



South Hampstead
Sixth Form

Courses & Choices, Results & Beyond

FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2027

How to choose

When considering your options for A Level courses, you need to take into account a number of factors, including:

1

The subjects you enjoy and would like to study further

2

Your ability in the subjects you would like to study

3

Implications for higher education and careers

Although many of the subjects will be familiar to you, remember that A Level is quite different to GCSE. The subject is studied in greater depth, and some aspects of it will be new. Some subjects will involve fieldwork, extended essay writing, extensive reading or practical work. In others, you will have to undertake coursework. You may find some essential aspects of the subject difficult. Therefore, it is important that you are well informed. Read the course descriptions carefully and consult Heads of Departments. Ask your teachers if you have the ability to do well in their subject and find out about subjects which are new to you.

Current South Hampstead pupils transferring to the Sixth Form must achieve a minimum of six GCSE grades at grade 7 or equivalent, and at least

a grade 5 in both Mathematics and English Language. Individual requirements are set for different subjects, with some requiring at least a grade 8 or equivalent.

For external candidates, places are offered based on the result of the entrance examinations, interviews and projected GCSE grades. Offers are conditional on achieving the required standard, with specific conditions outlined in individual offer letters. The expected standard is high – offers are usually made on condition of candidates achieving at least seven GCSEs at grade 8 or equivalent, including in your chosen subjects.

Choosing subjects you enjoy usually means that you will be more committed and more likely to develop your potential. You should consider choosing a combination of subjects in contrasting disciplines.

Universities and employers consider it important both from a career point of view and from a broader educational perspective that science graduates can communicate and that arts graduates can think logically and are reasonably numerate. A number of medical schools, for example, will give preference to applicants who offer an arts subject as one of their A Levels.

Entry requirements for university courses are now less subject-specific. However, some science and social science courses have general patterns of A Level requirements of which you must be aware. If you are thinking of applying for these, it is essential that you seek specialist advice from the Director of Sixth Form, the Universities Team, and the relevant Heads of Department.

South Hampstead Sixth Form is a vibrant and intellectually stimulating place to deepen your knowledge of whichever subjects you decide to study.

South Hampstead Sixth Form fosters an environment of enquiry and debate, with teaching groups large enough to be stimulating but small enough to ensure that everyone's voice is heard. Teachers here are hugely passionate about their subjects, and invariably enthuse and inspire the same in their students. Each girl is in a form group of no more than 10 or 11 students, with their own dedicated tutor.

The range of subjects allows for all sorts of exciting and varied combinations. Although we cannot guarantee that every combination will be possible within the timetable, we do our utmost to accommodate your selection.

Art & Design / Biology

Chemistry / Classical Civilisation

Classical Greek / Computer Science

Design & Technology: Product Design

Drama & Theatre Studies / Economics

English Literature / French / Geography

German / Government & Politics

History / History of Art / Latin

Mandarin / Mathematics

Further Mathematics / Music

Physics / Philosophy & Religion

Psychology / Spanish

The subjects above will be offered in September 2027



Art & Design

FURTHER INFORMATION: Miss Rhiannon Holland-Bright *Head of Art* r.holland-bright@shhs.gdst.net

“The Art Department is a unique space in the school where we are always given the freedom to explore our creative ideas independently.”

ART & DESIGN, ART HISTORY, CHEMISTRY AND MATHEMATICS STUDENT

We offer a broad range of skills in the Art Department at A Level, from oil painting to animation, photography to film-making. Some of these might be familiar from GCSE, but at A Level you can explore and extend these skills in greater depth. We set challenging projects and expect students to respond with equally demanding outcomes. The creative process which takes place can be fulfilling and, while the workload demands time and commitment, there is a self-motivating and self-perpetuating ethos which gives rise to a questioning and critically-aware student by the end of the two years.

WHY STUDY ART & DESIGN?

Art & Design can be happily combined with and complements many subjects such as Art History, Design & Technology or Drama & Theatre Studies; it is an accredited A Level qualification and is accepted by universities, although some combinations of subjects are not suitable for certain courses at university.

You may want to study for a career in one of the visual art and design disciplines; an Art Foundation Course is the essential platform for this. It will also give you a creative balance in your curriculum alongside other subjects. Many former South Hampstead students who studied Art at A Level are now working as painters, sculptors, film directors, graphic designers, architects, illustrators, photographers, fashion and textile designers and senior curators in major art galleries.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

We offer a multitude of disciplines, processes and skills, as well as visiting galleries to complement your studio work. We aim to develop your individual work through: intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive powers; investigative, analytical, practical and expressive skills; aesthetic understanding and critical judgement; analysis of contexts and inter-relationships between art, craft and design; knowledge of art, craft and design in contemporary society and in other times and cultures.

Component 1: Personal Investigation

Coursework, with an initial thematic response exploring a range of media and processes, leading to an individual thematic enquiry, concluding in a body of work and supporting extended essay.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

A body of work produced from an externally set starting point, concluding with a final outcome produced under exam conditions.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

Practical art work provides the main part of the course, although there is a written element in the Personal Study in Component 1 – a minimum of 1000 words.

While much of the work is studio-based, students will need to meet the demands of the subject through active research, gallery visits and a broad engagement in the whole area of art and design. We also hope to offer a study visit abroad and involve students with visiting artists and lecturers.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO START THE COURSE?

Course entry requires at least a grade 7 or equivalent in Art at GCSE.

Biology

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mrs A Logan *Head of Biology* a.logan@shhs.gdst.net

“I love how passionate the teachers are about their subject.”

CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY, PHYSICS AND HISTORY STUDENT

WHY STUDY BIOLOGY?

Studying Biology enables you to have a better understanding of many of the contemporary scientific issues affecting our society. It is a dynamic science and covers some of the most important aspects of human life.

If you enjoyed GCSE Biology, you will find the A Level course varied and interesting. There are many university degree courses that you can go on to study with A Level Biology. These include Biological Sciences, Biochemistry, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Natural Sciences, Biotechnology, Microbiology and Biomedical Sciences. It is important that you look at the specific entrance requirements in the university prospectus in advance. Other possible courses are Marine Biology, Anthropology, Archaeology, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Horticulture, Nursing and Midwifery and many others.

As well as appealing to those interested in a career in science, Biology appeals to humanities students who wish to broaden their knowledge base by having a Science subject.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Module 1

Development of practical skills in biology

Module 2

Foundations in biology

Module 3

Exchange and transport

Module 4

Biodiversity, evolution and disease

Module 5

Communication, homeostasis and energy

Module 6

Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

As well as having written examinations, you will be assessed on your practical skills. During the two years, you will be assessed on your practical skills in 12 key practical areas that include investigations, fieldwork, microscopy and colorimetry. If you successfully complete these practicals, you will be awarded the Practical Endorsement.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

At A Level there is an increased emphasis on students learning independently. There is more practical work to prepare students for the practical skills element of the course. The main field trip is a residential course in June at the Flatford Mill Field Studies Centre. The aim of the trip is to teach the ecological aspects of the course. We will also complete elements of the Practical Endorsement.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

The entry requirement for A Level Biology is at least a grade 8 or equivalent in GCSE Biology or an 8/8 in Double Award Science for external applicants. To benefit from the course, you must also enjoy the subject and be committed to success.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

We study the OCR Biology A Level H020/H420. To find out more about the specification and exam, visit: www.ocr.org.uk



Chemistry

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr L Poza *Head of Chemistry* lpoza@shhs.gdst.net

“The teachers are not afraid to go beyond the curriculum.”

BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, ENGLISH AND PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT

WHY STUDY CHEMISTRY?

You might suspect that a lot of the things you are told at GCSE are untrue, and you would be right! The most acidic pH is not 0, since hydrochloric acid used in the labs actually has a pH of lower than 0; metals and non-metals don't always react to make ionic compounds, since aluminium chloride is covalent; the third electron shell doesn't hold 8 electrons but 18. A Level Chemistry is where you will find out how things really are.

There is a big jump from GCSE because we plunge straight into new and intellectually-challenging concepts using powerful tools which we then apply to familiar topics such as electron structure, bonding and periodicity. This makes Chemistry both difficult - because there are a lot of new principles to understand and apply - and satisfying, since it explains many familiar observations in a thought-provoking way.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The syllabus followed is OCR. Although the course contains a lot of factual material, the emphasis is on the recognition and appreciation of the inter-linking patterns which form a distinctive feature of this subject; for this reason, it is highly-regarded by non-related subjects at university and in a variety of careers. Students who intend to read Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry at university must take A Level Chemistry, and those intending to read paramedical subjects or biological sciences are strongly advised to take it.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

Teaching at A Level consists of a lot of discussion of new concepts and their application to the familiar pattern of knowledge, with ongoing questions in both directions and, of course, practical work. There is little note-taking or dictation. There is no practical examination or coursework since practical skills are internally assessed by teachers during the course.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

We require a minimum of grade 8 at GCSE in Chemistry or an 8/8 in Trilogy for external applicants. Students should possess good Mathematics skills.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

For more information, visit: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/171720-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-chemistry-a-h432.pdf>

Classical Civilisation

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr O Thicknesse Head of Classics o.thicknesse@shhs.gdst.net

“To be ignorant of what happened before you were born is to remain forever a child. For what is the worth of human life, unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?”

MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO

WHY STUDY CLASSICAL CIVILISATION?

Do you love great literature? Are you fascinated by the history, archaeology and cultures of the Ancient Greeks and Romans? If so, Classical Civilisation is the A Level for you.

The Classical Civilisation course offers an exciting exploration into many areas of the Classical world, including literature, history, archaeology, art, architecture, government, politics and philosophy. The influence of the classical world is all around us; A Level Classical Civilisation will give you the chance to explore some of these influences in their original, classical contexts.

Today’s A Level Classical Civilisation course is exciting, challenging and varied. Universities and employers respect the skills which Classical Civilisation A Level develops: analysis and evaluation, interpretation of sources, effective communication, essay-writing, an appreciation of different cultures and societies and an understanding of the origins and foundations of the Western world.

Classical Civilisation A Level appears on the ‘A List’ of suitable arts A Level subjects recommended by Trinity College, Cambridge. It is welcomed by the University of Oxford and appears on the list of ‘Preferred Subjects’ from LSE.

Classical Civilisation is an excellent complement to subjects such as History, English Literature, Classical Languages, Art History and Philosophy & Religion. It unites

history with literature, views literature in the context of the culture, and brings in art and architecture to complete this picture. It also provides a valuable humanities contrast to other A Level subjects.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

You will be studying epic poetry, drama and historical texts in translation along with material evidence from the classical world, in particular sculpture, painting, architecture and archaeological remains. You will be developing an awareness of the similarities and differences between the classical world and later times and gaining a sensitivity to past societies whose spiritual, cultural and moral values and priorities contrast with those of the modern Western world.

You will be following the OCR A Level Classical Civilisation course. You will be studying Homer’s Iliad and Greek Theatre in Lower Sixth, and then Virgil’s Aeneid and Love & Relationships in Upper Sixth.

Assessment is by written examination combining structured, source-based questions and essays.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

One of the greatest strengths of the Classical Civilisation course is its variety. In addition to reading some of the finest Greek and Roman literature and drama in translation, you will be examining sculpture, architecture and archaeological remains. You will be encouraged to discuss your ideas, read widely and draw your own conclusions. Studying Classical Civilisation A Level automatically makes you a

member of the Senior Classics Society, in which you will have the opportunity to hear distinguished scholars speaking on various topics and to give presentations on your own research. You will be invited to the many performances of Greek plays which are staged in and around London and will have the chance to visit museums and classical sites both in the UK and abroad. We run a bi-annual Classics trip to destinations rich with Classical remains, including Turkey, Greece, Italy, Sicily and the South of France.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

You will need to have at least a grade 7 or equivalent in GCSE English Literature, and ideally a grade 7 or equivalent in either GCSE History or Philosophy & Religion. No knowledge of Latin or Ancient Greek is required as all texts are studied in translation.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

Examination Board: OCR

Further information can be found at: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-classical-civilisation-h008-h408-from-2017/>.

Classical Greek

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr O Thicknesse Head of Classics o.thicknesse@shhs.gdst.net

“Whatever is good to know is difficult to learn.”

GREEK PROVERB

WHY STUDY CLASSICAL GREEK?

You are a problem solver, a lateral thinker and thrive on an intellectual challenge. You love the demands of reading an ancient language and relish the opportunity to read and discuss some of the greatest, if not the greatest, works of literature ever composed, in their original language.

The course is intellectually rigorous and stimulating. A Level Classical Greek enhances the study of Latin, History, Mathematics, Politics, English, Modern Languages and the Sciences.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The A Level Classical Greek course focuses on the study of the literature, history and culture of a society which profoundly influenced Ancient Rome and consequently our own. By studying Greek at A Level, you will develop a sensitive and analytical approach to language in general, in addition to a competence in Classical Greek.

Over the two years, you will study a selection of prescribed authors from a range of genres including epic poetry, tragedy, and history. The verse set-texts for examination in 2027 and 2028 focus on Greek epic and tragedy and comprise extracts from Book XVI of Homer’s Odyssey and Sophocles’ play Elektra.

In Homer, you will read one of the most memorable episodes in Odysseus’ epic journey – the reunion between the titular hero and his son, Telemachus – while Sophocles presents the tells of a bitter

struggle for justice by Elektra and her brother Orestes for the murder of their father Agamemnon by Clytemnestra and their stepfather Aegisthus. The prose set-texts are extracts from Plato’s Crito and Lucian’s Charon. Crito depicts a conversation between Socrates and his wealthy friend (the titular Crito) regarding justice, injustice, and the appropriate response to injustice; it follows Socrates’ imprisonment on charges of impiety, and it precedes his eventual execution. Lucian presents us with a dialogue between Hermes and Charon about the vanity of human wishes.

Alongside your study of literature, you will also develop a deeper understanding of the Classical Greek language by practising unseen translation and comprehension of both prose and verse, as well as the art of prose composition. Assessment is through four written examinations: Unseen Translation; Prose Composition or Comprehension; Prose Literature and Verse Literature.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

There is a strong focus on reading Classical Greek literature. You will be encouraged to read widely around the subject, research and give presentations on authors and aspects of Greek society, and have the opportunity to develop an understanding of the nuances of the Greek language through practising the skill of prose composition. Studies are also enhanced by regular museum, lecture and theatre visits.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

You will need at least a grade 7 or equivalent at GCSE Classical Greek to study this subject at A Level.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

Examination Board: OCR

Further information can be found at: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-classical-greek-h044-h444-from-2016/>.

Computer Science

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr Nicholas Ashford *Head of Computer Science* n.ashford@shhs.gdst.net

“Programming, when stripped of all its circumstantial irrelevancies, boils down to no more and no less than very effective thinking so as to avoid unmastered complexity, to very vigorous separation of your many different concerns.”

EDSGER W. DIJKSTRA

WHY STUDY COMPUTER SCIENCE?

It is hard to think of a subject that will have a more interesting twenty years to come, if not Computer Science. It is hard to think of an aspect of your modern life that is not determined in some form by the work of a Computer Scientist. As a subject, it is embroiled in collaboration with every other subject, as our world becomes increasingly digital.

Teaching students how to problem-solve using computational thinking, how to program solutions to problems placed before them, and how to critically reflect on technologies' impact on our society – these are the fundamentals of Computer Science.

Computer Science will enable you to model real-world systems and situations, synoptically linking your understanding across other subjects into a digital space. You come out of the course with a unique ability to decompose a problem as well as find step-by-step solutions.

It will enable you to:

- Comprehend the function of a computer.
- Develop your software and programming skills using Python, HTML, CSS and JavaScript.
- Understand the ethical, social, environmental, and legal implications of technology.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Paper 1: Computer Systems

This unit focuses on how computer hardware and software work under the hood. Students learn how CPUs process data, how operating systems manage memory, and how networks transmit information securely across the internet. It also covers binary math, logic circuits, database design, and the legal, ethical, and social impacts of modern technology like AI.

Paper 2: Algorithms and Programming

This unit focuses on computational thinking, problem-solving, and writing efficient code. Students learn how to design, trace, and evaluate algorithms, such as sorting, searching, and pathfinding, and measure their efficiency using Big O notation. It also covers key programming techniques like recursion, abstraction, dynamic programming, and writing using object-oriented programming techniques.

Unit 3: NEA Coursework Project

The NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) is an independent practical coding project worth 20% of the overall qualification. Students choose a real-world problem, design and build a software program using a programming language of their choice, and document the entire development process through analysis, design, testing, and evaluation.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

Students will be given discrete lessons taught by a department of subject-specialists, alongside an expectation of independent programming practice, and practical student-centered projects. During the course, students are expected to support and help lead a departmental club, which aligns with their coursework choice. Students will be expected to use a device with an available programming environment every lesson and be competent in its use.

We strongly advise all students to ensure they have access to a fully functional programming environment on their device. We recommend PyCharm or VS Code.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

A grade 7 or equivalent in Computer Science GCSE or a grade 7 or equivalent in Mathematics if you were not offered Computer Science at GCSE + evidence of strong programming ability.

There is a larger emphasis on mathematical skill and modelling at A Level so students should have a grade 7 or equivalent in the GCSE and ideally be considering A Level Mathematics alongside Computer Science.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

Examination Board: OCR

Further information can be found at: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-computer-science-h046-h446-from-2015/>.

Design & Technology: Product Design

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr T Heaton *Head of Design & Engineering* t.heaton@shhs.gdst.net

“No other subject lets me apply my learning from such a broad range of areas in a creative way.”

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY STUDENT

WHY STUDY PRODUCT DESIGN?

The course offers an exciting opportunity to extend the design awareness that has been building up through the GCSE courses. This specification provides you with the routes to continue your studies either exclusively or as a combination of focus material areas.

Working through the course, students will divide their time between focused technical skills, learning and developing their designing skills. The first year will be spent honing DT skills; updating communications techniques; and completing a materials study. The majority of the second year will involve a major practical task, supported by a portfolio followed by a formal examination.

Students study a range of manufacturing methods; social, moral, cultural and ethical dimensions that relate to technological decisions; sustainable development; health and safety and global development; and constraints that economic and ergonomic factors place on designing and making products.

It is expected that there will be much external research and that individual students seek out ‘real’ clients. The designed products are produced to reflect your interests and studies and are manufactured as full size prototypes. If appropriate, the products will be entered into local and national competitions.

The course offers the depth of design awareness required for further study at university level in courses such as Architecture and Engineering, as well as the practical and analytical skills required to pursue further study in Product Design. However, the skills obtained are transferable into many disciplines, and previous students have moved on to courses in Dentistry, Environmental Science and, in several instances, Psychology.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

You will compile a personal record of skills theory and accomplishment and undertake a comprehensive design exercise in real time with real clients.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

There is exploratory theory and skills learning in the first year and coursework in the second year plus a final examination.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

You will need at least a grade 7 or equivalent at GCSE to study this subject.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

Examination Board: OCR

Further information can be found at: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-design-and-technology-h004-h006-h404-h406-from-2017/>.



Drama & Theatre Studies

FURTHER INFORMATION: Ms K Martin *Director of Drama* k.martin@shhs.gdst.net

“Theatre Studies provides you with skills that are transferable to all aspects of life, from confidence in public speaking to creativity and teamwork. It’s fun and creative and gives you an artistic avenue to explore controversial issues that no other subject does.”

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES, MATHEMATICS AND GOVERNMENT & POLITICS STUDENT

WHY STUDY DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES?

This is an exciting, practical course that marries both performance work and rigorous academic study. Whether you want to perform in productions or design them, you need to be a good team worker and have the confidence to experiment independently with your ideas. The new linear A Level course will test your ability to produce creative, high-quality performance work, as well as enable you to immerse yourself in the study of practitioners, styles and genres of performance throughout history through set texts. This course will give you great transferable skills that will enable you to sell yourself effectively at interviews, have confidence in front of an audience and learn teamwork, project management and analysis skills.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Component 1 – Theatre Workshop: Creative Adaptation (internally assessed, externally moderated – 20%)

In this unit you can choose to be assessed as either a designer or a performer. You will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a play. The piece is developed using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or theatre company. You are assessed through your final realisation of the piece in performance and a creative log.

Component 2 – Text In Action (externally assessed by visiting examiner – 40%)

You have the choice again to be assessed as either a performer or designer. In this unit you will develop two linked pieces of theatre based on a stimulus provided by Eduqas. One will be an original devised piece drawing on the ideas and working methods of a theatre practitioner or theatre company that contrast with those studied for Component 1. The second is the performance of an extract from a scripted play that complements the theme of the devised piece, but which is in a contrasting style. An external examiner will visit to assess the final realisations. Design students will also give a 5-10 minute presentation about their process. This is followed, for all students, by a process and evaluation written report completed within one week of the practical exam.

Component 3 – Text In Performance (externally assessed written exam – 40%)

This will be a written 2 hour and 30 minute exam based on two set texts, one pre-1956 and one post-1956, that you will have practically performed and explored during the course, explaining how you would stage them (open book). There will also be an extract based question on a pre-released extract from “The Book of Dust” that will synoptically test your ability to interpret text and context through performance choices (closed book).

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

The lessons will be a mixture of practical exploration, research and written analysis. Regular theatre visits are also an obligatory part of the course. Compulsory after-school rehearsals and workshops with guest professionals are a feature of this course, and students need to make this commitment. Students will also need to develop a specific way of approaching the written element of this examination as it differs from English Literature.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO START THE COURSE?

You need to love theatre and want to get involved in lots of practical work. A really good grounding in English Literature and the analysis of texts is essential, as well as going regularly to the theatre in your own time. You need to be able to commit to out of lesson rehearsals and be creative.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

More information is available from: <http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre/as-a-level/>



Economics

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr Gary Zawadzki *Head of Economics* g.zawadzki@shhs.gdst.net

*“Economics immerses you in the dilemmas of the real world.
Engaging in lessons makes me feel challenged in the most
exciting way.”*

GEOGRAPHY, ENGLISH, ECONOMICS AND PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT

WHY STUDY ECONOMICS?

Economics will equip you with the tools to see the world in a new light. If you are interested in finding out how people respond to markets and government policies, then you will enjoy investigating some of the problems that economists face, from the problem of obesity to the economic consequences of climate change. You will also study some of the macroeconomic challenges that governments deal with, from unemployment and inflation to preventing another financial crisis. It has a bit of everything in it – History, Government & Politics, Geography and Maths – keeping the subject relevant and interesting.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

In your first year: Theme 1: “Introduction to markets and market failure.” This unit provides an introduction to the nature of economics and examines how markets allocate resources, from the oil market to the housing market. It analyses the nature of market failure and investigates the extent to which a particular market requires government intervention. You will answer questions such as “Why do football players earn more than engineers?” and “How can the government stop people smoking?”

Theme 2: “The UK economy – performance and policies.” This unit introduces the key measures of economic performance by looking at a range of economic problems that a country faces, such as inflation and unemployment. Students investigate the instruments governments can use to overcome these problems and evaluate

their impact on the economy. You will be able to discuss whether immigration is beneficial or costly for the UK and talk with authority on the effectiveness of government policies to reduce inequality.

In your second year: Theme 3: “Business behaviour and the labour market.” This unit investigates various markets and assesses the extent to which they operate efficiently - from the supermarket industry to the telecommunications market. There is a particular focus on how governments can intervene to ensure that businesses act in the interests of the consumer. You might look into how airlines compete with each other, or why people buy iPhones rather than Blackberry products and what Blackberry could do about it.

Theme 4: “A global perspective.” This unit investigates a range of topics in a global context, from the impact of Brexit on the economy to the effects of Donald Trump’s tariffs. Government policies are critically evaluated and students are encouraged to debate topical economic issues. There is a particular focus on development economics – strategies to tackle poverty in the developing world.

Assessments: The A Level is assessed at the end of your second year. There are three papers:

Paper 1 – Markets and business behaviour – Assessing Theme 1 and Theme 3

Paper 2 – The national and global economy – Assessing Theme 2 and Theme 4

Paper 3 – Microeconomics and macroeconomics – Assessing all themes

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

The lessons will be a mixture of teacher-led activity, workshops and student investigations and projects. You will be expected to have an interest in current affairs and business. Questions range from multiple choice to 25-mark essays, incorporating maths, diagram drawing and essay-writing skills.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

This is an intellectually rigorous course, a view shared by top universities. As a result at least a grade 7 or equivalent in Mathematics GCSE and a relevant humanities subject (e.g. History or Geography) is required. It is not a requirement to have studied economics or business studies at GCSE. It is recommended that those considering Economics as a possible degree course should study Mathematics at A Level as well. Those wishing to apply to the most competitive economics related courses should consider taking Further Mathematics as well.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

The Edexcel board is followed:
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel>

English Literature

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr B Harkins Head of English b.harkins@shhs.gdst.net

“What I love is that the teachers are truly passionate about the subject they teach.”

ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, FRENCH AND GEOGRAPHY STUDENT

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE?

If you enjoy reading and talking about books, then you are likely to enjoy English Literature in the Sixth Form. The course at A Level is based on discussion and analysis, leading you to develop your philosophical awareness of texts and the ability to argue confidently to support them.

Stimulating class discussion, extensive reading and the development of your own critical responses are the key features of English Literature A Level. It can be combined with any other A Level, because of its emphasis on clear, analytical communication in both the written and spoken forms.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The OCR A Level course is an exciting one, with opportunities to study texts taken from over 600 years of writing in English, including writers from other countries.

You will learn about the history of literature and acquire a sense of how different texts relate to others in their own time and earlier periods. You will also look at how books are written and influenced by a social and political context, as well as a literary one.

At A Level, you will study five texts for examination, and three for coursework. We aim to cover a range of different periods and genres with the texts we choose, so that you could encounter the early 20th century poetry of T.S.Eliot or the 20th century American poet, Sylvia Plath. Every

student will study ‘The Duchess of Malfi’ by John Webster or ‘Edward II’ by Christopher Marlowe, Books IX and X of ‘Paradise Lost’ by John Milton and a play by William Shakespeare. The texts we choose are demanding; they will challenge you as readers and require you to read with ever greater degrees of independence.

It is important to read widely and independently throughout the course: English Literature A Level includes comparative and contextual studies of either the representation of women in fiction or American Literature 1880-1940. This presents students with a great opportunity to develop their historical and philosophical knowledge, as well as their practical critical abilities. There is also an opportunity to submit a piece of your own creative writing as part of the final coursework portfolio (although this is optional, not compulsory).

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

There are two examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth and two coursework assignments: either a piece of creative writing in response to one coursework text or a close analysis and a comparative study of two coursework texts.

Teaching takes place through discussion in the classroom and you will be expected to complete an essay each week. We also aim to complement study with trips to relevant theatre productions and visits from writers.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

You will need a minimum of a grade 7 or equivalent in both English Language and English Literature, if you wish to study this subject at A Level.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

You can find more information at: www.ocr.org.uk

Geography

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mrs B Wilson Head of Geography b.wilson2@shhs.gdst.net

“The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It’s about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it’s about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.”

BARACK OBAMA

WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

The world is constantly changing. Causes and impacts of climate change are continuously commented upon in the media; is the public, therefore, well-informed and are we taking enough action to stave off the climate crisis? The number of (natural) disasters occurring is on the rise and this will see an increase in migration, away from climate disaster areas. As an A Level Geographer, you will be able to explore how there is a complex set of interactions between physical processes, human interference with the natural world and the increasing vulnerability of human communities. Geography A Level supports you to develop a combination of transferrable skills including problem-solving, independent research and enquiry, teamwork, numerical analysis and critical thinking; it is a versatile, creative and dynamic subject which complements almost any subject combination.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

Students are expected to think for themselves and develop their broader geographical knowledge, staying up-to-date with current affairs. They are regularly informed of enrichment opportunities, such as lectures provided through the RGS and GA; we encourage students to become members of these institutions. We have a weekly Geography Society, where topical events are discussed in greater depth and detail and we move beyond the syllabus. The department has a range of digital and physical resources, particularly for further reading, to which all pupils are given

unrestricted access in order to support the course and further their individual interests.

At A Level, students follow the Edexcel specification. This is a linear course, assessed at the end of two years of study.

Lower Sixth

Autumn term

- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
- Globalisation

Spring term

- Coastal Landscapes and Change
- Diverse Places

Summer term

- Fieldwork at an FSC Centre in the UK (5 days)

Non-examined assessment (NEA):

Independent Investigation - a geographical enquiry of your choice. The outcome will be a 3000-4000 word report, worth 20% of the overall A Level.

Upper Sixth

Autumn term

- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- Superpowers

Spring term

- Migration, Identity and Sovereignty
- Tectonic Hazards

Summer term

- Revision and examination practice including a specific focus on the three synoptic themes within the compulsory specification content areas:
 - Players
 - Attitudes and actions
 - Futures and uncertainties

FIELDTRIP

There is a compulsory week-long residential fieldtrip that takes place in May.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

You require at least a grade 7 or equivalent in GCSE Geography to study A Level Geography.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

[A Level Geography Specification Issue 6](#)

Government & Politics

FURTHER INFORMATION: Dr M Egan *Head of Politics* m.egan@shhs.gdst.net

“We have interesting discussion and debate on topics beyond the syllabus, whilst still investigating the examination topics and the world around us in real depth.”

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS, MATHEMATICS, HISTORY AND FRENCH STUDENT

WHO SHOULD STUDY GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS?

The course will be of interest to students with a keen interest in current affairs, and to those who enjoy discussion and debate. Students will also be expected to engage in deeper philosophical issues - Which should be more powerful: the individual or the state? What is democracy and how can it best be organised and made effective? Who deserves to exercise political power?

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The course offers a broad introduction to the political system in the UK. You will learn about the role of, and relationship between, parliament and the prime minister. You will study what members of the different political parties believe and consider why they believe these things. You will also learn about how and why our political system has changed, and consider if any further change is necessary or desirable. You will also have lots of opportunities to discuss recent political developments in Britain and the wider world.

Once you have a foundation in British politics, you will study political ideologies, investigating the traditions and influence of conservatism, liberalism, socialism and feminism. In the Upper Sixth, you will study wider political issues, particularly the nature and impact of globalisation. Included in this will be a study of how successful international organisations are addressing problems such as human rights, slavery and the degradation of our natural environment.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

In the Government & Politics Department, our emphasis is on giving you the information and confidence that you need to analyse and evaluate political institutions and ideas for yourself. The teachers will share information, facilitate, plan and check work, rather than tell you the answers.

Our goal is to create learners who are:

- self-motivated (can use their initiative, want to learn and improve)
- self-confident (feel in control of their own learning, set their own goals)
- resilient (see criticism as positive because it helps them to improve)
- curious and creative (will ask questions, not just answer them)

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

You do not require any specific knowledge of politics to begin the course, although a GCSE in History grade 7 or equivalent is strongly recommended. What you need above all is a willingness to learn more about the exciting world of Government & Politics. We provide an enrichment list of interesting and accessible books, films and websites, and some suggestions of places to visit, for those keen to learn more before the course starts.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

Students will study the Edexcel Government & Politics syllabus.

History

FURTHER INFORMATION: Ms H McDougall *Head of History* h.mcdougall@shhs.gdst.net

“In lessons you are encouraged to give your opinion and spark a debate. Teachers discuss specific events in detail and recommend books and films to enrich your knowledge.”

HISTORY, ENGLISH, SPANISH AND FRENCH STUDENT

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

You should study History if you are intrigued by the past and are fascinated by studying events, cultures and time periods different from your own. It is essential that you enjoy reading, have an inquiring mind and are eager to share your ideas and opinions with the rest of the group.

History fosters high levels of literacy, the close analysis of sources, independent thinking and the ability to select and organise information.

The way History is taught at South Hampstead encourages work habits and research skills which prepare students for the independence of university study. History is a highly respected subject, both at A Level and at university, and historians move on to a wide range of professions in the media, law, the Civil Service and, of course, education. The subject combines very well with a range of arts subjects and languages and has provided a refreshing contrast for students studying the Sciences.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY?

We follow the AQA A Level History specification (7042) and all students will study the following:

- A Breadth Study on The British Empire, c1857-1967 (Unit 1J)

- A Depth Study on Revolution and Dictatorship in Russia, 1917-1953 (Unit 2N)

- A Coursework Component – this may vary from year to year, but it will be an Early Modern or Medieval taught course, with students then picking their own question. We are currently studying the Witchcraze in Early Modern Europe, c1550-c1700

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

Students are required to read and prepare for lessons with the aim that lessons are discussion based and there is the opportunity for questions and debate. We will write an essay roughly every three weeks, and lessons may also involve research, note taking and collaborative tasks. There are opportunities to attend Sixth Form lectures, and we invite outside speakers to our History Society, which is compulsory for Sixth Form historians.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

You will need at least a grade 7 or equivalent at GCSE if you wish to study this subject at A Level.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

Examination Board: AQA
www.aqa.org.uk

History of Art

FURTHER INFORMATION: Dr M Naydenova-Slade Head of History of Art m.naydenova-slade@shhs.gdst.net

“I always look forward to my History of Art lessons; our classes are filled with laughter, debate, interesting facts and fascinating images.”

HISTORY, GOVERNMENT & POLITICS AND HISTORY OF ART STUDENT

WHY STUDY HISTORY OF ART?

We live in an increasingly visual world where the ability to decode images and to know how best to use them is becoming an essential life skill. History of Art equips you with the tools to decipher visual clues, understand how images are being used to convey meaning and to influence people in both rational and emotional ways. The study of History of Art requires students to develop analytical skills that can be applied to many walks of life, as well as tools to understand how images and objects shape our social and political identities.

If you enjoy looking at art, visiting galleries, museums and interesting buildings, you will find this subject stimulating and very rewarding.

History of Art is a rigorous, ambitious and highly exciting subject. It combines aspects of multiple disciplines which makes studying it highly varied – from thinking about historical and political contexts, to considering artists’ psychological motivations, the economic value of art, the chemical properties of paint and the mathematics behind a building’s structure. For this reason, it works well in combination with virtually any other A Levels.

Many of our students go on to study the subject at university with more than 10 alumnae currently completing undergraduate and postgraduate courses in History of Art at top UK universities.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Whereas in English Literature one studies poetry and prose, art historians analyse, interpret, deconstruct and contextualise works of art and architecture. Our course spans over 2000 years, drawing connections between different cultures and historical periods.

At the start of the course students will develop specific analytical skills for the interpretation of paintings, sculpture and buildings. Visual analysis is a new language that will allow students to crack codes and gain deeper appreciation of all artworks.

For the majority of the Lower Sixth we will study two broad themes: Identity and War. This thematic approach allows us to explore a wide variety of artworks from across historical periods and cultures. For example, we may think about gender identity as expressed in a Tudor portrait or in a sculpture of a Hindu deity. Likewise, we look at depictions of war and revolution from ancient Greece to the present day.

In the Upper Sixth, we will look in greater detail at two of the seminal periods in the development of European art. First, we will explore the Italian Renaissance from 1420 to 1520. This will allow us to study masterpieces produced in Florence, Rome and Venice, including works by artists such as Michelangelo, Leonardo and Botticelli. We will then turn to another great period of artistic innovation between 1900 and 1939 which saw the rise of Modernism in art and architecture and the emergence of movements such as Expressionism, Cubism and Surrealism.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

Classes are intimate and treated like university seminars or tutorials. They involve a lot of discussion, close analysis and sharing of ideas. Both the themes and periods are taught through case studies of selected works of art and architecture. Many of these can be seen first-hand in London and gallery and museum trips are an essential part of the course.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

No previous knowledge is required. You do not need to have studied Art at GCSE to do History of Art A Level. An enjoyment of essay subjects such as English, Philosophy & Religion or History is a good indication that you will enjoy History of Art.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

You can find more information on: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/history-of-art-2017.html>

Latin

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr O Thicknesse Head of Classics o.thicknesse@shhs.gdst.net

“Latin is the first subject we do in life entirely for its own sake. A Classics degree leads to almost any job in the world. It gives one a disinterestedness in the study of any subject. Disinterestedness is not being uninterested, quite the opposite, it is a love of studying without any practical result intended: it gives the soul a peace, an inner control, quiet joy beyond words.”

ANON

WHY STUDY LATIN?

Latin at A Level is an intellectually demanding and rigorous course, one which is consequently very rewarding. Students of Latin develop a sensitive and analytical approach to language generally, as well as a competence in classical Latin and an awareness of the influence of classical languages on languages of today. They read, understand and make informed personal responses to literature studied in the original language, while developing their understanding of the history and culture of Ancient Rome. Latin goes particularly well with the study of Classical Greek, History, English, Mathematics, Modern Languages and the Sciences.

Beyond A Level, a degree in Classics is very versatile leading to such varied careers as the law, politics, the Civil Service, academia, the world of business and journalism. You could even become a TV presenter/national treasure, like Mary Beard, or a pop star (witness Maisie Peters)!

This course is suited to you if: you are a lateral thinker; you want to develop a logical brain and become more analytical; you love reading literature; you enjoy history; you like to question “why?” and make comparisons between an ancient society and culture and our own; or you simply love Latin!

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Over the two years, you will study prescribed authors from a range of genres. The verse set texts for examination in 2027 and 2028 include the Metamorphoses by Ovid and Book 4 of Virgil’s Aeneid, both focusing upon the theme of romantic love, failure and death. Ovid’s poetry retells the doomed story of Jason and Medea, while Virgil’s Aeneid presents us with what T.S. Eliot referred to as ‘the most perfect book in the most perfect epic’ – the tragic love affair between Dido and the titular Aeneas. The prose set texts for examination in 2027 and 2028 include Nepos’ Life of Hannibal and Tacitus’ Annals XIV.

Nepos sketches the great Carthaginian general’s life from the time he began travelling with his father’s army as a young boy, through his sixteen-year invasion of Italy, while Tacitus leads us through the famous rebellion of Boudica in Britain during the reign of Nero. Alongside your study of Latin literature, you will also develop a deeper understanding of the Latin language by practising unseen translation and comprehension of both prose and verse, as well as the art of prose composition. Assessment is through four written examinations: Unseen Translation; Prose Composition or Comprehension; Prose Literature and Verse Literature.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

You will be encouraged to think for yourself, discuss, draw your own conclusions, and consider the influence that Roman literature and society have had on the modern day. There will be opportunities to supplement your classical education with trips to classical sites abroad, lectures, museum and theatre visits and classical open days at universities.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

You will need at least a grade 7 or equivalent at GCSE Latin in order to study Latin at A Level.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

Examination Board: OCR

Further information can be found at: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-latin-h043-h443-from-2016/>

Mathematics

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr J Hansford Head of Mathematics j.hansford@shhs.gdst.net

“There are 10 types of person in the world: those who understand binary, and those who do not.”

IAN STEWART, ENGLISH MATHEMATICIAN

WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS?

Have you ever wondered why we divide a circle into 360 degrees; how we solve equations which are more complex than quadratics; how statistics can win an argument; or what happens to vehicles in a collision? How about the number of staff needed to answer the phones in a call centre? Or even how to shoot a monkey out of a tree? Any of these questions, and many more, can be answered by studying Mathematics at A Level.

Mathematics is recognised as one of the most respected and challenging A Levels and, for this reason, is highly rated by a wide variety of university courses and employers. Mathematics A Level can lead to university courses in Mathematics, Sciences, Medicine, Engineering, Psychology, Economics, Archaeology and careers in almost anything.

If you are someone who wants to study Mathematics for its own beauty, as well as its uses, then you should also consider Further Mathematics. Here you can explore the mysteries of hyperbolic functions, complex numbers (made using square roots of negative numbers), what keeps a roller coaster on the track in a loop-the-loop and how to structure a formal proof.

Year 1

Core Mathematics: calculus; trigonometry and trigonometric identities; factor and remainder theorems; proof; graph sketching and transformations; logarithms and exponentials; binomial expansion; and vectors.

Statistics: data collection; measures of location and spread; representing data; correlation; probability; binomial and normal distributions.

Mechanics: modelling; equations of constant acceleration; forces and motion; applications of calculus to mechanics.

Year 2

Core Mathematics: algebraic methods; functions; sequences and series; further binomial expansions; radian measure; further trigonometry and identities; parametric equations; calculus; numerical methods; and further vectors.

Statistics: regression; correlations and hypothesis testing; conditional probability; and further normal distribution.

Mechanics: moments; forces; projectiles; kinematics; statics; and dynamics.

Mathematics + Further Mathematics A Level

Students of Further Mathematics cover all of the material listed above including both statistics and mechanics. They will also study further Core Mathematics and two optional courses, choosing two from: Further Mechanics, Further Statistics, Decision Mathematics and Further Pure Mathematics. Students will be taught the entire Mathematics A Level in the Lower Sixth with Further Mathematics studied in the Upper Sixth.

Mathematics at A Level + Further Mathematics at AS Level

For those students who want to stretch themselves mathematically, move at a faster pace and cover more of the content required for some highly mathematical

degrees without the time and content commitment of a full A Level in Further Mathematics, we are offering 1.5 Mathematics over two years, spreading the workload required and completing an A Level in Mathematics and an AS in Further Mathematics.

It is also possible to pick up AS Further Mathematics in the Upper Sixth for students who feel they would like to devote more time to Mathematics.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

Mathematics is a challenging course. Lessons include discussion and examples and a significant amount of practice is expected both in class and at home in order to succeed. The course is linear with all exams, both for Mathematics and Further Mathematics, taking place at the end of the Upper Sixth.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

You need to have a minimum grade 8 at GCSE/IGCSE Mathematics to embark on the A Level Mathematics course or the mixed A Level Maths and AS Further Maths course.

You need to have a grade 9 at GCSE/IGCSE to embark on the A Level Further Maths course. The AQA Further Mathematics Level 2 Qualification or similar is helpful but absolutely not essential.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics-2017.html>

Modern Languages – French, German, Mandarin & Spanish

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr M Morley Head of Modern Languages m.morley@shhs.gdst.net

“We get the chance to learn about history, culture and literature as well as developing our fluency.”

SPANISH, MATHEMATICS, FURTHER MATHEMATICS AND ECONOMICS STUDENT

We offer A Levels in French, German and Spanish and the HSK course for Mandarin: a structured Mandarin Chinese training programme which is an international standard programme for Chinese proficiency.

WHY STUDY MODERN LANGUAGES?

Do you enjoy discussion and debate? Do you enjoy travel and communication? In our increasingly global world, you will gain an in-depth knowledge of the target language, society, literature, culture and political system of China, France, Germany or Spain.

A modern language will combine perfectly with any other A Level discipline. Universities, for example, value potential students of English or History studying a language at A Level, while others recommend it for potential scientists as, put quite simply, science graduates must be able to communicate. Medical schools recommend that, in addition to their two or three sciences, students study an arts subject at A Level, preferably a language. All study, no matter what the discipline, is about communication and therefore a language at A Level will complement any subject.

Looking beyond the Sixth Form, a language degree remains a passport to many professions, such as law, accountancy and investment banking, where employers seek to recruit highly qualified graduates who are fluent in at least another language, or who have the fine-tuned language skills to study more languages. Languages can also be combined with a vast range of other disciplines at university and many

non-language degree courses offer the possibility of studying abroad and gaining accreditation through the Erasmus scheme. With so much access to new media, it really is an exciting time to study a language!

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The syllabus explores topics which are particularly relevant to young people. Over the two years of A Level, we study and discuss a very wide range of current affairs based issues such as relationships and changing family structure, modern technology, music, festivals, media, political structures and immigration. We commence literary study (either one film and one text or two texts, starting in the Lower Sixth and continuing in the Upper Sixth) along with specific historical study relating to the target language country. Throughout the two years, we continue to study all aspects of grammar with a focus on translation skills. In addition to this, all students undertake independent research which is at the core of the speaking examination in the Upper Sixth.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

Class work is centred around discussion, whether we are preparing a topic, developing translation skills or exploring a literary text. You will have a regular period in the language laboratory and a conversation lesson, in a group of two or three, with the assistant who will help you improve your fluency, accent and pronunciation. To speak a language well, you need to understand how it works, so we will be consolidating grammar you have

learnt up to GCSE and learning many more sophisticated structures.

In the Lower Sixth we aim to offer an exciting work experience visit for all students. Whenever possible we go to foreign plays and attend worthwhile courses.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

Studying a modern language, like any subject, can be challenging and demanding, so you will need to be prepared to be self-motivated and to have independence of mind and a creative imagination. You will gain more from lessons if you are prepared to develop your own ideas and to participate actively in discussion. You should also enjoy reading, as you will be expected to read beyond the set texts. We expect at least a grade 7 or equivalent at GCSE in the language to be studied.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

You can access the full syllabus for French, German and Spanish here: www.qualifications.pearson.com

For more details on the HSK Mandarin course, please contact Ms Lu: k.lu@shhs.gdst.net

Music

FURTHER INFORMATION: Miss S Ellis *Director of Music* s.ellis@shhs.gdst.net

“As an A Level, it definitely makes the favourites list as the perfect balance between academic and creative.”

MUSIC, ART & DESIGN, HISTORY AND GERMAN STUDENT

WHY STUDY MUSIC?

Studying Music helps develop a wide range of skills including critical and analytical thinking, historical perspective, spatial awareness, creativity, teamwork, presentation, coordination and memory, as well as being one of the few subjects which uses and develops both sides of the brain simultaneously. Music is an excellent complement to other A Levels, whatever your subject choice. Science and Medicine degree courses may expect an arts-based A Level from candidates as well as wanting to see evidence of all-round education, such as participation in music. What better than to combine much of that into studying A Level Music too?

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

There are three essential components of performing, composing and appraising (by listening and writing) which build on GCSE elements. As with GCSE Music, we follow the Edexcel syllabus for A Level. The three elements of Performing, Composing and Appraising are assessed as follows:

Performance (30%): one performance of a minimum 8 minutes

Performances can be solo or ensemble or a mixture. A single piece or many pieces can be performed. Recording takes place between March and May in the Upper Sixth.

A programme of Grade 7 level music can yield full marks.

This coursework is externally marked.

Composition (30%): two separate compositions totalling at least 6 minutes

Composition 1 (40 marks out of 60)

A piece that responds to one of 6 briefs set by Edexcel in the Upper Sixth, **or** a brief set by the candidate – this composition is usually completed in the Lower Sixth.

Composition 2 (20 marks out of 60)

A composition showing certain techniques based on briefs set by Edexcel. This composition can only be undertaken between 1st April and 10th May in the Upper Sixth and must be completed in 6 hours of composition time under controlled conditions. Pupils choose one of four briefs. The composition tasks vary in length but pupils will receive instruction from the start of the Upper Sixth which will enable them to complete the task with confidence and fluency. This coursework is externally marked.

Listening (40%): a two-hour and ten minute listening/written paper

Students study 6 areas of musical history and style:

- Vocal music (J.S Bach and Vaughan-Williams)
- Instrumental music (Clara Schumann and Berlioz)
- Music for film (Batman Returns and Psycho)
- Popular music and Jazz (Courtney Pine, Kate Bush, The Beatles)
- Fusions (Debussy and Anoushka Shankar)
- New directions (Stravinsky and Saariaho)

Each area of study has 3 broad-ranging set works from Bach to the Beatles.

The written paper has two sections:
Section A Three listening questions based on the set works and one question of dictation of a melody (50 marks).
Section B Two essays – one on an unfamiliar piece related to an area of study (30 marks); the second is one from a choice of three essays based on the areas of study (30 marks). This paper is sat in May/June of the Upper Sixth. Externally assessed.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

At least a grade 7 or equivalent for GCSE and approximately Grade 6 on your instrument/voice are all desirable but not absolutely necessary. The only other requirement is that you have a passion for Music and for discovering more about it!

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

For more information, visit:
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Music/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/GCE-music-specification-A-Level-2015.pdf>

Physics

FURTHER INFORMATION: Dr F Faille *Head of Physics* f.faille@shhs.gdst.net

“The Physics trips are the best I’ve ever been on.”

PHYSICS, MATHEMATICS, FURTHER MATHEMATICS AND MUSIC STUDENT

WHY STUDY PHYSICS?

Physics is the most fundamental of the natural sciences. It deals with the interactions between time, space, energy and matter. Physicists want to understand how things work at every level: from the tiniest elementary particles up through nuclei, atoms, molecules, living cells, the human brain, the atmosphere, planets, stars, galaxies and the Universe itself.

Physics is fascinating and can be incredible fun; an understanding of the physics behind every day phenomena like rainbows, red sunsets and blue skies can only make them more beautiful, and learning more about concepts like quantum theory, relativity and cosmology can only add to our awe of nature. Physics also forms the basis of most present and future technology.

Physicists participate in many areas of science, from architecture, engineering and environmental studies to medicine, geophysics, telecommunications, biophysics and neuroscience. Because the training is rigorous and demanding, employers in both scientific and non-scientific fields welcome physicists as people who will be logical, effective and comprehensive in their approach. The study of A Level Physics develops the analytical, problem-solving and numeracy skills essential for entry to many subjects at university, such as Architecture, Medicine, Economics, Law, Psychology or PPE. Universities offer courses both in Physics (alone) and combined with another subject (typically either 25% or 50%); examples are: Physics with

Philosophy / Computing / Geology / French / Mathematics / Music / Education/ European Studies / Astrophysics. There are some very rewarding opportunities for studying Physics with a year abroad. Physics is also key to many Engineering degrees, including Biomedical or Chemical Engineering.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

We follow the OCR A Level specification. The course is broad, interesting and aims to foster an understanding of concepts and the contexts in which they are important. You will study motion, materials, radioactivity, quantum physics, electric, magnetic and gravitational fields and wave phenomena. The contexts include medicine, sports, satellites, archaeology, building design, music and communications as well as astrophysics, particle physics and cosmology.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

As well as the usual mixture of lectures, discussion, demonstrations and practical work in the laboratory, we aim to provide opportunities to observe Physics in the real world.

Every two years there is a trip to the particle accelerator in CERN in Geneva where you will experience what it’s like to be involved in the most advanced Physics research in the world. There may also be opportunities to visit other Physics hotspots such as the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy or to Thorpe Park to look at the physics and engineering of rides. As a class we will attend the varied and engaging Physics in Action lectures. You

are also encouraged to attend lectures at UCL, the Royal Society and the Royal Institution.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

To study A Level Physics, it is necessary to have obtained a grade 8 for both GCSE Physics and Mathematics, or a grade 8/8 in Trilogy Science. It is recommended to study Mathematics at A Level.

To study Physics or Engineering at university you need to take A Level Mathematics. To study Physics at Oxford or Cambridge, it is desirable to study both A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

OCR Physics: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/physics-a-h156-h556-from-2015/>

Philosophy & Religion

FURTHER INFORMATION: Ms N Kennedy Head of Philosophy & Religion n.kennedy@shhs.gdst.net

“It combines all of my interests into one subject: history, philosophy, ethics, civilisation, literature and the basis of society – that’s what makes it such an interdisciplinary subject.”

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION, ART HISTORY AND ENGLISH STUDENT

WHY STUDY PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION?

Philosophy & Religion involves elements of literature, history, culture, psychology plus religion, of course, and more. It tackles fundamental questions, such as: Is religion dead? Is there a God? Are there such things as miracles and visions? Can we even talk about the Ultimate? How should humans behave and is there an innate sense of goodness or does goodness derive from God/Ultimate Reality?

The course teaches you how to write good essays, research independently and how to structure, analyse, evaluate and select the pertinent facts. It also teaches you how to communicate in debate. It therefore complements other essay and humanities subjects but can be studied in conjunction with the sciences.

Many who take Philosophy & Religion go on to a degree in the subject – up to half of the group most years – but it complements many other A Levels, whether or not you intend to study religion or philosophy further. A Philosophy and/or a Theology degree has proved useful for those going into law, journalism, personnel management and medicine, amongst other things.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The course consists of three components, each with equal weighting and examined at the end of Upper Sixth.

Philosophy of Religion

- Arguments for God’s existence, such as the teleological, cosmological, and ontological arguments.

- The problem of evil and religious responses to this.
- Religious experience and challenges to the objectivity and authenticity of these experiences.
- Psychological theories of religion, including the ideas of Freud and Jung.
- Miracles and whether we have good reasons to believe they have occurred.

Religion and Ethics

- Religious and non-religious ethical theories, such as Utilitarianism, Natural Law, and Egoism.
- Application of ethical theories to contemporary issues, such as animal experimentation, the use of nuclear weapons for deterrence, and capital punishment.
- Whether human beings have free will or not, and what this means for moral responsibility.
- What do words like ‘good’ and ‘bad’ mean and are there such things as objective moral values.

Study of one religion: Christianity

- Beliefs about the nature of God.
- The person of Jesus: was he the Son of God or a social revolutionary?
- Feminist theology – whether God is male and whether men and women are equal in Christianity.
- How social issues such as science, immigration, and wealth have affected Christian thought.
- The response of the Church to poverty and injustice.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

The majority of the time is spent in the classroom, engaging in much lively and friendly debate. You will prepare presentations and research independently. Sometimes lectures are attended and university talks are listened to. Sometimes exhibitions can be visited, if useful for the course. Work is not presented from a devotional point of view but from an academic one.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

Students are advised to have studied Philosophy & Religion at GCSE, though all are welcome as long as you have a committed interest in the subject and a determination to work hard. You need an enthusiasm for learning, an enjoyment of debate and an interest in human values, existence and religion. You don’t have to belong to a faith; all types of believers are welcome – atheists, agnostics, deists and theists!

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

Eduqas: <http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies/as-a-level/>

Psychology

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mrs E Wilkinson Head of Psychology e.wilkinson@shhs.gdst.net

“We will never run out of interesting things to talk about because we study Psychology.”

FRENCH, MATHEMATICS, BIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT

WHY STUDY PSYCHOLOGY?

To study Psychology is to study what it is to be human. As a human you feel love, hate, fear, desire, pride, guilt; you think thoughts, plan, dream, make decisions, have conversations and take actions. Psychology attempts to provide explanations for what makes us who we are and why people behave in the ways they do. It considers development from before birth through to old age, the changes taking place, and how these affect thought and behaviour. It tries to explain why people are so alike in some respects and yet so different in others.

You will gain considerable experience in thinking critically, as you will be required to not only understand the theories covered but also evaluate them, taking into consideration evidence for and against, quality of evidence, and the logical coherence of the theories. You will gain a better understanding of the brain and the biological systems which make up part of who we are, and you will design and carry out research and learn the limitations of different methods. Psychology complements almost every other subject, from Biology to History, Chemistry to Government & Politics, English to Art. It provides a useful perspective on these subjects, as well as being a fascinating subject in its own right.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Year 1

- Cognitive psychology, including memory, forgetting and eyewitness testimony
- Developmental psychology, including early social development, attachment and the impact of parental deprivation
- Social psychology, including conformity and obedience, resistance and social change
- Approaches in Psychology: exploring the different groups of explanations for both normal and abnormal behaviour
- Biopsychology which involves understanding how the brain and body influence the mind
- Clinical Psychology, including the definitions of mental illness and the causes and treatments of OCD, phobias and depression
- Research methods in the context of the topic areas

Year 2

- Extends your knowledge of the different Year 1 topics plus covering:
- Issues and debates in Psychology such as the nature/nurture debate and whether there is such a thing as free will
 - Relationships including theories of attraction, maintenance and breakdown of romantic relationships and virtual and parasocial relationships
 - Forensic: offender profiling, explanations of offending and methods of dealing with offending behaviour

– Schizophrenia: a detailed look at the potential explanations and treatments of the disorder as well as the issues surrounding it

Assessment

Three two hour papers, each contributing 33.3% of the A Level, consisting of short answer and multiple choice questions as well as some extended writing questions.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

Lessons will involve lectures, discussions, debates, experiments, research and presentations. You will be expected to take responsibility for your own learning and to see your teachers not as the people who tell you the answers, but as aids to you finding those answers yourself.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BEGIN THE COURSE?

To study Psychology successfully, you should have a combination of curiosity and scepticism, plus an interest in explaining human behaviour. You should be prepared to become self-reliant and to work hard.

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

AQA Psychology Specification: <http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/specifications/AQA-Z181-Z182-SP-2015-V1-0.PDF>

A LEVEL RESULTS

Students achieve outstanding results across the board, placing South Hampstead amongst the leading schools in the country. In 2026, over 49% of grades were A* and 86% A*/A, with over a quarter of the year group awarded at least three A* grades.

	2026			2025			2024		
	%A*	%A*/A	%A*-B	%A*	%A*/A	%A*-B	%A*	%A*/A	%A*-B
ART & DESIGN	50.00	100.00	100.00	66.67	77.78	100.00	43.80	75.00	100.00
ART HISTORY	33.30	66.70	100.00	33.33	83.33	100.00	25.00	50.00	100.00
BIOLOGY	56.30	87.50	100.00	52.40	76.19	90.48	47.40	73.70	84.20
CHEMISTRY	46.70	86.70	93.30	22.86	68.57	91.43	23.30	53.30	83.30
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	33.30	100.00	100.00	25.00	75.00	100.00	71.40	85.70	100.00
CLASSICAL GREEK	66.70	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
COMPUTER SCIENCE	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	100.00	100.00	50.00	100.00	100.00
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	100.00	100.00	100.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	40.00	100.00	100.00
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	50.00	87.50	100.00	83.33	100.00	100.00	16.70	83.30	100.00
ECONOMICS	40.00	90.00	100.00	31.82	63.64	95.45	35.30	94.10	100.00
ENGLISH LITERATURE	27.80	77.80	100.00	42.86	80.95	90.48	41.70	79.20	95.80
FRENCH	40.00	60.00	100.00	14.29	57.10	100.00	10.00	70.00	100.00
GEOGRAPHY	42.90	85.70	100.00	41.38	82.76	96.55	33.30	80.00	93.30
GERMAN	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.00	100.00	100.00	66.70	100.00	100.00
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	50.00	87.50	100.00	30.77	76.92	100.00	27.30	81.80	100.00
HISTORY	88.90	100.00	100.00	46.67	93.33	100.00	60.00	100.00	100.00
LATIN	85.70	100.00	100.00	71.43	85.71	100.00	58.30	100.00	100.00
MATHEMATICS	37.20	79.10	88.40	46.94	91.84	93.88	23.10	69.20	88.50
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	70.00	90.00	100.00	50.00	75.00	100.00	50.00	87.50	100.00
MUSIC	0.00	50.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	33.30	66.70	100.00
PHYSICS	83.30	100.00	100.00	30.00	70.00	90.00	18.80	62.50	93.80
PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION	70.00	90.00	100.00	46.15	84.62	92.31	66.70	88.90	100.00
PSYCHOLOGY	41.70	75.00	100.00	45.00	80.00	95.00	27.30	50.00	95.50
SPANISH	33.00	100.00	100.00	50.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

Results from previous years are available on our website: www.shhs.gdst.net/about-us/results

*Mandarin is available as an HSK qualification

EPQ

Most students also undertake the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which provides the opportunity to delve more deeply into a chosen topic, helping to develop the kinds of research, analysis, independent study and presentation skills required for undergraduate studies. Most universities are great supporters of the qualification – as well as being worth the equivalent of half an A Level (28 UCAS points), an EPQ can help demonstrate your individual interests and areas of expertise, whatever you go on to study.

South Hampstead Sixth Formers have an excellent track record in the EPQ, with most students achieving top grades. Topics selected have ranged from *A Future with AI* to *The Psychological Consequences of FGM*; *Biofuels* to *Cryptocurrencies & Future Economies*; and *The Sculptures of Arno Breker* to *The Representation of Women in the Beat Generation*.

LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS

A team of expert advisors, and our comprehensive Futures Programme, help every student to explore higher education and careers options, providing an invaluable stepping stone to life after South Hampstead.

Most popular destinations over the past 5 years

- 1

University of Bristol
- 2

University of Oxford
- 3

University of Cambridge
- 4

The University of Edinburgh
- 5

UCL (University College London)
- 6

Durham University
- 7

University of Leeds
- 8

University of Bath
- 9

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
- 10

University of Nottingham
- 11

University of Manchester
- 12

King’s College London
- 13

University of Exeter
- 14

University of Birmingham
- 15

University of Warwick

The vast majority of students are accepted at their first choice university each year. Increasing numbers are moving abroad and attending Ivy League destinations; others win places at prestigious art colleges, drama schools and music conservatoires.

Our Sixth Formers go on to study subjects ranging from ancient history to neuroscience, mechanical engineering to music, astronomy to zoology. Our pioneering young women subsequently specialise in all kinds of fields.

We are always so proud to hear of all that our alumnae go on to achieve in their lives beyond South Hampstead. Notable former pupils include prize-winning authors, ground-breaking scientists, passionate campaigners, legendary broadcasters, successful entrepreneurs, trailblazing creatives and distinguished lawyers.

95%

SECURED THEIR FIRST-CHOICE
DESTINATION IN 2026

26%

OF THE COHORT RECEIVED
OFFERS FROM OXBRIDGE IN 2026

Over the past 5 years, students have received offers from top international universities including:

- American University, USA / Atelier Paris, France / Brown University, USA / CalArts, USA
- Columbia, USA / Cornell, USA / Dartmouth, USA / Emory, USA / Georgetown, USA
- IE Madrid, Spain / Indiana University, USA / Leiden University, Netherlands
- McGill, Canada / Middlebury, USA / MIT, USA / The University of Sydney, Australia
- University of Madrid, Spain / UCLA, USA / Upenn, USA / Yale, USA

RECENT LEAVERS’ DESTINATIONS

2026

University of Bath	Architecture Mathematics and Statistics Management with Marketing Politics and International Relations Economics Economics with Politics Biology Psychology
University of Bristol	Geography Politics and International Relations English Politics Social Policy Economics and Management
University of Cambridge	Geography (x2) Medicine English Classics Architecture Economics
City & Guilds	Art Foundation
Durham University	Modern Languages and Cultures General Engineering Mathematics Psychology Biosciences (x2) Theology and Religion (x2) Economics (x2) Natural Sciences Combined Honours in Sociel Sciences
The University of Edinburgh	Psychology Philosophy and Theology (x2)
University of Glasgow	Medicine
Imperial College London	Economics, Finance and Data Science
King's College London	Geography and Environmental Science Psychology Neuroscience and Psychology
University of Leeds	Economics and Geography Philosophy, Psychology and Scientific Thought Theatre and Performance Mechanical Engineering (Industrial)
Loughborough University	Psychology
University of Manchester	Ancient History and History
University of Nottingham	Medicine
University of Oxford	History (x2) Mathematics/Mathematics and Statistics English and French Medicine Philosophy and Theology English Language and Literature Engineering Classics Biochemistry (Molecular and Cellular)
University of St Andrews	English
University of Surrey	Computer Science

UCL (University College London)	Environmental Geoscience Architecture Medicine
University of Warwick	Mathematics Psychology with Education Economics
North America	
UChicago	McGill, Canada

2025

Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London	History of Art
Durham University	Environmental Geoscience Geography Finance
King's College London, University of London	English with Film Studies Biomedical Science Mathematics and Philosophy
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)	Geography Finance
Newcastle University	Medicine and Surgery Marketing
Nottingham Trent University	Textile Design
Queen Mary University of London	Economics, Statistics and Mathematics with a Year Abroad
St George's (City St George's, University of London)	Medicine (MBBS) Law LLB
The University of Edinburgh	Geography (x3) French and Linguistics Business with Marketing Biological Sciences with Management Chemistry French and History History (x2)

UCL (University College London)	Mathematics Medicine Archaeology Global Humanitarian Studies Biomedical Sciences Classical Archaeology and Classical Civilisation Scandinavian Studies
University of Bath	Politics and International Relations Mathematics (x2) Sport and Exercise Science with professional placement or study abroad
University of Birmingham	Psychology Biological Sciences
University of Bristol	English and Philosophy Economics and Politics Biomedical Sciences Engineering Mathematics History Medicine Chemistry (x4) Law Chemistry with Study Abroad Economics with Study Abroad Geography with Study Abroad Film and English Economics and Management Environmental Geoscience

University of Cambridge	Classics (x2) Geography Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion Natural Sciences
University of Exeter	Biological Sciences Natural Sciences with International Study Biological Sciences International Relations
University of Glasgow	Medicine Physics
University of Leeds	Music, Multimedia and Electronics Philosophy, Politics and Economics Classical Civilisation Geography Fine Art
University of Manchester	Drama and Film Studies History and French Chemistry with Industrial Experience
University of Oxford	Biochemistry (Molecular and Cellular) Classics (x2) English Language & Literature (x3) Medicine
University of Southampton	International Relations (x2) Marketing
University of the Arts London	Graphic and Media Design
University of Warwick	Accounting and Finance
University of Westminster, London	Law

International destinations	
University of Chicago, USA	Yale, USA
University of London Institute in Paris	

2024

Durham University	Economics with Management with Study Abroad Chemistry (4 years) Geography Combined Honours in Social Sciences (x2)
Glasgow School of Art	Fashion Design
Imperial College London	Medicine Biochemistry Chemistry with Molecular Physics and a year in industry
King's College London	Psychology with a year abroad Psychology
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)	Mathematics, Statistics, and Business Politics History International Relations and History Philosophy and Economics
Newcastle University	Zoology
Queen Mary University of London	Economics, Finance and Management International Relations with Business Management and a year abroad
Royal Holloway, University of London	Drama and Theatre Studies Psychology
The University of Edinburgh	Politics Chemistry (x2) History and Classics History Classics

UCL (University College London)	Economics Law Philosophy Archaeology and Anthropology Italian (4 years) Ancient History Philosophy Psychology and Language Sciences
University of Bath	Psychology with work placement Biomedical Sciences Architecture with professional placement (x2) Aerospace Engineering with professional placement Chemistry
University of Birmingham	Policy, Politics and Economics Civil Engineering Mechanical Engineering
University of Bristol	Physiological Science Economics and Management
University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences Classics (x3) Architecture (x2) History of Art Music Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion
University of Exeter	Medical Sciences Flexible Combined Honours with work abroad Economics and Politics
University of Glasgow	Zoology
University of Leeds	Physics with Astrophysics English Literature Neuroscience
University of Manchester	Economics Medicine Film Studies and English Literature
University of Nottingham	Architecture Psychology
University of Oxford	Experimental Psychology Biochemistry (Molecular and Cellular) (x2) Classics and English Geography Classics Philosophy and Theology
University of Sheffield	Materials Science and Engineering
University of Southampton	Medicine Aeronautics and Astronautics/Spacecraft Engineering
University of Warwick	English and German Computer Science

International destinations	
Brown, USA	McGill, Canada
Columbia, USA	NYU, USA
Leiden, Netherlands	Sydney University, Australia

Sixth Form Team

South Hampstead Sixth Form is headed up by a team of experts on hand to help guide and support you throughout your time here and prepare you for life beyond school.



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SIXTH FORM

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ART & ART FOUNDATION LEAD

Miss Rhiannon Holland-Bright
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MEDICAL & VETERINARY
SCIENCE LEAD

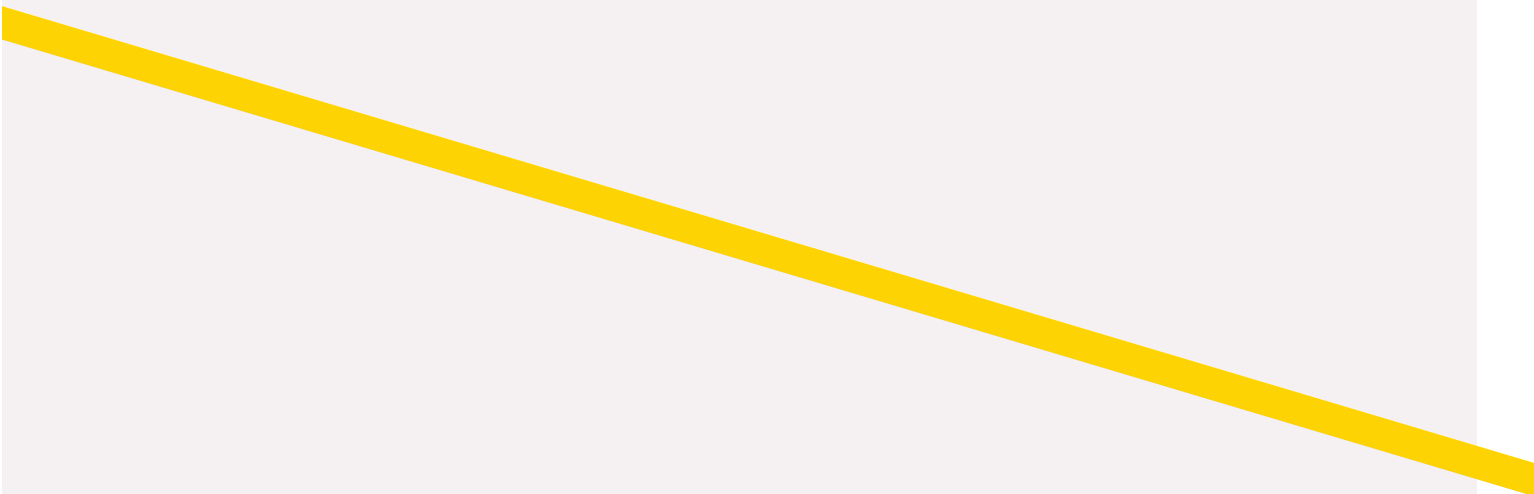
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INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITIES LEAD

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*This is the place to
discover your passion and
develop your potential.
This is the time to choose
your own course and find
your own path.*



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