

King Edward VI

Camp Hill School for Girls

Sixth Form

Information Booklet

The Sixth Form Curriculum

Our School Vision is to provide a full range of quality experiences, within a forward thinking and supportive environment. We strive to develop independent thinking, mature students who achieve their best and make positive contributions to school and the wider community. We want every student to achieve their potential and enjoy their time at Camp Hill Girls' School, and our wish is that they come here with the intention of working hard and participating in the range of academic, extra-curricular and social activities that we offer. We are proud to be able to offer a personalised and flexible curriculum in the Sixth Form, which offers students a combination of courses that meet their needs, interests and aspirations.

When deciding on the choice of subjects to study in the Sixth Form it is important to take GCSE grades and future career aspirations into account. Certain degree courses, such as medicine, have specific A Level requirements and this will inevitably influence students' decisions. We advise our students to talk to specialist subject staff before embarking on any A Level course, especially if it is a new subject being studied for the first time.

The structure of A Levels means that courses are linear with examinations taken at the end of two years of study. All examinations include a 'synoptic' element, which means that students will be tested on content from both years of study. End of course examinations include challenging questions to allow the most able students to maximise their potential. An element of coursework has been retained in some subjects, but this is confined to practical and expressive subjects.

We are determined and committed to ensuring that our students have flexibility and an opportunity to study a broad and balanced curriculum. Students are expected to continue with four subjects until the end of Year 12 unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please see the A Level Protocol on our school website for further details. In the majority of cases, students then drop down to three subjects in Year 13 when the work is inevitably more challenging. We believe studying four subjects in Year 12 provides our students a degree of flexibility. For example, there may be a subject that they are enjoying more than they had hoped, or a subject they are struggling to make the transition to from GCSE. If students only started with three subjects it would mean they would be forced to continue with all of them into Year 13. More importantly, we genuinely believe our students are entirely capable of studying 4 A Levels in Year 12. At the end of Year 12, students sit exam-style assessments in each of their four subjects and these help to inform decisions for the following year.

We are working hard to maintain a broad and balanced curriculum at KS5, despite the current financial constraints in education. Our staff and governors are committed to offering subjects such as Music, Art, Drama and Languages, among others, at A Level, so that our students have choice.

In Year 13, students will also have the option of undertaking the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which is equivalent to half an A Level.

The following A Level courses on offer are:

Creative & Performing Arts pg 4 - 6
Art & Design; Drama & Theatre Studies; Music

Humanities pg 7 - 11
History; Geography; Politics; Religious Studies, Philosophy & Ethics; Classical Civilisation

Literature & Languages pg 12 - 15
English Literature; French; German; Spanish

Mathematics & The Sciences pg 16 - 20
Computer Science; Mathematics & Further Mathematics; Biology; Chemistry; Physics

Social Sciences pg 21 - 22
Economics; Psychology

The Extended Project Qualification pg 23

Sixth Form Admissions Policy pg 23

Art and Design: Fine Art

Examination Board: AQA

A Level: 60% coursework 40% externally set task

Introduction
A Level Art and Design communicates ideas and feelings forming a visual language that compliments mathematical or factually based subjects. It increases visual and aesthetic awareness and promotes independence in the skills and qualities of imagining, problem solving, analysing and sensitivity. The method of working demands individual initiative and independence, thereby promoting personal responsibility and self-discipline. Through the opportunities and flexibility it provides, you will experience satisfaction and achievement, together with increased self-esteem and confidence.

The Course
As part of the A Level, you will become familiar with new media and processes, and develop a wide range of skills through experimentation. You will start Year 12 with a programme of skills workshops leading to increased independence in direction and decision-making. Throughout your studies, you will consider the work of other artists, designers and creative practitioners. The course offers opportunities for students to explore and specialise in areas of interest, including 2D, 3D and digital processes. You will be encouraged to respond to a wide range of sources and there will be a clear focus on independent learning and the realisation of your own ideas with a final piece of work.

Assessment
Your artistic outcomes in both Year 12 and Year 13 will be assessed internally in relation to the following objectives:

- Development of ideas
- Experimentation with appropriate resources
- Recording ideas and observations
- Presenting a personal and informed response

A Level students are externally assessed at the end of Year 13 on their Personal Investigation portfolio, including an extended essay, and the Externally Set Task.

Additional Opportunities
An exhibition of work is mounted and externally moderated by a visiting moderator. Family, friends, students, staff and governors are invited to the exhibition in the summer term, which is a prestigious and enjoyable event for all. An annual visit to at least one National Art gallery is arranged and is a valuable contribution to both the appreciation of art and design and to the development of skills and ideas in practical work.
Careers and Higher Education in Art attracts not only students who see their future career to be in related fields of art and design but also those who see it as being a subject complementary to their other A Level choices.

For many years, excellent results in A Level Fine Art have contributed to the successful attainment of places at universities in all subjects, including Medicine and Architecture. In the field of art and design, courses at university offer training for a wide range of specialist areas, including Fine Art, Animation, Architecture, Illustration, Photography, Advertising and Marketing, Interior Design, Fashion, Graphic Design and many more.

"Studying A Level Art helps you to develop intellectual, imaginative and creative skills. You will gain the opportunity to experiment and improve using a range of practical skills, but also learn about a range of artists and designers to help develop your critical judgement. Art allows you to explore your own ideas, in an independent but supportive environment."

Drama & Theatre Studies

Examination Board: tbc

Introduction
Studying A Level Drama and Theatre Studies will enable you to:

- Gain an entry qualification for a variety of courses in higher education
- Develop vital life skills which will be recognised by institutions and employers
- Pursue your interests and develop your skills in a range of practical drama elements
- Work collaboratively with other students
- Analyse set texts and communicate ideas for performances in written contexts
- Choose your own areas of interest for research and work within a theatrical context.

The Course
This course is rich and rewarding; it requires independent research and learning and a desire to see and experience as much theatre as possible. Visiting the theatre is an obligatory part of the course. The course combines elements of written exams, and practical and written coursework. Although aspects of the course are completed within groups, all marking is individual. Throughout the A Level course, students will study a range of set texts in order to respond to essay questions in written exams. Examinations will also require students to respond to the live theatre experienced during the course, and the set texts will be used as stimuli to create devised and scripted performance work. Students will gain understanding of practitioners. when preparing for the written and practical aspects of the course and will apply their knowledge and understanding of these practitioners in their work.

Assessment
Assessment will be based on end of course written examinations (essay style answers) regarding the set texts studied across the course, and the live theatre examples seen. Students will also be assessed on internally examined performances of both a devised and scripted nature. These performances will be accompanied by a written component. All performances will be marked individually.

Additional Opportunities
Alongside participation in the department trips and visits students will be able to take part in a number of other additional opportunities including running Drama clubs for younger years, participation in school shows and mentoring in main school lessons.

Careers and Higher Education
Opting for Drama and Theatre at A Level does not mean that a student will necessarily be aiming for a career in performance. In recent years, students have used this qualification to support their entry on to courses including Medicine, Law, History, International Relations, English, Natural Sciences and Politics.

Many students have pursued Drama at Degree level in Universities or drama schools, which has included studying aspects of theatre outside of acting, including stage management and theatrical make up. There are many transferable skills to be gained from the study of Drama and Theatre Studies which are recognised by a wide range of institutions and courses, making it an excellent choice at A Level.

"I look forward to every drama lesson. The teachers are so knowledgeable about what the examiners look for and the balance between written practice for the exams and the actual practical side of drama is great. I feel like I am delving into the different aspects of plays and productions; my understanding has grown and I definitely feel ready for the challenge of studying Drama at university."

Music

Examination Board: Eduqas

Introduction
A Level Music will develop a whole range of skills useful in preparing you for your future, such as confidence, oral and written communication, teamwork, presentation, problem solving, analytical, emotional and contextual awareness as well as purely musical talents. The course combines practical challenge and academic rigour and is ideal for the enthusiastic musician who wants to take their studies to a higher level.

The Course
Performing, composing and listening form the core of the work. At this level, performing takes the form of short video recitals and ideally should be at Grade 6 standard. Composing involves writing pieces for any medium and in any style related to the areas of study. The course is jointly taught with Camp Hill Boys' School and classes are given in a relaxed but studious atmosphere in well-equipped specialist music rooms.

Assessment
Performing and Composing account for 60% of the assessment whilst Listening forms the other 40%. There is an option for students to place greater emphasis on performing or composing. Performance is assessed via a recorded recital of pieces chosen by the candidate. Composition combines Eduqas-set briefs and candidate-chosen tasks. Listening and analysing is assessed via a written examination. The A Level is 2.5 hours combining aural questions and short essays on a range of topics including: Classical Symphonic Music, Jazz and Programme Music.

Additional Opportunities
The keen musician will already be involved in the numerous opportunities for music-making which exist at Camp Hill. Concerts in school and in Birmingham are supplemented by trips and specialist discounts for Symphony Hall events.

Careers and Higher Education
A Level Music can prepare you for a university degree, music college training or a vocational course. It broadens your academic base and is highly regarded by further educationalists and employers.

*It may be possible for strong musicians who have Grade 5 theory to join this course without having taken GCSE Music.

"A true venture into the world of music: it allows me to develop my skills in all areas; composing, analysing and performing, shaping me into an all-round musician and equipping me with valuable skills for post 18 study."

History

Examination Board: AQA

Introduction
History in the Sixth Form allows you to delve deeper into the rich tapestry of human behaviour, thought, and emotion throughout the past. You will explore three distinct yet equally captivating periods: the intrigue and power struggles of Tudor England, the upheaval and radical change of Revolutionary Russia, and the transformation of nineteenth-century Germany. Each period offers a unique lens through which to understand how societies evolved, conflicts arose, and pivotal decisions shaped the world that we live in today.

The Course
During the A Level course you will have the opportunity to study England in the Tudor period, 1485 – 1603. This study in breadth will allow you to examine a time of remarkable change, religious turmoil and some of English history's most memorable characters.

In contrast the in-depth study focuses on Russia, from the revolution in 1917 to the death of Stalin in 1953. The period covered is one of twentieth century history's most fascinating and turbulent, spanning the extremes of human tragedy and achievement.

You will also undertake an historical investigation of around 4,000 words considering reasons for German unification in 1871, within the context of a 100-year period.

You will find that lesson activities will be varied but the common element is enquiry and research. Discussion is also an essential part of studying history, so being a good listener as well as a good speaker is important. You will be given guidance and support in the skills of effective reading, note-taking, essay writing and examination technique.

Assessment
Assessment is by an historical investigation of around 4,000 words and two examination papers at the end of Year 13.

Additional Opportunities
The History department offers a range of enriching opportunities, including engaging study days and theatre trips as well as visits to historical sites like Hampton Court Palace, allowing students to deepen their understanding of history and witness it come to life.

Careers and Higher Education
History at A Level is highly regarded by universities as a rigorous academic subject. The study of history opens doors to a range of careers in areas such as law, politics, the civil service, the media, finance, computing and human resources.

"History allows you to explore the diversity of the human experience: how people have differed in their ideas and practices, and how their experiences have varied due to the period in which they lived, their nationality and their social circumstances."

Geography

Examination Board: Edexcel

Introduction
Geography is a wonderfully diverse subject that is relevant to our lives and experiences. You will have the opportunity to learn in a variety of different ways in order to gain a greater understanding of the world around us.

The Course
In year 12 the course consists of two main units:

- Area of Study 1: Dynamic Landscapes. This includes the study of tectonic processes and hazards, and coastal landscape systems.
- Area of Study 2: Dynamic Places. This includes the study of globalisation, and shaping places including regeneration and rebranding.

Fieldwork is an integral part of the course. Currently, all Year 12 students attend two separate field days to Weston Bay, Somerset and Bristol in order to enrich their understanding of key topics and develop fieldwork skills.

Assessment
At A Level, assessment involves two papers that contain a mix of short, open and resource-linked questions. The third paper is a synoptic examination using a resource booklet. All candidates are also required to complete an independent investigation which is marked in school.

Additional Opportunities
We have a long tradition of fieldwork in the department which has included an Iceland residential, and which we hope to run in the future. These have now resumed post-pandemic, with a visit taking place in October 2027. We also have regular academic speakers visit the department and offer other subject-related events such as GIS day.

Careers and Higher Education
Geographers are highly sought after by universities and employers due to their ability to analyse information in a variety of forms. Student with A Level Geography have access to a wide range of career and higher education opportunities including: Environmental Work, Surveying, Urban Planning, Medicine, Business Management, IT, Finance, Journalism, Cartography and Geographical Information Systems. Geography currently ranks amongst the most employable academic disciplines for graduates.

"Geography is a brilliantly diverse subject at Camp Hill. The balance between the human and physical aspects is just right and allows everyone to reach an all-round knowledge of this ever-changing and evolving subject."

Politics

Examination Board: AQA

Introduction
Politics in the Sixth Form offers an exciting opportunity to delve into the workings of power, governance, and ideas that have shaped societies across the world. You will explore three distinct yet interconnected areas: the UK Government and Politics, the USA Government and Politics, and the influential political ideologies that include Socialism, Conservatism, Liberalism, and Feminism. Through studying these areas, you will gain a deeper understanding of how political systems operate, how decisions are made, and how key ideologies have influenced political thought and movements throughout history.

The Course
The Year 12 course helps us to understand how the UK's democratic, representative political system works by looking at election systems, voting behaviour, political parties, pressure groups and parliament, the government and court systems. Year 13 provides an opportunity to study different ideologies, such as socialism and conservatism, the ways in which they affect British politics in practice and US politics, and how it differs from our system. This course will appeal to you if you enjoy being actively involved in lessons, expressing your opinion in discussion, listening to a range of viewpoints and keeping up with current affairs on a daily basis.

Assessment
Assessment at A Level is through three examination papers at the end of Year 13.

Additional Opportunities
In Year 12 there is an annual visit to London to the Houses of Parliament and the UK Supreme Court, as well as opportunities to question and debate with politicians at a local Democracy Forum.

Careers and Higher Education
The study of politics will help you to develop a range of analytical skills and provides an excellent foundation for a range of university courses including law. It is good grounding for those seeking entry to the Oxford Politics, Philosophy and Economics course and the Cambridge Social and Political Science course. As an A Level subject, politics provides an excellent combination with a wide range of subjects including history, business, economics, geography, languages, religious studies, English, theatre studies and psychology.

"Studying politics in class has broadened my perspectives. After all, today's politics is tomorrow's history. It is such a relevant topic in our society, and helps us to gain a deeper understanding of what otherwise isn't explained."

Religious Studies, Philosophy & Ethics

Examination Board: AQA

Introduction
Religious Studies is a fascinating and intellectually stimulating course that encourages lively debate on religious, philosophical and ethical issues. Religious Studies A Level offers an academic approach to the study of religion, which is accessible to all students irrespective of their worldview. The course develops skills of critical analysis of scholarly arguments, formulating a detailed evaluation and justifying points of view. These skills complement many other A Level courses and any undergraduate courses that require conceptual thought.

The Course
There are two components:
Component 1: Philosophy of Religion and Ethics. The philosophy section includes the classical arguments for the existence of God, the problem of evil and religious experiences. The ethics paper includes an examination of contemporary issues such as abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment.

Component 2: A study of Buddhism which includes an examination of the Buddha's life and teachings and also looks at contemporary practice including the modern usage of Buddhist meditation as a form of therapy.

Assessment
The A Level course is assessed through two examinations in the summer term of year 13. There is no coursework component.

Additional Opportunities
We aim to offer a range of enrichment activities including academic conferences, visits to a vihara and a bi-annual trip to Rome.

Careers and Higher Education
Religious Studies is a useful subject for a wide range of degree courses in the Humanities, Law, the Arts and Natural Sciences, including Medicine.

"The teachers who support you really make the topics engaging, and they're always available to help. This combination really ensures studying Philosophy and Ethics is hugely enjoyable."

Classical Civilisation

Examination Board OCR

Introduction
Classical Civilisation A Level combines the study of the culture and key literature in translation of the ancient civilisations of Greece and Rome. The ancient world can seem quite remote to us now, but these civilisations have had a lasting impact on British culture and our modern cultural capital. If you have ever been excited by the literature, history, politics, way of life, mythology or philosophies of Greece or Rome, then Classical Civilisation is an excellent A Level choice.
There are no subject-specific entry requirements for Classical Civilisation. You do not need to have any prior knowledge, or to have studied, the ancient world before. But if you have that's a bonus!

The Course
We will study one aspect of culture and one literary text from both Greece and Rome, leading to a balanced investigation of these civilisations, alongside the ability to read critically, think analytically and communicate ideas and opinions in an articulate way. All units have been carefully chosen to feed into and support each other.
The World of the Hero – We will explore how the concept of heroism changes and develops from eighth-century Greece to first-century Rome by analysing two key works of ancient literature in translation: Homer's Odyssey and Virgil's Aeneid. To what extent do the moral values of each different civilisation affect who a hero is?
Greek Religion – Religion was an essential part of ancient Greek identity. We will study the practicalities of religious ritual, along with the role that it played in society; we will also consider the nature of the gods, especially in Homer.
Imperial Image – We will study the 'spin' that the Roman emperor Augustus put on his public image in the Roman politics of the early empire, including material culture and literary representations (such as the Aeneid) that styled Augustus as the hero of the Roman way of life.

Assessment
The course is linear and three examinations are taken at the end of Year 13.

Additional Opportunities
We have close links with the School of Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology at the University of Birmingham, with opportunities for students to attend lectures given by academics on a range of Classical topics. We aim to offer further visits to historical events at, for example, the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford or the British Museum in London.

Careers and Higher Education
Classical Civilisation might be new to Camp Hill Girls, but it is not a new subject; both Dr Kerr and Ms Simmons are experienced Classical Civilisation teachers. Classical Civilisation is a well-respected, traditional A Level and is listed on the University of Cambridge's 'Subject Matters' guidance as a "good choice" for any arts or humanities degree. Classical Civilisation can be studied alongside any other subject. It makes an ideal companion to English, History, Art, Religious Studies or Modern Languages, but – given that it combines the study of both culture and literature – it's also a useful accompaniment to Mathematics, Science or Social Science, as a comprehensive humanity.
The transferable skills that you will develop include analysing literature and sources and developing independent, critical and evaluative approaches. You will learn to formulate and support an argument and gain a valuable understanding of civilisations very different – yet in some ways eerily similar – to our own. The study of Classical Civilisation can often lead to the study of Classics, Drama, English, History, Journalism, Law, Philosophy and Politics at degree level; however, information from UCAS shows that students have also gone on to study in such diverse disciplines as Medicine, Veterinary Science and Chemistry!

English Literature

Examination Board: AQA

Introduction
If you are interested in people and in language, you will enjoy studying English Literature. It will teach you about the past, enable you to gain new perspectives on the world today, and you will engage with others in challenging literary debate.

The Course
We follow the AQA, A Level Specification A. The examination includes two examination papers which account for 80% of A Level marks. The texts we study are 'The Color Purple', 'Wuthering Heights', Shakespeare's 'Othello' and the twentieth century drama, 'Top Girls', 'Feminine Gospels' by Carol Ann Duffy, and a post-1900 poetry anthology. There is also a non-exam assessment in the second year which requires students to critically compare two texts: a pre-1900 text and a post-1900 text of the student's own choice. Students will have to produce an extended essay of 2500 words; this accounts for 20% of A Level marks.

We run a number of English groups per year. Currently, Year 12 have ten hours per fortnight. Year 13 have eight hours. The course is taught by two teachers. Various teaching methods are used to accommodate a range of learning styles, from supported self-study through individual tutorial guidance to whole class or small group discussion. Students will often be required to prepare material or responses and to present these to the rest of the group. Collaborative work is important. You will need to read widely and we expect that you will use libraries and online research documents as a matter of course.

Assessment
The A Level qualification is linear and all examinations will take place at the end of the A Level course.

Additional Opportunities
There will be opportunities for extra-curricular activities such as reading groups, public speaking and visits. We believe that theatre productions, conferences, films and workshops are an important part of the course. We hope that you will attend as many as possible and seek out others for yourself.

Careers and Higher Education
Your A Level English qualification will be invaluable when applying for university courses as you will have communication and analysis skills - essential qualities in any professional career.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my English A Level course. The texts are really varied and you learn so much not just about the novel, play or poem at hand - but about history, social development and different ways of approaching literature. I always looked forward to English lessons: the discussions were so interesting and really stretched my thinking."

French

Examination Board: AQA

Introduction
French A Level is an ideal choice if you wish to further your knowledge of French culture and society, as well as developing the traditional skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. It is a flexible subject offering many opportunities and an in-depth analysis of French political, historical and cultural issues. In addition, the unique personal and communication skills developed in the advanced study of a language are highly regarded by universities and employers. You will need to be well organised, consistently disciplined in your approach to learning vocabulary and practising grammar and prepared to keep abreast of current world developments.

The Course
Using a range of up-to-date course materials, we explore many aspects of the French way of life, culture and current affairs using the spoken language in class, listening to native speakers and reading authentic texts. The syllabus covers a wide variety of topics, all reflecting modern-day France, such as artistic and political culture, current trends and issues. You will learn how to express yourself in a more sophisticated way and you will be able to give your opinions in French on complex matters. You will also have the opportunity to study French film and literature as a core component of the course.

Assessment
The course is linear and all examinations are taken at the end of Year 13 to include an oral examination and two written papers incorporating listening and reading comprehension tasks, translation into English and into French and two critical essays based upon literature and film.

Additional Opportunities
To provide further practice in the French language, you will meet the French Assistant fortnightly in small groups. There is also the chance to take part in a cultural visit to Belgium which runs every two years. We learn about French cultural life as well as practise the French language. We have a wide selection of novels and self-study materials in the department and encourage students to read as widely as possible in French. We also recommend that students subscribe to a French magazine and take advantage of the department's extensive lending library.

Careers and Higher Education
The ability to understand and communicate in French is widely valued by many employers. France is one of the foremost trading nations in the world and is a major player in world and European politics. Some of the many career paths for which French is an asset are International Banking and Finance; International Sales and Marketing; Law; Travel and Tourism; the Diplomatic Service; Translation and Interpreting; work within the European Union; the Civil Service; Public Relations and Education.

"I have always really enjoyed learning languages. I continued with French at A Level both for the challenge and for the chance to discuss so many contemporary themes. I'm going to combine French with History for my degree at university."

German

Examination Board: AQA

Introduction
German A Level is an ideal choice if you wish to further your knowledge of German culture, society and politics as well as build on traditional speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. This is a challenging and intellectually rewarding course, and as with the study of any language at advanced level you will need to develop and update your contextual knowledge on many issues.

The Course
You will develop your knowledge of the German-speaking world and the German language to a more sophisticated level through diverse topics including artistic and political culture, current trends and issues. You also learn more about the geography of Germany, German history and the German-speaking media, with emphases on film, literature, poetry, art, architecture and music.

Assessment
The course is linear and all examinations are taken at the end of Year 13 to include an oral examination and two written papers incorporating listening and reading comprehension tasks, translation into English and into German and two critical essays based upon literature and film.

Additional Opportunities
You will need to be well organised, consistently disciplined in your approach to learning vocabulary and practising grammar. A range of materials is available to support you, including a course book and a range of supplementary, bespoke materials produced by your teachers and the German Assistant. There are newspapers and magazines available and the department has an extensive lending library. Written stimuli such as newspaper articles, presentations, conversations and written pieces on contemporary issues are used to assess your development along the way. In addition, students spend time with our German Assistant in small groups once a week, developing oral skills in a more informal way. A trip to a German speaking country is planned, subsequent to viable numbers.

Careers and Higher Education
It is possible to study German with almost any other subject to degree level, such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Engineering, International Law or Tourism. The ability to understand and communicate in German is highly valued by many employers who are keen to recruit the few qualified people in the UK. Germany is an economic powerhouse, a key player in European and world markets so this language is a great asset for anyone interested in working in International Banking and Finance; International Sales and Marketing; Law; Travel and Tourism; the Diplomatic Service; Translation and Interpreting; the Civil Service; Public Relations and Education.

"For me, German has been an umbrella subject, in that it has overarched so many of my interests: music, art, history, the environment, medical ethics… the list is endless. To have travelled is fabulous, but to have developed my ability to discuss things so close to my heart in German really has been the icing on the cake."

Spanish

Examination Board: AQA

Introduction
Studying Spanish at A Level gives students the chance to further develop their knowledge of Spanish-speaking culture, politics, history and traditions. We follow the AQA specification which offers students the opportunity to demonstrate their developing ability in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students will need to be well organised and consistently disciplined in their approach to learning vocabulary and practising grammar.

The Course
We use a wide range of contemporary materials to broach many thought-provoking themes, such as artistic and political culture, current trends and issues, literature and film of the Spanish-speaking world. As with the study of any language at advanced level you will need to develop and update your contextual knowledge on many issues.

Assessment
The course is linear and all examinations are taken at the end of Year 13 to include an oral examination and two written papers incorporating listening and reading comprehension tasks, translation into English and into Spanish and two critical essays based upon literature and film.

Additional Opportunities
To immerse students in the Spanish language and culture, we have developed a link with Salamanca. Students have the opportunity to visit this beautiful and deeply historical area of Spain every other year. Within the department, we hold a vast number of resources, including magazines, books and self-study materials. We encourage pupils to read authentic Spanish as much as possible. Students will also spend time once a week with our Spanish language assistant, with the aim of perfecting their spoken Spanish.

Careers and Higher Education
In terms of its number of native speakers, Spanish is second worldwide only to Mandarin Chinese. The ability to understand and communicate in Spanish is widely valued among employers in many areas, for example in Finance and Banking; International Sales and Marketing; Pharmaceuticals; Law; Travel and Tourism and the catering industry at all levels, from sourcing produce to its import and export. Studying a language at advanced level will help you to develop the kind of personal and communication skills so highly prized by universities and employers. There are simply no limits to the possibilities open to you if you incorporate languages into your studies!

"Studying Spanish at A Level has definitely been one of my most challenging subjects, but one of the most enjoyable: it has allowed me to experience other cultures, ideas and points of view, and has opened up the possibility of working or perhaps studying overseas, later in life."

Computer Science

Examination Board: OCR (H046/H446)

Introduction
While most people use computers much like drivers use a car, Computer Science is more like learning how the car works, how to keep it running and (potentially) how to build a better one!

The course
Lessons will be split between practical sessions where you will be supported in developing your coursework project, and theory sessions where you will learn about topics that will be covered in the examinations. One lesson a fortnight will be allocated to personal practical skills development, giving you the opportunity to develop your programming skills from whatever your starting position is.
Naturally, you will be expected to have an interest in the subject and to keep up-to-date with current technological developments. Experience of coding (any language) is invaluable. Previous study of Computer Science (rather than ICT) at GCSE is also advisable, although not absolutely essential if you have a genuine interest in the subject and some existing programming skills.

Assessment
There are three units:

- Computer Systems (40%) - assessed via a 2 1/2 hour written exam
- Algorithms & Programming (40%) - assessed via a 2 1/2 hour written exam
- Programming project (20%) - coursework - this asks you to create a working computer-based solution to a real problem. It will require independence as well as significant coding, written communication and time management skills as much of the work takes place outside the classroom

Additional Opportunities
Computer Science students are trusted members of the school community and may be granted additional opportunities to experiment and explore the workings of computer systems that are not open to other students. We actively encourage participation in numerous competitions and extra-curricular work, especially through the school's Computing Society.

Careers and Higher Education
Computer Science is a technical subject that is closely related to mathematics and engineering, and is undoubtedly a strong qualification for those intending to study the subject at a higher level in the future, or as part of any other technical subject. For those not intending to progress in this direction, a qualification in Computer Science clearly shows that you have strong technical skills and a logical approach to problem solving. Many undergraduate courses (and careers) now require the use of computers, and this is only likely to increase. Undertaking the project provides evidence that you have the time management and technical skills to thrive in academic and professional life.

In Summary
Computer Science is one of the current successes of British industry. It is believed that future numbers of graduates are not sufficient to fill the jobs likely to be available and that students with these skills will be in demand. Numbers of women in this field have traditionally been low and there are many opportunities for highly-skilled female computer scientists. Even in fields where an understanding of computers has never previously been needed, and in a world where AI can automate many non-traditional tasks, it is clear that knowledge of this area will be of direct benefit to you. Being able to utilise computer technology will improve your ability to adapt to whatever the future holds!

"Program or be programmed: technology has an ever increasing impact on all of our lives so take Computer Science and influence the future!"

Mathematics & Further Mathematics

Examination Board: Edexcel

Introduction
Mathematics is an incredibly popular option in the Sixth Form at Camp Hill. It is a challenging subject which offers a great deal of enjoyment and satisfaction in its own right, while offering useful support for a range of other A Level subjects.

The Course
Mathematics in Year 12 involves the study of pure mathematics and a combination of mechanics and statistics (applied mathematics). Mathematics in Year 13 involves studying additional pure and applied content. Pure mathematics builds on GCSE knowledge (including algebra, trigonometry and sequences), while some new concepts are introduced (for example differentiation, integration and logarithms). Statistics builds on the handling data and probability work done at GCSE while mechanics is largely new content.
You may choose to gain an additional A Level in Further Mathematics by studying further core mathematics and additional options in applied mathematics. The further core work builds on the work done in the single A Level course, however the courses are co-teachable.

Assessment
A Level Mathematics is assessed through three papers, two 100 mark pure papers and one 100 mark applied paper (split 50/50 between statistics and mechanics). Further Mathematics is assessed with additional core and applied papers.

Additional Opportunities
All students studying mathematics in the Sixth Form have the opportunity to enter the Senior Maths Challenge and the Mathematical Competition for Girls, national competitions run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. We circulate information about numerous lectures and master classes run by other schools and universities, all of which provide the opportunity to think outside the syllabus area and some of which are residential. Further mathematicians are given a book list which they are encouraged to read and discuss.

Careers and Higher Education
Mathematics can be combined at degree level with a variety of options, and Futher Mathematics is excellent preparation for studying Mathematics, Engineering or Physics at university. Mathematics equips you with logical and analytical skills highly sought after in many sectors of the economy, such as business, industry and the civil service. In this technological age, a qualification in mathematics is very much in demand.

"In most sciences, theories are thought of and discarded, whereas mathematics is the only science in which theories are built upon and further developed, making it all the more interesting to study."

Biology

Examination Board: AQA

Introduction
Biology is the study of living organisms; from the structure and function of their cells to how different species have evolved and the different relationships between them. A Level Biology takes the knowledge learnt at GCSE and develops a more satisfying depth of understanding that prepares students for the study of any biology related degree course at university. Life demonstrates great variation, and therefore the challenge of biology is to apply this understanding, making links between different ideas and being analytical in order to explain our observations of the living world around us.

The Course
The Year 12 course involves the laying down of foundations for the successful further study of biology. You will learn about a variety of biological molecules, such as proteins, lipids and sugars, and the structure of cells and their components. The course continues by looking at the different ways in which organisms exchange materials with their environment and how genetic information determines characteristics and is passed on to new cells.
In Year 13 the biochemistry and cell structure of Year 12 is applied to understand photosynthesis and respiration, as well as how organisms respond to their environment and regulate the expression of their genes. The study of biology is also taken to a larger scale by learning about populations and ecosystems, and of course, Darwin's theory of Natural Selection.

You will experience a range of activities that will ensure your understanding of complex concepts. We aim to make sure that the course is both enjoyable and intellectually satisfying, developing your depth of understanding, practical and analytical skills. The Biology department is well qualified, enthusiastic and committed to helping you to achieve your potential.

Assessment
You will be assessed at the end of Year 13 by three two hour written papers. The first paper will assess your understanding of topics studied in Year 12, and paper two will test topics from Year 13. The final paper will assess topics from the whole of the A Level course including analysis of data and a synoptic essay. The skills you have developed on practical work will be assessed in all three papers.

Additional Opportunities
A Level Biology students broaden their understanding by attending lectures at the University of Birmingham, and some will enter the Society of Biology's Olympiad. Some students will help at Science Club and some will become subject champions, promoting the subject to younger students. There is also support for students who are applying for healthcare related courses.

Careers and Higher Education
Biology will help you to gain entry into Higher Education to study Biological Sciences, Natural Sciences, Genetics, Psychology, Physiotherapy, Medicine, Dentistry, Agriculture, Biochemistry, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science and other related courses.

"There is such a wide breadth of topics covering from microscopic life where you can look into the workings of a cell and DNA to learning on a larger scale how human and animal populations evolve and grow."

Chemistry

Examination Board: AQA

Introduction
Chemistry is the study of the composition and properties of matter. It seeks to investigate and explain why substances will react together via chemical reactions. Chemistry overlaps and supports the study of Biology and Physics and is often referred to as the central science. The topics studied range from theoretical aspects such as atomic structure through to practical applications such as the production of Kevlar and hydrogen fuels cells. Chemistry is a well-respected and rigorous academic subject. Successful chemistry students need to be able to link key ideas and support their ideas with evidence and mathematical precision.

The course
Throughout Year 12 students extend their understanding of topics such as amounts of substance, patterns in the periodic table and equilibria, and are introduced to ideas such as oxidation states and organic mechanisms. In Year 13, the course builds on this foundation by extending the students' ideas about organic, inorganic and physical chemistry. It is a practical subject and throughout both years the students develop an array of skills based on the experiments completed in class.

Assessment
At the end of Year 13, students will sit three written examinations which make up 100% of their final mark. The inorganic, organic and physical chemistry is split between the three papers, however paper three has a greater synoptic element and assesses a larger percentage of the practical material. Approximately 15% of the total A Level marks available are focused on practical skills, and all students will be required to complete 12 key practical activities throughout the two-year course.

Additional Opportunities
All Year 12 chemists can apply to attend online lectures at the University of Birmingham to extend their wider knowledge of the subject and allow them the opportunity to hear some extremely well-respected speakers. Our students can also choose to participate in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, a written paper set by the university to spark interest in the subject and provide challenge for the brightest pupils.

Careers and Higher Education
Chemistry is a necessary requirement for many subjects such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy and obviously the study of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Chemical Engineering at a higher level. Studying chemistry also develops useful transferable skills in areas such as problem-solving and numeracy which means that it is a valuable subject for students moving on to study subjects such as Accountancy and Law.

"Chemistry incorporates everything from e-numbers to crude oil and allows me to fully understand how things work at an atomic level. I love chemistry because I can learn about why things behave the way they do."

Physics

Examination Board: AQA

Introduction
Physics is an interesting and challenging A Level subject which will enable you to understand how the principles of physics are used in current technology. For example, understanding why the nucleus sticks together, how we use antimatter in hospitals and how we use our knowledge of physics to diagnose and treat cancer patients. Theory of physics ranges from the large scale universe and Big Bang to the tiny world of quarks and quantum physics. All are covered in the course.

The Course
Throughout Year 12, students will have the opportunity to develop their understanding of the foundations of physics principles and to gain an increased depth of knowledge on the key ideas. They will learn a variety of topics, including: Measurements and their errors; Particles and Radiation; Waves; Mechanics and Materials, and Electricity. In Year 13 students will extend on the solid foundations formed in year 12 and utilise their independent, group work and problem solving skills to make progress in both familiar and novel topics, such as fields and further mechanics, nuclear and molecular physics and radioactivity as well as the option unit of Medical Physics. You will be taught in a purposeful yet relaxed atmosphere in lessons which take place in a well-resourced laboratory.

Assessment
Practical work is a key component in the new A Level course and all students will be required to complete 12 key practical activities throughout the two-year course which comprises approximately 15% of the total A Level marks. There will be three written examinations at the end of year 13 which assess course content, the final paper predominantly assesses progress on practical content and the optional topic.

Additional Opportunities
Students are encouraged to attend a series of lectures on topics given by invited speakers at the University of Birmingham. This helps to enhance the understanding of A Level topics and give students the opportunity to hear from very experienced and talented Physicists to gain a broader knowledge of the subject. Students are also given the opportunity to take part in the British Physics Olympiad which is a national competition which develops problem solving, report writing and investigative skills. Master classes are also available for students to attend at the University and there will be the possibility of external trips such as the Diamond Light source and CERN.

Careers and Higher Education
Physics A Level is very useful for many careers, including Medicine, Optometry, Radiography, Physiotherapy, Engineering, Dentistry and Financial Services. The skills you acquire undertaking a degree in Physics are appreciated by many employers.

"In Physics at Camp Hill you learn about the universe from the smallest subatomic particle to the largest stars."

Economics

Examination Board: Edexcel (Economics B)

Introduction
This course introduces students to economics through building core knowledge of microeconomic and macroeconomic theory, and by investigating economic theory through real-world businesses and the environments in which they operate. We study issues including:

- How the state of the economy affects people and businesses
- How government decisions affect people and businesses
- Why some markets work better than others, and the role of government intervention
- How international businesses operate
- How increasing globalisation and trade contribute to economic development
- How globalisation affects companies, national economies and people
- Risk and the financial sector

No previous subject knowledge is required, just an open mind, an interest in current affairs and an eagerness to learn more about the world around you. A good level of written English and sound mathematical ability are needed.

The Course
We use a variety of teaching methods to encourage independent and flexible learning. You will: participate in class discussions, make presentations to the group, analyse data, undertake mini-projects and investigations, evaluate case studies, practice essays and data response questions and use IT independently both in and out of lessons.

Assessment
The A Level is assessed by three examination papers at the end of Year 13, comprising of data response questions, longer answer responses and questions based around a pre-release context document. At the end of Year 12, assessment is by an internal school examination, including both data response and longer answers.

Additional Opportunities
Visits and competitions are organised to support the course and widen your economic knowledge. These have included the Eureka Challenge at the University of Birmingham and financial industry competitions and events run by organisations including the ICAEW. Talks from representatives of firms including Deloitte and PwC provide insight into the financial sector and help students with future applications.

Careers and Higher Education
Whilst not a 'facilitating subject' Economics is viewed favourably as a 'preferred subject' by the Russell Group universities (Russell Group: Informed Choices). In addition to Economics, students pursue university courses including Management, Law, Accountancy & Finance, Journalism, Politics, Medicine & Dentistry and many others. Career options could include management in a wide variety of industries including finance, law, retail, industry, engineering and journalism.

"Economics is the foundation of the modern world. It allows me to be a part of and understand government decisions and actions in regards to their current economic situations. I have begun to develop analytical skills which I know will be fundamental for life after Sixth Form."

Psychology

Examination Board: AQA

Introduction
AQA Psychology A Level introduces students to a broad range of psychological topics. The emphasis is on applying knowledge and understanding, thereby developing students' transferable skills of analysis, evaluation and critical thinking.
Core areas of psychology are studied as well as current issues and debates in the field. These include: Cognitive Psychology (memory and forgetting), Developmental Psychology (attachment theory), Biological Psychology (including brain function and biorhythms), Social Psychology (conformity and obedience) and Clinical Psychology and Mental Health (including depression, phobias and suitable treatments).
Students will develop a critical understanding of research methods and techniques of data handling including statistical analysis. Schizophrenia, forensic psychology and gender are the options studied in year 13 along with issues relating to culture bias and debates surrounding reductionism, nature/nurture, free will and determinism. A good level of written English and mathematics is required.

The Course
Psychology is taught through a variety of teaching methods to encourage independent, creative and flexible learners. Students will make presentations and posters to share with their peers, analyse data, research novel topic areas, participate in class discussion and in order to enhance their examination technique, they will answer many past papers.
There is a variety of on-line quizzes and short films made by other students to enhance understanding. Learners are encouraged to find memorable ways to recall information through the use of mnemonics and even song!
Psychology is a popular choice at A Level as it is frequently a new area of study for students and sits between the traditional sciences and humanities subjects. Approximately a fifth of the course covers biological and neurochemical influences linking neatly to scientific areas of study and debates touch on philosophy and ethics. Data and statistical analysis links not only to mathematics but to subjects such as geography and history, making it an excellent choice as a fourth subject.

Assessment
Assessment is through a combination of multiple choice, short and extended answer-style questions via three 2 hour papers for A Level.

Additional Opportunities
Enrichment opportunities are available to extend learning beyond the curriculum including attendance at conferences. Occasionally, theatre and cinema opportunities arise and these are always well attended.

Careers and Higher Education
A significant number of our students go on to study Psychology at HE level at Russell Group universities. Other examples of further study include: Law, History, Politics, Business, Medicine, English, Dance, Art and Biomedical Sciences.
Career options are limitless and psychological understanding is required in most fields whether that is management, teaching, law, medicine, local or national government, journalism, the Arts, the armed forces, diplomatic service and even banking and finance.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Examination Board: AQA

The Extended Project Qualification is a free standing qualification in its own right, and is offered to students in Year 13. Those who opt to study the EPQ are given free choice to identify an area of intellectual interest, which must be separate from their A Level subjects, and then plan, research, evaluate and present an independent project.

Projects cover a spectrum of disciplines and require students to develop the independent learning skills and confidence which will be essential for university. Students are supported throughout their projects by a supervisor and a thorough programme of taught skills.

Sixth Form Admissions Policy

Almost all of our Year 11 students choose to take their A Levels at Camp Hill, and we are also joined by a considerable number of students from other schools. Admission is based upon an assessment of the student's potential to benefit from the curriculum and facilities offered by the school. This is based primarily upon the student's educational record, including actual or anticipated examination results, with particular reference to achievement in the intended and related areas of study.

To achieve entry into the Sixth Form in September 2027, prospective entrants (both internal and external candidates) must achieve a minimum of six GCSE passes at grade 6 or above, including English Language and Mathematics. A grade 7 or above at GCSE is required in those subjects (or equivalent subjects) to be studied at A Level. However, in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics, it is strongly recommended that candidates achieve a grade 8 or above, as this indicates that they will be capable of dealing with the demands of these courses. In the case of Further Mathematics, pupils must have achieved a grade 9 in Mathematics GCSE. All offers will be made subject to the capacity on chosen courses and the over-subscription criteria below. Full details of subject specific grades or equivalent subject grades are listed on the school's website.

- **Subject to availability of places on certain courses, a grade 6 may be considered**. Please note: this does not apply to the science subjects.

We do not apply catchment areas for our Sixth Form intake, nor do we prioritise students in receipt of the Sixth Form bursary. Offers of places in the Sixth Form will be conditional on achievement of results and the capacity on students' chosen courses.

Oversubscription criteria for External Applicants

In the event of oversubscription for **external applicants**, priority will be given to:

Candidates who have applied to study at least two subjects from the following: Fine Art; Music; Drama; English Literature; French; Spanish; German; Classical Civilisation; Geography; History; Government and Politics; and Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics. Candidates in this category will be ranked by straight line distance of their home address to the school, with places offered to those living nearest to school. (Please note that, where an offer is made on the basis of these subject choices, a student will not be able to change courses either before starting at the school or during the course of their sixth form studies)

Offers are made to candidates in the Spring term, around the Easter holiday period.

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King Edward VI

Camp Hill School for Girls

Sixth Form

Information Booklet

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