 1 (30%)

This unit is teacher assessed. You will be expected to produce a portfolio of six harmony exercises and one more under centre supervision and either a composition for 4-10 instruments or a full arrangement of a lead sheet.

### Unit G353: Introduction to Historical Study in Music (30%)

This takes the form of a 2 hour examination where you will be examined on aural extracts, set works (late 18th/early 19th century orchestral and instrumental jazz 1920-1960) and contextual awareness.

## A2

### Unit G354: Performing Music 2 (20%)

This is a practical examination assessed by a visiting examiner. You will be expected to prepare and present a recital of up to 15 minutes on one instrument which shows an in-depth understanding of a particular style or genre. You will also be required to undertake a viva voce lasting 5 minutes on two interpretations of music relevant to your chosen style or genre of the recital.

### Unit G355: Composing Music 2 (15%)

This is an externally assessed portfolio of compositions – a composition and a set of 8 stylistic techniques exercises, one of which must be under centre supervision.

### Unit G356: Historical and Analytical Studies in Music (15%)

This is an externally marked timed examination lasting 2 ½ hours which consists of aural extracts of unfamiliar music as well as questions on the historical topic covered.

## Career Opportunities

GCE AS or A2 Music could lead to further study in Music or the Performing Arts at degree level at a Music college or university. You could eventually go on to one of several careers in music such as performing, composing, conducting, instrument repair, the record industry, music education, librarianship, publishing, music therapy, music retailing and/or wholesaling, or arts administration.

## Entry Requirements

It is useful to have studied Music or Information Technology at GCSE level, but not essential.

## Content and Assessment

At AS the areas of Study are as follows:

- The Principles and Practice of Music Technology
- Popular Music Styles Since 1910

At A2 the areas of Study are as follows:

- The Principles and Practice of Music Technology
- The Development of Technology-based Music

You will learn how to:

- Sequence MIDI
- Sequence audio
- Record live instruments
- Produce CDs
- Compose using technology

## AS

### Unit 1: Music Technology Portfolio (70%)

Task 1A - Sequenced realised performance

Task 1B - Multi-track recording

Task 1C - Creative Sequenced Arrangement

Plus logbook

### Unit 2: (30%)

A 1 hour 45 minute externally assessed examination to test students' aural perception of musical characteristics and features and also wider understanding and knowledge of styles and genres covered.

## A2

### Unit 3: Music Technology Portfolio 2 (30%)

Task 3A - Sequenced Integrated Performance

Task 3B - Multi-track Recording

Task 3C - Composing using Music Technology

Plus logbook

### Unit 4: Analysing and Producing (20%)

A two hour externally assessed examination to test students' musical understanding, ability to manipulate and correct recorded music, write commentaries on technological processes and a practical test involving the production of a balanced stereo mix.

All coursework and written examinations are externally assessed.

## Career Opportunities

The Advanced GCE in Music Technology can lead to further study of music technology in Higher Education.

- A career could follow as a:
- Sound engineer
- Record producer
- Teacher

## Entry Requirements

For the practical side of the course, it is vital that you enjoy sport and play regularly and competitively for a team or club outside school. There needs to be a minimum of 6 students for this course to run.

For the theoretical side of the course you will need to have a strong background in research skills and science exams. It is strongly recommended that you will have gained at least a B grade in GCSE PE.

## Content and Assessment

Students will develop knowledge and skills to help understand the opportunities for and effects of leading a healthy and active lifestyle. Candidates will be given the opportunity to build on their experience and improve their personal skills/techniques across a variety of roles in a sport of their choice, to improve performance.

## AS

### Unit 1 Opportunities for and the effects of leading a healthy and active lifestyle

There is a 2 hour written paper which carries 60% of total AS Level marks and 30% of A Level marks.

### Unit 2 Analysis and evaluation of physical activity as performer and/or in an adopted role/s

Candidates are assessed on their ability to perform, analyse and evaluate the execution of core skills/techniques in isolation and a structured practice as

either: a player/ performer and in an adopted role or in two adopted roles. This is assessed by an internal assessment with external moderation and carries 40% of total AS Level marks and 20% of A Level marks.

## A2

At A2, the specification enables candidates to further develop their understanding of key philosophical concepts, themes, texts and techniques. Candidates will be given the opportunity to specialise further, selecting two themes to study in depth and focusing on philosophical problems through the study of a key text.

### Unit 3 Optimising performance and evaluating contemporary issues within sport

There is a 2 hour written paper which carries 30% of total A Level marks

### Unit 4 Optimising Practical Performance

Candidates are assessed on their ability to perform, analyse and evaluate their own performance or the core skills/techniques in a competitive situation as either a player/performer or in an adopted role.

Then using their knowledge and understanding identify their weaknesses; suggest the causes of these weaknesses and appropriate corrective measures.

## Career Opportunities

Physical education combines with a range of AS and A Level subjects. Taken with sciences like Biology it supports applications for a wide range of University courses like Sports Sciences, Physiotherapy, Recreation and Leisure Studies.

Many students choose to use their qualification to go straight into employment, rather than go on to higher education. Because AS and A Level Physical Education develop the transferable skills and the key skills that employers are looking for, they can lead to a very wide range of employment opportunities.

This can include further training in such areas as Recreational Management, Leisure Activities, Armed Forces and Civil Services.

## Entry Requirements

All students need a minimum GCSE grade of B in Core Science and B grades in Additional Science or separate science Physics. A GCSE grade of B in Mathematics is also required. It is helpful, but not required, to take AS Mathematics.

This course will appeal to those students who:

- Have a curiosity about the physical world and want to find out more
- Enjoy solving problems logically, often using mathematical techniques
- Want to take part in practical investigations
- Have an interest in modern technology and the way it develops
- Hope to follow a career which is science or technology based.

## Content and Assessment

Students will:

- Develop an understanding of the basic principles which govern the physical world
- Learn about some applications of Physics in everyday life, technology and engineering
- Discuss models which show the physical concepts studied
- Think about the Universe and our place in it

- Design and perform experiments, draw conclusions and assess evidence
- Communicate effectively, carry out research, analyse and think critically about problems.

## AS

### Unit 1: Particles, quantum phenomena and electricity

Exam 75 minutes (40% of AS Level).

### Unit 2: Mechanics, materials and waves

Exam 75 minutes (40% of AS Level).

### Unit 3: Investigative and practical skills

Individual practical examination.

This is externally assessed. (20% of AS Level.)

## A2

### Unit 4: Fields and Further Mechanics

Exam 95 minutes (40% of A2 Level).

### Unit 5: Nuclear Physics, Thermal Physics and option module

Options include; Astrophysics, Medical Physics, Applied Physics and Turning points in Physics.

Exam 105 minutes (40% of A2 Level).

## Unit 6: Investigative and practical skills

Individual practical examination.

This is externally assessed. (20% of A2 Level.)

## Career Opportunities

Students with AS or A2 Physics have access to a very wide range of possible career and higher education choices.

An A2 pass is a necessity for entry into most pure science, engineering, technical, telecommunications or careers.

The skills of problem solving, planning, analysing and evaluating data, practical techniques, communication and presentation of ideas and work, are all in demand and recognised by employers and universities as being of great value.

## Entry Requirements

To gain entry onto this course, students should have achieved at least 5 A\*-C at GCSE including English, Maths and Science. The course has been designed to develop knowledge, understanding and skills related to psychology with the intention of being applied to the analysis and understanding of others.

It is important to note that this is not a counselling course but a scientific qualification studying the workings of the mind and brain. The course has a large mathematical content and you should only consider undertaking it if you are competent with maths.

## Content and Assessment

### AS

The AS is the first half of an Advanced GCE course and contributes 50% of the total A-Level GCE marks. It is made up of a subset of two units.

### Unit 1: Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology and Research Methods

The first part of this unit investigates the way the brain works through thinking, memory and Learning. The second part of this unit focuses on early social development and attachment; and the third part of this unit focuses on particular aspects of conducting a psychological experiment (AO1 and AO2). This is a 1 hour 30 minutes written exam (50% of AS, 25% of total GCE Level).

### Unit 2: Biological Psychology, Social Psychology and Individual Differences

The first part of this unit focuses on the impact of stress from the Biological perspective. The second part focuses on the impact social influence has. The third topic in this unit takes a detailed look at psychopathology (mental abnormalities) (AO1 and AO2). This is a 1 hour 30 minutes written exam (50% of AS, 25% of total GCE Level).

### A2

The Advanced GCE comprises of two AS units (3 and 4) which are commonly referred to as A2 and makes up the final 50% of the A-Level.

### Unit 3: Topics in Psychology

This Unit comprises of three essay-style questions chosen from eight topics studied within psychology (AO1, AO2 and AO3). This is a 1 hour 30 minutes written exam (50% of A2, 25% of total GCE Level).

### Unit 4: Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods

An essay is written for each of these topics. (AO1 and AO2) This is a 2 hour written exam divided into two sections (50% of A2, 25% of total GCE Level).

## Career Opportunities

Psychology is a new and fast growing scientific field. It can lead into many different careers, such as teaching, research, Human Resources and other roles such as Educational Psychology and Occupational Psychology.

## Entry Requirements

Prior study of the travel and tourism industry is not essential. Students should be interested in the travel and tourism industry and would be expected to follow recent developments in the industry through media and the internet.

## Content and Assessment

The AS and A level in Travel and Tourism will help students develop an understanding of the nature of the travel and tourism industry. Students will :

- Develop and sustain an interest in travel and tourism and the issues affecting the development of the industry and its potential effect on employment opportunities
- Develop an understanding of the scale and importance of the travel and tourism industry and the interdependence of its sectors
- Appreciate the importance of host destinations and communities to the industry and the importance of sustainable development
- Appreciate the positive and negative impacts travel and tourism may have on people, environment and economy
- Appreciate the global and dynamic nature of the industry
- Appreciate the impact of ICT on the development of the industry and the potential effects on future activities.

## AS

The AS is the first half of the course and contributes 50% of the total A Level. It is made up of a subset of three units.

### Unit 1: Inside Travel and Tourism

Written paper comprises short and extended answer questions.

### Unit 2: Travel and Tourism - A People Industry

Coursework portfolio

### Unit 3: Travel Destinations

Coursework portfolio

## A2

The A2 course makes up the final 50% of the A Level and is also a subset of three units.

### Unit 8: Travel and Tourism Project

Coursework portfolio

### Unit 9: Travel and Tourism - People and Quality

Written paper comprising an externally assessed assignment to be completed within 6 hours under controlled conditions.

### Unit 10: Current Issues in Travel and Tourism

Coursework portfolio

## Career Opportunities

AS and A2 Travel and Tourism can progress to a range of HE courses to include Degree in Travel and Tourism Management and BA in Management and Tourism. The qualification provides a broad foundation for a wide range of employment options available in the travel industry to include travel agents, conference planning and resort representatives.

# Further Opportunities in the Sixth Form

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## Induction Week

Prior to term starting in September, all Sixth Formers take part in an Induction Trip. This offers an excellent opportunity for students to work together as a team, develop leadership skills and try new challenges. In 2010, students went to Normandy and tried their hand at kayaking, sand yachting and catamaran sailing. The 2009 group travelled to Panticosa in the Spanish Pyrennees and enjoyed mountain climbing, abseiling and canyoning.

## Physical Education

The Community Sports Leader Award (CSLA) is a training course designed to give people, 16 years and over, skills in leading groups in safe sporting and recreational activity. This is an excellent award to put down on UCAS forms.

The Award is split into 8 units:

1. Organisational skills
2. Safety in sport
3. Know your friends
4. Fitness sessions for sport
5. Events and competitions
6. Improvisational and adapted games
7. Games and activity experience
8. 10 hours voluntary leadership experience

## Careers

All students in Year 12 study Careers. This qualification will cover all aspects of career planning, including how to research a career, how to apply for jobs and local and national labour markets. Students also have the opportunity to attend a Higher Education fair, mock interviews and a 'Next Steps' career planning day. Work experience forms part of this certificate and is either completed in a UK business, or abroad by Language students.

## Community Service

All students take part in a number of Community Service and extra curricular activities. This includes charity events, music and sport as well as leading clubs, reading and working with pupils from our Nursery through to Year 11.

## Preparing for University

Year 13 students follow a six week course "Cooking on a budget", which gives them the basic cooking skills needed to survive at University. Study skills, time management and budgeting are also important aspects of the curriculum in the Sixth Form.

## Links with Welwyn Garden City Consortium

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Sherrardswood has linked up with the Welwyn Garden City Consortium to provide a wider range of subjects for our 6th form students.

If there is one particular subject which interests you, for example: Law, Media Studies, Sociology, in addition to the subjects offered at Sherrardswood, arrangements can be made for you to study it at one of the Consortium schools. (N.B. You do not need an A Level in any of these subjects to study them at university, in fact some may prefer you not to. Check with your tutors and Careers staff.)

If you are interested in studying a subject in the consortium, you will need to register with the school and Mme Quinton will liaise with the consortium to organise your timetable. The consortium courses are divided into two sessions: one morning from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon and an afternoon session from 1.15 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. You will need to organise your own transport to pick you up at the end of the morning session or to take you to the afternoon session.

Depending on the subject you are planning to take, you may have to go to Oaklands Campus West, Stanborough School or Monks Walk School.

## 1. Dress of Sixth Formers

We aim to give Sixth Formers some scope for dressing individually and at the same time adopting a style of dress which will be expected of them when they leave school or university for the world of work, a 'business style' of dress.

Boys – must wear jacket (not denim) and trousers (not jeans), shirt and tie. Sweaters, if worn, should be such that the collar and tie can be seen.

Boys should be clean shaven and may wear a sensible amount of jewellery.

Girls - must wear a jacket, a dress or blouse with skirt (no more than 2 inches above the knee) or blouse with smart trousers (not jeans).

They may wear a sensible amount of make-up and jewellery.

Hair - should be a tidy, natural colour, discreet highlights are allowed.

Footwear - shoes may be any sensible style and colour. Trainers or heavy boots are not acceptable.

Sports kit must comply with the Clothing Lists used by the rest of the school.

Facial piercings are not allowed.

## 2. Common Room

The hygiene of the common room is a collective responsibility. The expectation is that at the end of each day:

The room will be left tidy so that cleaners can do their job effectively.

Cleaning/tidying rotas are to be followed in the interests of hygiene and to ensure that each student takes a fair share of responsibility.

In the unlikely event of damage to the Common Room it will have to be paid for by the student/ students responsible and 6th Form privileges and use of the Common Room may be withdrawn.

## 3. Study Periods

Sixth formers have their own study room equipped with computers. Students are expected to work quietly during their study period. If a student wishes to work in any specialist room, e.g. Art Room, Science Labs and Music House, then permission must be obtained from the Head of the relevant subject area. The form tutor must also be informed.

During periods 1-8, students should be in lessons or studying.

## 4. Free Time

While we encourage visitors to join us on pre-arranged formal occasions, for Health and Safety reasons, any arrangements you may wish to make regarding visitors must always be done through the Head of Sixth Form or Form Tutors.

Visitors should arrange their visits during lunchtime and not during the school day and prior permission should be obtained from the Head of Sixth Form.

## 5. Sixth Form Privileges

Use of your own car.

Non-uniform and discreet make-up.

Occasional lunchtime exeats.

Entitlement to remain in Mimram House at lunchtime.

## 6. UCAS Forms and Your Future

It is highly recommended that students include extra curricular activities in their CV. To that end, involvement in music, sport or teaching clubs would be an asset.

Students should be aware that Universities and places of work will ask the school for a reference. Those who have taken part in Community Service or taken other responsibilities in school will find they get a more favourable report. Signs of leadership and use of initiative are qualities students should aim to develop during their time in the Sixth Form.

# Conditions of Entry

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AS/A level study gives you the opportunity to study subjects you enjoy in more depth.

However, it doesn't suit everyone. In order to start AS Level courses, you must have at least five GCSEs at grade C or above, with preferably grades C in English and Mathematics. It is usually advisable to have achieved at least a B grade in the subject you are intending to study, but if you are unsure take the advice of subject staff.

If you are likely to achieve mainly A\*, A and B grades at GCSE, you should think of studying four AS subjects. This will give you a broader base for your studies, with more options for A levels & Higher Education.

If you are likely to achieve mainly C with some B grades, you need to discuss the possibility of studying only three subjects. You will need to demonstrate that you can use the extra time well for study and Community Service. You need to make these decisions based on the predicted grades you have been given following your Mock exams. To benefit from the Sixth Form you need to be determined to work to your full potential and to be committed to your study. You must be prepared to support the school ethos and code of conduct.

If you are thinking about a place in our Sixth Form, please complete the following forms and return them to Mme Quinton by 4th February 2011 when the timetabling process for September 2011 will begin. If you are joining Sherrardswood Sixth Form from another school, your school record, both academic and social, will be taken into account. You and your parents will usually be expected to have an interview with Mrs Corry or Mme Quinton.

# Sixth Form Acceptance Form

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To be filled out by all prospective Sixth Formers students.

It is my intention to join the Sixth Form at Sherrardswood School in September 2011

## MY PROPOSED YEAR 12 AS SUBJECT CHOICES ARE

AS Subject Choice is:

AS Subject Choice is:

AS Subject Choice is:

AS Subject Choice is:

I have read and understood all the information concerning the Sixth Form at Sherrardswood School. I am willing to accept the requirements and agree to uphold the ethos of the school for as long as I am a student.

Name:

Address:

Contact Number(s):

Signed (Student)

Signed (Parent/Guardian)

Date

**Internal Candidates: Please complete and return only this page of the Acceptance Form to:**

Mme Quinton, Sherrardswood School, Lockleys, Welwyn, AL6 0BJ by Friday 4th February 2011

**External Candidates: Please complete and return the Acceptance Form and Personal Information page to:**

Mme Quinton, Sherrardswood School, Lockleys, Welwyn, AL6 0BJ by Friday 4th February 2011

# Personal Information

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Students currently studying at another school, please complete the following information:

I am interested in applying for a place in the Sixth Form at Sherrardswood School in September 2011.

Name:
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Address:
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Contact Number(s):
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Name and Address of Previous School:	Contact Number:
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Please list below the subjects you are currently studying at GCSE. If you have taken any of these exams early and have the result, please add the grade you obtained.

GCSE Subjects

Predicted Grades


GCSE Subjects

Predicted Grades


Signed (Student)	Date
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Signed (Parent/Guardian)	Date
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# Sherrardswood School

Welwyn Hertfordshire

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