

WOODHOUSE

C O L L E G E

MMXVIII

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WELCOME

TO WOODHOUSE

PROSPECTUS

2018

Based in North Finchley and drawing students from over 180 surrounding schools, Woodhouse College is one of the leading places to study A levels in London. Our consistently high performance in exam results backs this up. The government recognises us as one of a small number of colleges with both Beacon status and Ofsted Outstanding status. Our current A*–B pass rate makes us the top sixth form college in London and the second highest achieving nationally.

Our combination of expert teaching staff and an ambitious, supportive approach has proved very successful in achieving excellent academic results. We believe that sixth form college should be a stepping stone between school and university, a place where you can start to become an independent learner, and where you are supported to become the person you want to be.

We provide a happy, trusting and caring environment where you can challenge yourself and explore a whole range of opportunities. Woodhouse is as much about personal growth as it is about exam success.

Woodhouse College boasts some of the best facilities in the area and promotes an extensive recreational and academic enrichment programme. At our heart is an impressive pastoral care system, and our tutorial, guidance and support systems will help you steer a safe course through your A levels and beyond.

Our students are ambitious: they embrace the challenge to be the best they can be, both inside and outside the classroom.



OUR COLLEGE



ABOUT ME

I have been principal at Woodhouse College since January 2013. My vision for the college is of academic excellence in a caring community.

The secret of our success is our high expectations: staff expect much from students, and students likewise of themselves. This is not a place where you have to hide your ambitions, your hard work or your desire to do well. We stress to students that they are professional learners: that is their job, and we expect perfect attendance and punctuality, an excellent attitude and high standards of work.

But it is also a thriving and lively community, a place of endless opportunity unrivalled by any state sixth form, where students can grow personally and become the person they want to be. Through taking part in Duke of Edinburgh, Model UN, sports teams, volunteering, all the different trips and other hundreds of activities, students are challenging themselves in different ways, meeting new people, and developing different skills.

I still teach; I have one set (five hours a week) of A level maths. I love teaching and wouldn't want to stop. And our many mathematicians take advantage; as I stroll through the college, I get stopped by students and asked for help on this or that maths problem. I very much enjoy this kind of daily interaction with students, whether it be a maths problem or feedback on a personal statement or general advice. It's nice to think I am an accessible headteacher, that students can freely talk to me.

I was a part-time Ofsted inspector for many years; I recently gave it up because I felt it was taking me out of college too much. Perhaps as a result of my inspection experiences, I am very self-critical, always looking to change and improve things, and I think the same is true of our staff as a whole.

If students and parents have concerns, we are always happy to hear them and discuss them as a means to improve what we do.

I am a Woodhouse parent, at least I was. My two daughters both came here, both went off to university (one maths and one music, since you ask). Perhaps as a result, I understand that students come here with worries and anxieties about making new friends and retaining old friendship groups.

OUR VALUES

We are an unashamedly liberal college with liberal values. We are proud that our students, who come from over 180 different schools across north London and are of many different races and religions, mix so well and form such a cohesive community.

We are proud to have an active LGBT student group, that so many students have Stonewall stickers on the back of their ID, and proud that we have a feminist group in the college too.

But most of all, we are proud that when our students leave, they leave with gushings of affection for each other and the college, and they stay in touch, coming back to see us and to mentor our students, join our alumni organisation and follow our social media. It really is true that 'once a Woodhouse student, always a Woodhouse student'.

“Our aim is for all our students to leave after two fantastic years as confident young people, able to stand on their own two feet, independent learners but also socially self-assured”

JOHN RUBINSTEIN
Principal, Woodhouse College

John graduated from Sheffield University with a first class degree in pure mathematics. He has been teaching for 30 years. He first joined Woodhouse College as head of maths in 1994. After leaving Woodhouse, he returned as vice-principal in 2008 and was subsequently promoted to principal in 2013. He was also a part-time Ofsted inspector from 2001–2015.

OUR PRINCIPAL



2017 RESULTS

A LEVEL SUBJECT	ENTRY	A*	A*–A	A*–B	PASS
ACCOUNTING	15	0%	13%	27%	87%
ART & DESIGN	35	17%	54%	97%	100%
BIOLOGY	170	4%	25%	48%	99%
BUSINESS STUDIES	23	4%	22%	61%	100%
CHEMISTRY	188	5%	35%	60%	98%
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	42	0%	26%	67%	100%
COMPUTER SCIENCE	18	6%	17%	28%	94%
DRAMA & THEATRE	32	3%	44%	84%	100%
ECONOMICS	120	3%	28%	64%	100%
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	41	7%	22%	46%	100%
ENGLISH LITERATURE	166	8%	33%	83%	100%
FRENCH	23	17%	39%	78%	100%
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	62	16%	42%	63%	97%
GEOGRAPHY	77	5%	39%	83%	100%
GERMAN	8	13%	50%	100%	100%
HISTORY	132	11%	44%	74%	98%
LAW	30	3%	47%	100%	100%
MATHEMATICS	309	24%	40%	63%	97%
MUSIC	9	0%	11%	78%	100%
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	7	14%	14%	43%	100%
PHILOSOPHY	37	5%	30%	68%	100%
PHYSICS	92	8%	34%	59%	100%
POLITICS	72	14%	36%	71%	99%
PSYCHOLOGY	147	6%	31%	64%	100%
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	14	14%	21%	79%	100%
SOCIOLOGY	49	2%	18%	65%	100%
SPANISH	25	12%	40%	72%	100%
TOTAL		10%	34%	66%	99%

DESTINATIONS

640 leavers in 2017

92% have now started university

62% decided to study outside London

49% went to Russell Group universities

9 went to Oxford or Cambridge

MOST POPULAR DEGREES	Nos
ENGINEERING	64
HISTORY	46
MATHEMATICS	38
ENGLISH	35
LAW	35
PSYCHOLOGY	32
GEOGRAPHY	24
CHEMISTRY AND BIO-CHEMISTRY	23
BUSINESS	21
COMPUTING	14
ACCOUNTING	14

MOST POPULAR UNIVERSITIES	Nos
QUEEN MARY, LONDON	45
KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON	30
NOTTINGHAM	26
BRUNEL, LONDON	24
SUSSEX, BRIGHTON	24
LEEDS	23
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON	22
CITY, LONDON	19
BIRMINGHAM	18
LEICESTER	18
WARWICK	17

We offer you more than just an academic experience at Woodhouse College. Starting your A levels is an exciting time for you. We will help you to settle quickly into college life and support you in the transition period from being a school pupil to a college student. Being a sixth form student is about learning to be an independent learner and being able to self-evaluate, which means recognising your strengths and weaknesses and taking responsibility for your own learning. Your personal tutor at Woodhouse will have a clear overview of your academic and personal development and will support you on your way to success.

Here are some of the systems we have in place to ensure you are supported all the way through your studies.

STUDENT SERVICES

A range of services are available to help you become a professional learner through social, personal and academic development.

PERSONAL TUTORS

Your personal tutor will be your first point of contact. They will discuss and monitor your academic progress and any concerns you may have.

SENIOR TUTORS

Senior tutors liaise with your personal tutor and other members of the student services team to help you overcome any barriers to learning that may impact on your progress. If they feel you need extra support, they may refer you to a student progress manager.

STUDENT PROGRESS MANAGERS

The student progress managers ensure you settle into college, thrive and develop learning skills and resilience so that you can progress to your desired destination. They monitor your academic progress and attendance and may refer you to internal or external support services.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT

If you have a different or additional learning need, you can receive extra help: individual study support, dyslexia screening and assessment, assistive technology or access arrangements.

The ALS team provides an excellent range of support to help create the best possible learning environment for

you. They can help you with study skills, UCAS personal statement writing and exam skills. You can also receive mentoring help from a second-year student or give something back by mentoring students if you are in your second year at Woodhouse.

CAREERS SERVICE

Our careers co-ordinator and adviser will provide you with 1-1 information, advice and guidance. Throughout the year she arranges careers events and provides advice when applying to university or other destinations, as well as helping with work experience applications and gap year options. She is also on hand at key dates such as results time.

ATTENDANCE OFFICERS

If you are going to be absent from college, you must inform the attendance officers and this must be confirmed by your parent/carer.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

We strongly believe in promoting health and welfare issues at Woodhouse. You will have the opportunity to talk to professionals from external organisations if you need specific advice and information. The college has strong links

with local partners including the BU21 condom scheme, Solace Healthy Relationships, Barnet Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service and Let's Get Cooking, a healthy eating initiative.

COUNSELLING SERVICE

A confidential counselling service is available to support you.

COLLEGE COUNCIL

Together they work to ensure you have a voice in college. They serve as the main channel of communication between students and college management.

GET INVOLVED

- Join the college council
- Design a tutorial
- Join one of the many societies such as Fairtrade, Amnesty, FemSoc, Spectrum for LGBTQ+ students
- Help with health and wellbeing displays in the social area
- Build your employability skills by helping at college events.

MANAGING & MONITORING STUDENT

PROGRESS

We want your college experience to be happy and successful. With our student support network to help, guide and support you, we are confident it will be.

Woodhouse Plus is our extensive and diverse extracurricular programme, offering a wide range of additional courses you can take alongside your A levels. You can build your skills, build your career or build your qualifications.

W+ SKILLS

These courses are designed to develop skills you can use in a range of situations. Employers always seek people who can do things well, whether it is teamwork, solving problems, listening or organising. Courses currently on offer include:

Maths for science students to really get to grips with science A levels.

Volunteering to help others and develop your own skills at the same time. It's a win-win.

Campaigning Find out how to run a campaign about things that matter to you.

Debating / mock trials Learn how to debate, build strong arguments and spot how people try to persuade you.

Maths for social science students Develop your maths skills alongside your social science courses.

Social issues, youth and wellbeing Learn about issues affecting young people, then work with others to raise awareness and help people.

Part-time work Get Woodhouse Plus credits by registering your part-time work.

Musical theatre Contribute to a musical production and learn performance, management and team skills.

Female empowerment Be the woman you want to be with this assertiveness programme.

W+ CAREERS

This is for you if you already know the direction you want to head in after Woodhouse. It includes courses designed to make your career choice more accessible to you. You will learn about the area you are interested in, the range of possible careers and how to access top degree courses.

Medicine Academy Learn how to get onto medicine courses and become a doctor.

Art / Architecture Academy Develop the portfolio you need to access art or architecture courses for a creative career.

Journalism Academy Build your journalistic experience so that you can demonstrate you should be chosen for a related career or degree.

Science STEM Academy Learn how scientists think by devising your own research plan and publishing your findings.

Maths and Physics Academy Develop your maths or physics problem solving at the highest levels so you can compete with the best.

Oxbridge Academy Build your intellect and capacity to apply successfully for the most demanding university courses.

Law Academy Develop your understanding of legal career possibilities and equip yourself to apply for them as well as law degrees.

Career Ready (business) Follow a programme supported by employers which includes visits, mentoring, workshops and an internship.

History Academy Develop your skills as a critical historian by immersing yourself in some of the past's deepest questions.

W+ QUALIFICATIONS

These are additional courses that you can study alongside your A levels. Maybe you want to learn about something very individual so might consider the EPQ. Maybe you would like to take a high level online course, or challenge yourself by doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) Design and research a project on more or less anything that is interesting and that takes you into 'new territory'.

MOOC Take a Massive Open Online Course. There are thousands to choose from.

Duke of Edinburgh (Silver or Gold)

Develop in a rounded way through volunteering, physical activity and the famous expedition.

A fourth A level If you are already taking four subjects, this counts for Woodhouse Plus and you would not be expected to do more... but you can.

WOODHOUSE PLUS





CAREER READY



CAREER READY IS A NATIONAL CHARITY LINKING EMPLOYERS WITH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES TO OPEN UP THE WORLD OF WORK TO YOUNG PEOPLE. WOODHOUSE RUNS A VERY SUCCESSFUL CAREER READY BUSINESS ACADEMY THAT IS RATED IN THE TOP TEN IN THE UK.

We offer a structured programme of activities that sits alongside college studies. It is delivered by employer volunteers who provide masterclasses, mentoring, workplace visits and internships to help our students compete with the best in the country. Career Ready gives students the confidence, skills and networks to achieve their potential. Through volunteering for Career Ready employers get the chance to develop their own management skills and find the next generation of talented employees.

A Career Ready LAB (Local Advisory Board) is the essential link between the college and local employers and consists of members of Woodhouse staff and business professionals from organisations such as Waitrose, The Business Design

Centre, EY and King & Wood Mallesons. It's chaired by Peter Green, former CEO of The Kyte Group. The LAB meets each term and members act as expert guides, helping to set up and deliver the Career Ready programme, and ensuring that students get relevant skills for the modern workplace.

Eligible students at the college (currently those studying either accounting, business studies or economics) are invited to apply each year.

Applicants undertake a morning of assessment activities followed by panel interviews. The panel consists of two members of the LAB and a Career Ready student in their second year. The panel then discuss the merits of each participant and choose the successful applicants.

Each student gets a mentor and we have secured many high calibre mentors from organisations such as YouGov, Accenture and HSBC, as well as from fields like advertising, finance, employment training and even motivational speakers.

Students take regular trips to businesses such as Pentland Brands and Barclays Bank for coaching and office tours. They recently visited IPG Mediabrands where they received interview training and CV feedback. Many students have never been in an office environment and these trips make them realise that the move from education to the workplace is not as daunting as they may have feared. Visiting speakers play an important part in the programme and our students have benefited from speakers

from Merrill Lynch, who came to talk about careers in investment banking, and the Royal Bank of Scotland, who gave subject-specific talks on topics such as how interest rates are set and how they affect business, and the changing face of RBS.

Visiting speakers cover all the key elements of the students' career development – the practical, the subject-based, the inspirational and the motivational – and college-based workshops reinforce these areas.

Students attend workshops on resilience, assertiveness, negotiation skills and even how to create a good LinkedIn profile.

W+ CAREERS

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



'Healthy body, healthy mind' is a mantra we take to heart here, and ensure that our students do too. Our dedicated physical activities manager leads our *Jump Start* programme, connecting students with a diverse range of sports and fitness activities, from archery and mixed martial arts to netball and yoga, and everything in between...

With a brand new state-of-the-art floodlit 3G football pitch, our teams can be proud of their home turf. And our sprung-floored gymnasium with basketball court is fully equipped for badminton, trampolining, volleyball, parkour... you name it! Add to that our two purpose-built dance studios and we've got fitness covered.



OXBRIDGE



Student Alice Gregson began studying English at Cambridge University this year. She tells us about her application journey...

"I hadn't initially intended to apply for Oxbridge, but one of my teachers suggested I think about it and so I went along to one of the 'non-committal' talks to find out more about it.

We went on a trip to Oxford University where we heard talks from people in the colleges as well as some subject specific talks – that was really good and we got to walk around a few of the buildings too. Then, back at college, Woodhouse alumni who went to Oxbridge came in to talk about their personal experience of applying, which was really helpful.

Mr Rubinstein kept emailing us excellent advice about how to prepare better, like doing more reading, both around your subject and in general, to round out your knowledge. I sort of read a lot anyway because obviously I have an interest in English.

I had so much help with my personal statement from my teachers, and the English teachers gave me reading lists and looked through the essays that I had to submit.

But I must admit, the application process was hard. There were many times when I thought about dropping out. It was so much more than just a personal statement... First there was a

supplementary questionnaire, which was really long and I had to write about exactly what I was doing in my A levels and why I chose them. I then had to take an exam, which I sat at Woodhouse in November of the Upper Sixth. Then there were lots of mock interviews – with governors, two or three with the English teachers including the Head of English. So much preparation.

Mock interviews really helped and I'm so grateful for them, they really prepared me. When I went for my proper interview, I chatted with a girl from another college where no one had applied before and she hadn't had any help at all. When I told her the support I'd had, she was really worried... I hope she got in, it would be nice to see her again. That really highlighted how much help Woodhouse had given us – I almost felt like I had an unfair advantage!

Advice for the potential applicant? Just go for it. I didn't think I'd get in – I'm still in shock that I did. It is a lot of work, but it's worth a shot. I think anyone can do it if you genuinely love your subject. And you get so much help at Woodhouse that there's no reason not to really – you won't be doing it on your own."



Alice with friend Jordan on their first day at Cambridge

Our principal personally oversees a support system that includes two dedicated Oxbridge coordinators.

Our programme starts a year before applications take place. We encourage students to start the process of engaging with their subject beyond the A level syllabus as soon as possible. This includes joining study groups and meeting with like-minded people to discuss texts and articles or solve problems that go beyond the demands of normal classwork. We organise and oversee trips, visiting speakers and summer schools as part of a comprehensive programme that mostly focuses on specific subject areas.

We bring in admissions tutors from Oxford and Cambridge and invite students and parents to come and find out more about the whole process and ask questions.

Some subjects such as history, maths and law have special entry examinations in early November, so we offer specialist subject support for these. We also assist

those students who have to take a thinking skills test. Additional support is available for those taking the Cambridge maths STEP paper, which is taken after the A2 exams.

Staff who have specialist subject knowledge give our students intensive interview practice, as do our governors. We have close links with Pentland Brands, a company that employs many Oxbridge graduates, who come to Woodhouse to give one-to-one interview practice, which provides additional valuable insight. Students then go for their interview in early December of the Upper Sixth.

Our track record from offer to exam success and then acceptance is very high, but obviously not all students get an offer. Our application-to-offer conversion rate compares well nationally and we strive each year to forge further Oxbridge links for our students. Typically, a dozen or so get offers and, in 2017, 13 of our students received an offer from either Oxford or Cambridge.

W+ CAREERS

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SILVER & GOLD



We have been participating in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme for eight years and it has been a great success. Around 50 students take part every year and they really enjoy the challenge, especially the camping expeditions, where they hike 50k+ with full backpacks across the North and South Downs for Silver, and in the Lake District for Gold.

The team spirit and camaraderie stay with students when they return and they develop strength of character and, often, enduring friendships.

D of E Silver students on the
South Downs Way, West Sussex

W+ QUALS

MEDICINE

ACADEMY

The Woodhouse Medicine Academy is made up of students who demonstrate excellent potential to be successful in the medical schools application process. Academy meetings involve preparation, mentoring and support.

INTERNAL PROGRAMMES

Preparation for medical schools entrance exams: BMAT & UKCAT.

Discussion of medical ethics with case scenarios.

Studying the structure of the NHS, its history and limitations.

Discussion of topical and current issues related to the medicine and science field as well as book reviews.

Students are kept informed of opportunities for work experience and references are written to various institutions to support their applications.

Extensive support is given to the students with writing their personal statements.

A King's College professor of medicine and a London-based GP are assisting our students with their mock interviews as part of their preparation for the application process.

EXTERNAL PROGRAMMES

These schemes are very competitive but, despite this, our students have managed to secure

places at the following:

- University College London (UCL) target medicine programme, which also includes work experience.
- King's College K+ mentoring programme.
- Queen Mary mentoring programme – SAMDA.
- E-mentoring at Imperial College.
- Cambridge University master classes in medicine.
- King's College Med-View summer course for medicine and dentistry, which includes placements at hospitals and GP practices.
- The Nuffield Foundation summer placements at the National Institute for Medical Research.
- A variety of medicine and medicine-related taster courses and summer schools at various universities, notably Imperial College, St. George's and UCL.

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

Lectures by doctors and professors of medicine at King's College school of medicine.

Visits to the Royal Society of Medicine annual conference.
Tours of the National Institute for

Medical Research laboratories with lectures on cutting edge medical research and a visit to the labs to witness the current research first-hand.

Visits organised by King's College school of medicine to the Royal College of Surgeons of England to participate in clinical skills sessions and to get a taste of medicine in practice.

Visits to the Hunterian Museum to participate in a surgical skills session and St. George's to participate in another hands-on clinical skills session.

The Eton College medicine admissions tutor and the former dean of the Norwich Medical School at UEA gave talks about the medical school application process. Other speakers included practising doctors and medical students.

This total immersion in the culture of medicine is paying off and Woodhouse offers for medicine-related degrees are increasing year-on-year.

In 2016, 22 students in our Medicine Academy went on to prestigious universities to study medicine.

W+ CAREERS

TRIPS ABROAD

It was once written that 'an ounce of experience is worth a pound of science'. Whilst we wouldn't wish to denigrate the hard work of our science students, we do still believe that trips often enhance and accelerate a student's understanding of the world. That is why we actively encourage staff to organise visits and overseas trips to as many far-flung destinations as possible.

Recent international activities have included our annual physics trip to the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Geneva and a combined geography and biology trip to Iceland (pictured here), which is now an annual fixture.

This year we have seen trips to Berlin, Paris and Barcelona, and are preparing for our annual ski trip to Italy.

We run student exchanges as part of the European Work Experience Programme to Sweden, Italy and Germany, which are open to all students, as well as language exchange trips to Barcelona.

Already in the calendar for 2018 are our history trip to Berlin, geography trip to Iceland and an art trip to Italy, all of which will be open to students in other subjects.



Sólheimajökull glacier
Iceland

KARISHMA KHAJURIA: MY EPQ

"I saw the EPQ as an opportunity for me to be able to research something of interest on a very personal yet academically recognised level. Climate change was a subject of passion for me and it was the perfect chance to have a nicely balanced, independent and simultaneously guided project. The focus of my EPQ evolved over time, as does everyone's, because I discovered the feasibility and limitations of my research subject. The final title I ended up with was *'To what extent will climate change cause the dieback of the Amazon rainforest?'*"

I ended up splitting my EPQ into 3 sections – the past, present and future scenarios of the Amazon. I researched patterns of variability in climate in the region in the past, and was lucky enough to be able to interview a professor at Reading University who gave me a highly useful insight into the mid Holocene drought and the effects on the Amazon. I was then better able to understand and hence link the present and future sections and look at predictions in climate for the region, closing my EPQ with a well informed conclusion. Being a geography student, I was in touch with climate change in the news on an increasingly regular basis and found the term 'tipping point' particularly intriguing. Amazonia is often referred to as the lungs of our planet but I wanted to research the extent to which it would – or wouldn't – survive the climatic crisis of the 21st century, hence I decided to do my EPQ on the extent to which the Amazon rainforest would potentially 'die back'.

The EPQ was a vital process for me to actually understand that you only get the results if you put in the work. Before the EPQ, I had never had to work so hard for anything on an individual basis, and it demanded both time and efficiency. The EPQ taught me core skills that have already aided me at university in the form of time management, coping with stressful conditions and meeting deadlines. It also added so much to my experience at Woodhouse because I got the satisfaction of having the chance to research something that I'm so interested in, and in great depth.

Architecture is another passion of mine, which came about due to my travels, concerns for environmental well-being in the built surroundings, and my love of art. But as an architect, I'll have to consider the environmental implications of designing buildings, and I'm sure my EPQ topic will live on forever as a cherished memory of my time at Woodhouse – and hopefully benefit my work in the future."

WHY EPQ?

The level 3 extended project qualification – EPQ – helps students become 'hands-on' researchers and is excellent preparation for university. It is worth half an A level and the subject you choose is completely up to you. You might want to deepen your knowledge of an A level subject or choose something which sits outside of your academic subjects altogether. Some students research and write academic essays – a bit like mini-dissertations – while others complete product projects such as short novels, films, inventions or designs.

If you choose the EPQ, we will teach you how to plan, research and complete your project. You will develop your presentation and evaluation skills too.

Examples of product projects:

- Convert an acoustic guitar into a resonator guitar
- An app to guide a remote controlled car from a smartphone
- A DVD on environmental education in primary schools
- Courtroom sketches from *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Examples of written report titles:

- Exploration of the reach of globalisation in Hong Kong and Shenzhen
- The origins of Arthurian myths
- The ecological impact of fish farming in a Scottish loch
- The effectiveness of Prozac in treating depression
- The application of game theory to UK business practice.

"I wanted to study something that wasn't related to the degree I was applying for; it was probably one of the last opportunities to do something of this sort!"

KARISHMA KHAJURIA

from Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Karishma left Woodhouse in 2016 with A*AA in art, geography and maths, and an A in her EPQ. She is now studying architecture at The Bartlett, UCL

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a purple sleeveless top and a matching purple skirt, stands in a forest. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The forest has many tall, thin trees with light-colored bark. Some trees have bare branches, while others have green leaves. The ground is covered with rocks and fallen leaves. The background shows a hazy landscape with more trees and hills.

EPQ

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

W+ QUALS

Photo: Hellfire Pass, Kanchanaburi, Thailand

WHO CAN APPLY?

The college is for 16–18-year-olds. Almost all of our students are 16 when they start the academic year, and they come to us straight from Year 11. Those who will be 17 at the beginning of the academic year are eligible to apply, but the college will prioritise the applications of 16-year-olds. All students are full-time, studying A level courses. We consider ourselves to be a sixth form college for north London and its environs, and we do not prioritise applicants who live in particular boroughs. However, we prefer to offer places to those who live within a reasonable travelling distance.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED TO APPLY?

We stipulate 7/6 or A/B grades in particular GCSE subjects, at least a grade 6 in English language and a 5 in maths, and an average GCSE score across the best eight of your subjects as follows:

- For 3 A levels: 6.0
 - For 4 A levels: 7.0
- (A* = 8, A = 7, B = 6, etc.)

Note that these are the *minimum* average GCSE scores required.

HOW MANY SUBJECTS DO I PICK?

3 or 4 A levels. Around 80% of our students are likely to study 3 A levels. The other 20% will study 4 A level courses. In order to be allowed to do this, however, you have to achieve a higher threshold of grades than you do for the 3 A level programme.

HOW MANY PLACES ARE AVAILABLE?

We enrol about 800 students from schools in and around north London. We prioritise applicants from our partner schools, The Archer Academy and Friern Barnet School, but they still have to meet the same entry requirements as everyone else. We also prioritise looked-after children and care-leavers. We know that not all students who are offered a place will actually come: some fail to get the grades, others choose to stay at their own school sixth form or go elsewhere. So we offer more places than we actually have.

WHAT CRITERIA ARE USED FOR OFFERING PLACES?

The criteria include your academic potential, journey to college, school report,

combination of subjects, as well as your contribution to your current school and participation in extra-curricular activities. Please be aware that in recent years the college has been heavily oversubscribed in some subjects, so we cannot guarantee to offer a place to all applicants who meet our minimum criteria.

WHEN WILL I HEAR IF I HAVE A CONDITIONAL PLACE?

We aim to let everyone know the outcome of their application by the end of February.

CAN I CHANGE SUBJECTS AFTER I HAVE SUBMITTED MY APPLICATION?

If you would like to change subjects, please email admissions@woodhouse.ac.uk informing us which subjects you wish to change as soon as possible.

CAN I CHANGE SUBJECTS AFTER I HAVE BEEN OFFERED A PLACE?

We will do our best to accommodate you but cannot guarantee this since other subjects may be full. We would also need to consider your (predicted) grade profile.

Likewise, if you wish to change courses following the publication of GCSE results, we will do what we can to facilitate your request.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT REACH THE OFFER CONDITIONS?

You may lose your place, but in some cases students who narrowly miss the offer grades are accepted if we can fit them in. Sometimes we have to renegotiate the course. Note that all students are expected to have passed GCSE maths at grade 5 and English language at grade 6 or above.

DO WE OPERATE ANY QUOTAS WHEN SELECTING STUDENTS?

No. All applicants are judged on their merits and we operate no quotas of any sort.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DECIDE NOT TO TAKE UP MY PLACE?

You would need to let us know if you wish to withdraw, either in writing during the admissions process or by returning your registration form on GCSE results day, indicating that you do not wish to take up your place.

APPLICATION

FEASOS

IF I GET PUT ON THE WAITING LIST, WHAT ARE MY CHANCES?

This varies from year to year and often depends on which subjects are wanted. It is not possible to put any sort of figure on this. The more flexible you are about your subject choices, the more likely it is that we can fit you in. If you are keen to have a place, let us know after the GCSE results are published.

ARE APPLICATIONS PROCESSED IN DATE ORDER?

No. Applications received before the deadline are all treated equally. But we cannot process your application until we have received the report from your school.

CAN I SEE MY SCHOOL REFERENCE?

No. We have asked for a confidential school report so we will not let you see this. Should you have any concerns about your reference, you would need to discuss them with your school.

CAN I APPLY AFTER I GET MY GCSE RESULTS?

Yes, you can apply on GCSE results day by coming into Woodhouse with your results. You must still have met our minimum entry criteria, and we would need to see a school reference or report. We consider students from our waiting list before new applications.

IF I CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT A COURSE ONCE I HAVE STARTED, CAN I CHANGE?

This may be possible but any changes must be requested quickly and will depend on space availability and your grade profile. Your personal tutor and other staff will support you in this. If we have to withdraw a subject, which happens very rarely, we would do our utmost to provide you with a suitable alternative.

I WISH TO COME TO THE UK JUST TO STUDY. CAN I APPLY?

We do not hold Tier 4 sponsorship with the UK Border Agency and therefore

are unable to consider students in this category.

I CURRENTLY LIVE OVERSEAS. CAN I APPLY?

If you are returning to the UK by August 2018 and will be living with a parent who has the right to remain in the UK for the full duration of your course, then we can consider your application. If you are not studying GCSE/IGCSE or O levels, then you will need to get a 'statement of compatibility' from UK NARIC. If we are able to offer you a place, it would be helpful if you are available to attend the offer acceptance in March 2018.

ARE THERE ANY FEES?

The college is funded directly by the government and is free to EU citizens. We do ask for a £100 contribution towards books and materials and charge a deposit of £50. The deposit is returnable at the end of the course.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Midday on 15th January 2018

WHY ACCOUNTING?

Studying A level accounting will help you develop knowledge and understanding of the purposes of accounting and apply this to a variety of business problems. You'll learn about the collection and collation of financial data and how to present these in a form that allows an organisation to survive and thrive.

You'll develop the ability to acquire a range of important and transferable skills, such as dealing with data, identifying and solving problems, planning work and taking into account the demands of the task and the time available to complete it. You'll then learn to work on more complex case-study material that requires making judgements, solving problems and justifying recommendations.

Many of our students go on to study finance or related degree courses at Russell Group universities and Oxbridge.

COURSE CONTENT

- 1. The role of the accountant
- 2. Types of business organisation
- 3. The double entry model
- 4. Verification of accounting records
- 5. Accounting concepts
- 6. Preparation of financial statements of sole traders
- 7. Limited company accounts
- 8. Analysis and evaluation of financial information
- 9. Budgeting
- 10. Marginal costing
- 11. Costing and variance analysis
- 12. Absorption and activity based costing
- 13. Capital investment appraisal
- 14. Accounting for organisations with incomplete records
- 15. Partnership accounts
- 16. Limited companies
- 17. Interpretation, analysis and communication of accounting information
- 18. The impact of ethical considerations

“I chose to study accounting because I wanted to learn more about how the financial management of a business works.

We don't really use software, it's quite old school – we work with pen and paper.

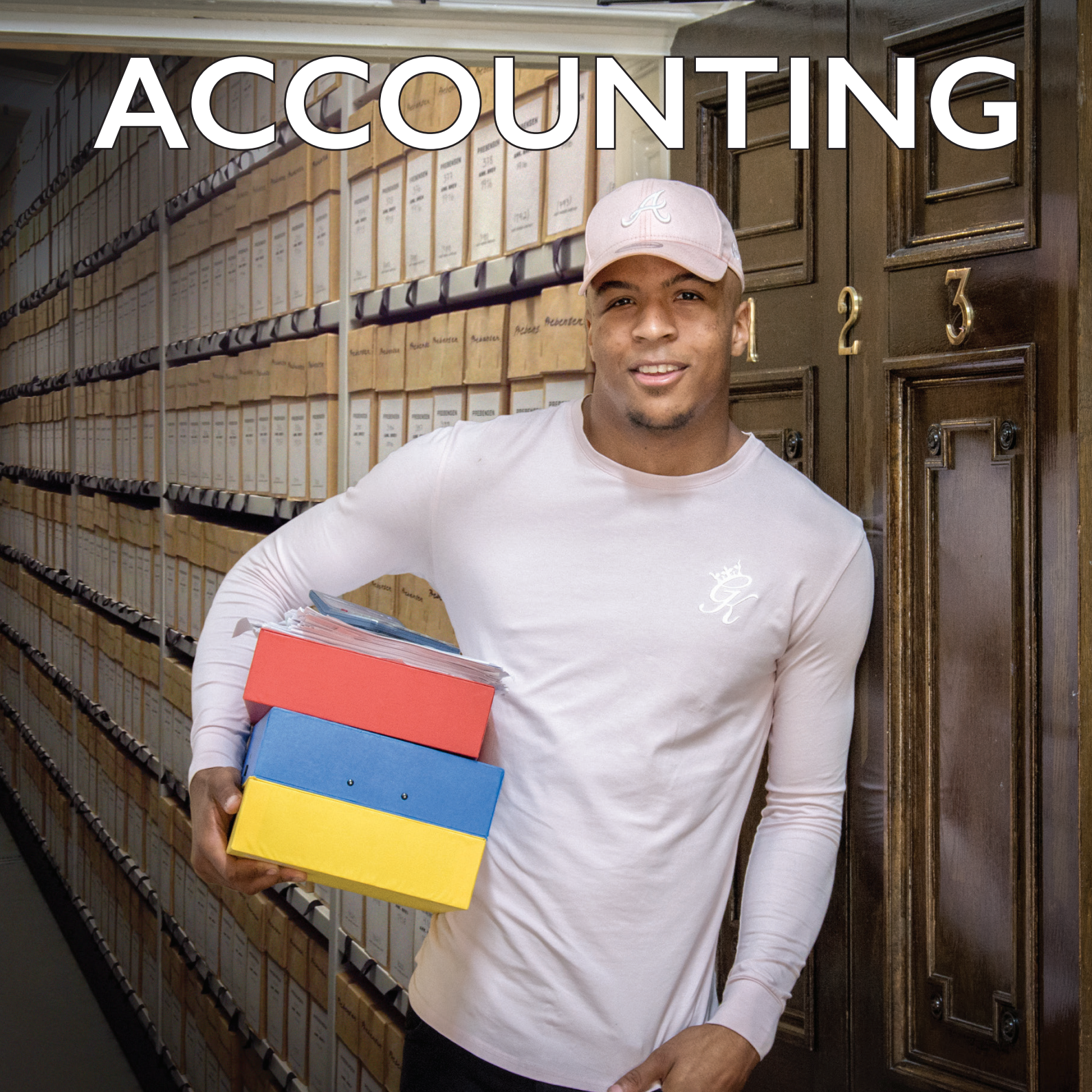
You need to be determined and have perseverance because you'll get things wrong, but once you understand the theory, it's practice, practice, practice.”

LEWIS DUNN
from Winchmore School

Read more about Lewis on our website subject pages.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Paper 1 Topics 1–8, 14–18 of syllabus	Exam 3hrs 120 marks	50%
Paper 2 Topics 1–3, 8–13, 17–18	Exam 3hrs 120 marks	50%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE maths		

ACCOUNTING



WHY ART AND DESIGN?

A level art & design provides a fantastic opportunity for students to explore their creative talents. One in every six jobs in the UK held by graduates is in the creative economy, showing the importance of art as a subject.

Art students at Woodhouse develop their creativity and produce a diverse range of creative work. Essential skills in drawing, painting, print, 3D, problem-solving, research, critical analysis, experimenting and presentation are all a part of the course. Many of these skills are transferable across other subjects and are highly valuable in all areas of education and work.

More than 50% of art students progress onto creative courses such as architecture, history of art, animation, and art and design foundation. This includes institutions such as UCL (the Bartlett School of Architecture), the Courtauld Institute of Art, Central Saint Martins and many others. Many art students also progress onto non-art-related degree courses.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Personal investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Students produce a portfolio of work over a number of weeks including supporting work and final pieceThis will also include a written personal study of 1,000 to 3,000 words	Coursework <ul style="list-style-type: none">marked out of 72marked out of 18	60%
Externally set assignment <ul style="list-style-type: none">Students produce a portfolio of work over many weeks, then produce an unaided piece of work in a timed exam	Exam 15hrs	40%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE art. Portfolio required to judge suitability if art not taken or predicted below 6 at GCSE		

COURSE CONTENT

The course centres mostly on fine-art approaches and in year one you will explore techniques from a variety of stimuli while completing practical projects. This will include man-made and natural forms, the human figure, landscape, architecture and other starting points.

Your art skills and techniques will develop through taught workshops and research. You will learn to analyse the work of well-known artists and develop personal themes, producing final outcomes that show your skills and ideas. These can be in the form of sculptures, paintings, mixed-media work, textiles, ceramics and other forms.

In year two, students have the opportunity to develop their own project ideas using all the skills acquired in year one.

“I came to Woodhouse because of the art department. I was impressed with the quality of the work on show and the studio was so big and brightly lit.

It’s amazing that we have a whole library and computer suite just for art.

The teachers are very open and friendly, and they encourage you. My technique and skills have definitely improved.”

YUHONG WANG
from Greig City Academy

Read more about Yuhong on our website subject pages.

ART & DESIGN



WHY BIOLOGY?

You'll learn about the complexity and diversity of life in such detail that you'll become an expert in plant, bacterial and animal physiologies. Successful students will become problem-solvers, logical thinkers, and will be able to apply their advanced biological knowledge to unfamiliar contexts. Twelve compulsory experiments will produce practical scientists who can analyse data and evaluate methodologies expertly.

Many students go on to study biological, chemical, or environmental sciences. Others pursue courses in psychology, physiology, or sport sciences. Students with exceptional GCSE and A level grades go on to study the biological or natural sciences at Oxford or Cambridge, or vocational courses like medicine, veterinary sciences or dentistry. Visits, guest speakers, essay competitions, university summer schools, the Biology Olympiad, as well as an expedition to Iceland are all available to our students.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Molecules• Cells• Exchange• Diversity	Exam 2hrs. 91 marks. Short and long questions with an extended response question of 15 marks	35%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy• Response• Genetics• Genetic control	Exam 2hrs. 91 marks. Short and long questions with a comprehension question of 15 marks	35%
Examines all eight topics through questions and an essay	Exam 2hrs. 78 marks. Short and long questions with an essay of 25 marks	30%
Additional course entry requirements: Grades 7+6 in GCSE combined sciences, or 7+6+6 in GCSE biology, chemistry and physics (separate sciences). Grade 6 in GCSE maths. Recommend study – another science and/or maths. BTEC Science is not a suitable entry qualification.		

COURSE CONTENT

You'll begin with an in-depth analysis of the chemistry of biological molecules, then cellular biology, along with the functions of up to ten intra-cellular structures.

From the microscopic to much larger systems, the transportation systems of plants, insects, fish and mammals are studied. Larger still, you'll learn how diversity emerges in whole populations due to mutation and natural selection.

The biochemistry of photosynthesis and respiration in ecosystems comes next, then homeostasis and the nervous systems of individual organisms.

Ending where you began – at the molecular level – genetics, inheritance and the control of gene expression complete the course and this prepares you for studying the biological sciences at university.

“The topic areas at A level are similar to GCSE, but you build on them in so much more detail.

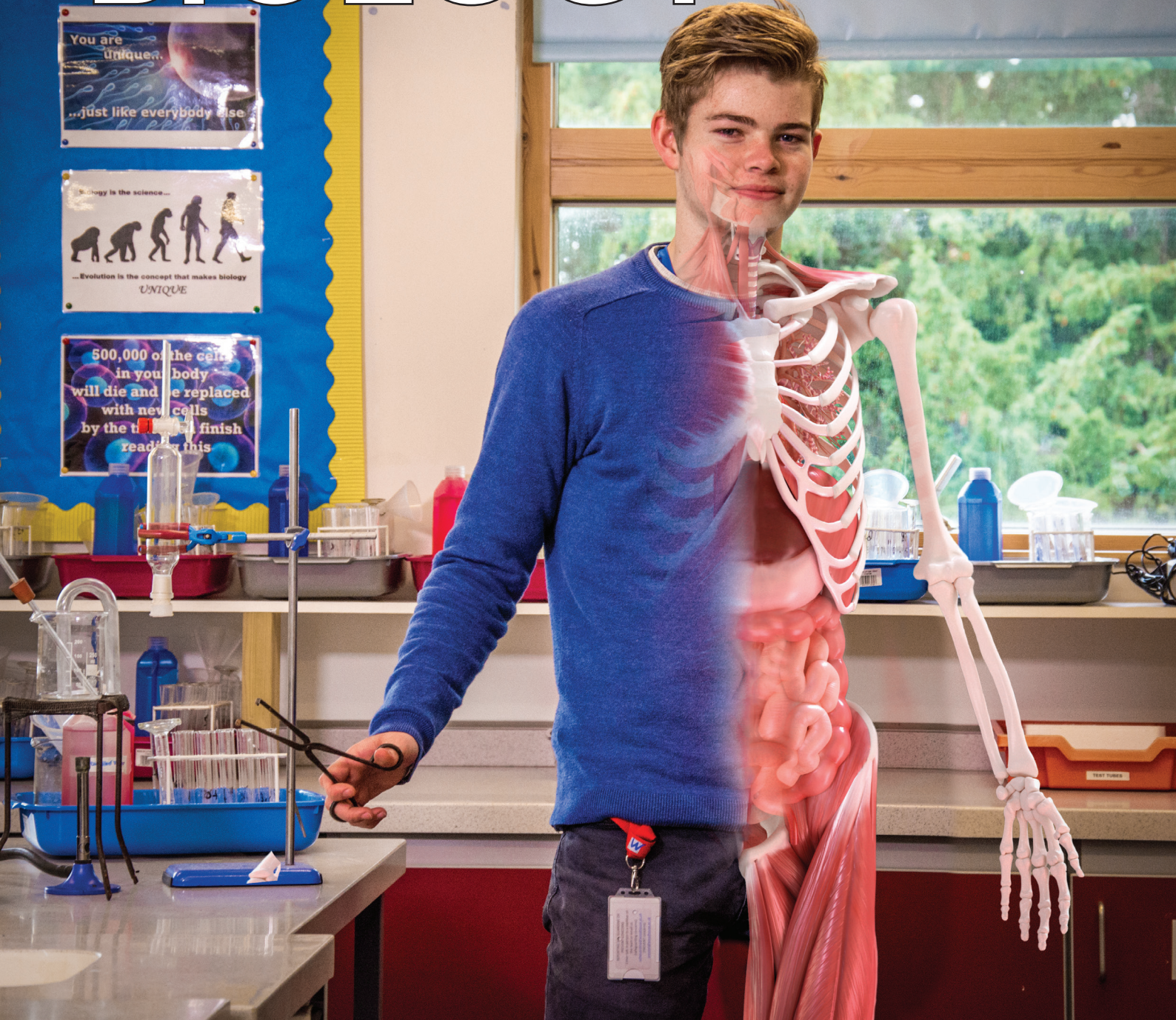
And it's been good to have the chance to experience dissections at last.

I came here because I like the ‘independent study’ way of doing things. Woodhouse is like a stepping stone to university. Everyone is academically oriented and there is no disruption in our lessons.”

JACK HALKYARD
from Enfield Grammar School

Read more about Jack on our website subject pages.

BIOLOGY



WHY BUSINESS?

This course introduces you to the dynamic business environment and the importance of entrepreneurial activity in creating business opportunities and sustaining business growth. You'll develop a wide range of essential skills required for higher education and employment.

You'll have the opportunity to apply for a place on our Career Ready programme which includes talks by guru lecturers, visits, work experience and links with mentors in the world of work.

A degree in this subject is a traditional route to a range of careers in business management, international business and other business related courses at Russell Group universities. Many business students also take advantage of school leaver schemes and apprenticeships.

COURSE CONTENT

The focus of this course is to nurture an enthusiasm for studying business using contemporary contexts, allowing learners to develop an appreciation of the strategic, complex and inter-related nature of business issues from a local to a global perspective.

Through three main components – business opportunities and functions, business analysis and strategy, and business in a changing world – you'll gain an understanding of the important role played by small businesses in the economy and the opportunities that exist for entrepreneurs, as well as the importance of established business and not-for-profit organisations in providing goods and services.

“From about Year 9 I knew I wanted to come to Woodhouse and one of the main reasons was the diversity here.

I like how my classes are relaxed and friendly, and I get the chance to voice my opinion and discuss it with the other students. Teachers treat us more like adults than children and give us responsibility for our own learning.

Being able to apply the business syllabus to the real world is definitely something I enjoy and I plan to study business management at university.”

CHEYENNE JAUAD SCHWARZ
from Camden School for Girls

Read more about Cheyenne on our website subject pages.

EXAM BOARD – WJEC EDUQAS		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Business opportunities and functions	Exam 2hrs 15mins 80 marks	33.3%
Business analysis and strategy	Exam 2hrs 15mins 80 marks	33.3%
Business in a changing world	Exam 2hrs 15mins 80 marks	33.3%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade B in GCSE business if taken. Business cannot be taken in conjunction with economics		

BUSINESS



WHY CHEMISTRY?

Chemistry A level will inspire and nurture your passion for the subject and lay the groundwork for further study. It is important that you like and are confident in mathematics, as 20% of the course involves the application of maths. Students gain many transferable skills such as logical thinking, problem solving, team work, communication and independent study skills, and develop their ability to apply their scientific knowledge and these skills to unfamiliar contexts.

Many students go on to study medicine, chemistry, biochemistry, biomedical sciences, pharmacy and chemical engineering. Those with exceptional grades go on to study chemistry or natural sciences at Oxford or Cambridge or vocational courses like medicine, veterinary sciences or dentistry. The Chemistry in Action conference, Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, summer schools, the RSC Chemistry Olympiad, guest speakers, and an expedition to Iceland are all available to our students. We also run a spectroscopy workshop and take groups of students to UCL.

EXAM BOARD – AQA

PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant physical chemistry topics• Inorganic chemistry• Relevant practical skills	Exam 2hrs. 105 marks. Short and long questions	35%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant physical chemistry topics• Organic chemistry• Relevant practical skills	Exam 2hrs. 105 marks. Short and long questions	35%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any content and any practical skills may be assessed	Exam 2hrs. 90 marks. (40 on practical techniques and data analysis, 20 on testing across the specification, 30 on multiple choice)	30%

Additional course entry requirements:

Grades 7+6 in GCSE combined sciences, or 7+6+6 in GCSE biology, chemistry and physics (separate sciences). Grade 6 in GCSE maths. Recommend study – another science and/or maths. BTEC Science is not a suitable entry qualification.

COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided into three disciplines:

Physical chemistry topics: atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, thermodynamics, kinetics, equilibria, redox and electrode potentials.

Inorganic chemistry topics: groups 2 and 7, periodicity, transition metals and reactions of ions in aqueous solution.

Organic chemistry topics: functional group chemistry, mechanisms, isomerism, polymers, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis and analysis.

“The practical aspects of chemistry definitely appeal to me. At GCSE you’re just force fed the facts and observe the teacher doing the experiments but, with Woodhouse being more like a bridge to degree level, you do a lot more work independently here. Now I do practical chemistry in class almost every week.

I came with just one mate but we’ve got a good group of friends now. You’ll always find friends at Woodhouse. And your timetable’s so varied – you feel like you’re experiencing new things every day.”

CALLUM HELCKE

from Finchley Catholic High School

Read more about Callum on our website subject pages.

CHEMISTRY



WHY CLASSICAL CIVILISATION?

Studying A level classical civilisation at Woodhouse will provide you with an opportunity to learn about ancient history and literature from both Greece and Rome, and their surrounding worlds. You will have the opportunity to study a wide range of topics, with an emphasis on responding critically to and engaging with a wealth of sources and ideas, developing analytical skills readily transferable to other subjects and further study of the classical world. During the course you'll benefit from study days, with the opportunity to attend lectures given by renowned classicists, as well as hear talks by former students and take trips to museums and galleries.

In recent years, many Woodhouse students have gone on to study classical civilisation or a closely related degree course at Russell Group universities and Oxbridge. A good degree in this subject will open doors and allow you to pursue a career in a variety of fields such as law, the media, the civil service and business.

COURSE CONTENT

You will study both Greece and Rome and their surrounding worlds through topics such as heroism, epic literature, the invention of the barbarian, politics and religion, and love and beliefs. You will study material from both Greece and Rome drawn from diverse time periods ranging from Archaic Greece to Imperial Rome. This material will encompass aspects of literature, visual/material culture and classical thought in their respective social, historical and cultural contexts. You will analyse a range of evidence, and use this to form substantiated judgments and responses.

“I read a lot and have always been interested in mythology. I chose classics because it’s like a mix between history and English, two subjects I really enjoy.

I like the fact that the classes are a good size, which means we have really nice discussions. This term we are reading ‘The Aeneid’ about the foundation of Rome, and since studying classical texts I see so many references in pop culture and movies.

Even though there are more students in your year, there’s a lot of pastoral support at Woodhouse.”

OLIVIA EMIN
from Mill Hill School

Read more about Olivia on our website subject pages.

EXAM BOARD – OCR		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
The World of the hero A compulsory component comprising an in-depth study of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homer’s Iliad or Odyssey• Virgil’s Aeneid	Exam 100 marks 2hrs 20mins	40%
Culture and the arts Possible topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imperial image and invention of the barbarian	Exam 75 marks 1hr 45mins	30%
Beliefs and ideas Possible topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greek religion, politics of the Roman Republic, and love and relationships	Exam 75 marks 1hr 45mins	30%
Additional course entry requirements: GCSE in Latin or classical civilisation are useful but not required		

CLASSICAL

CIVILISATION



WHY COMPUTER SCIENCE?

The only constant in computer science is change – new devices and apps appear daily. Computer programs control the internet of things – your washing machine, your heating and electricity, your location on Google, your car... A good programmer will never be out of a job! We'll challenge you to think computationally and to approach problems methodically. You'll program and design systems using an algorithmic approach, and develop an understanding of the powers and limitations of humans and machines by learning their principles of operation.

Students progress to Russell Group universities or take up apprenticeships with leading companies to become programmers, computer engineers, big data analysts, computer game designers or specialists in the telecommunications industry.

You'll use gadgets such as Arduino, Raspberry Pi and Lego Mindstorm, and attend coding workshops and university taster days. Students are encouraged to run hackathons, lead masterclasses and set up study groups to share their expertise and knowledge.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fundamentals of programmingFundamentals of data structuresFundamentals of algorithmsTheory of computation	On-screen exam 2hrs 30mins	40%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fundamentals of data representation, computer systems organisation and architectureConsequences of uses of computingFundamentals of communication, networking and databases, and functional programmingBig data	Written exam 2hrs 30mins	40%
Solve or investigate a practical problem	Coursework	20%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE computer science or a science subject and grade 7 in GCSE maths. Grade 8 in GCSE maths if no GCSE computer science		

COURSE CONTENT

You will gain an in-depth knowledge and understanding of how computers work, including microprocessors, memory, storage, operating systems and network architectures. You'll build your programming skills through problem-solving scenarios. You'll gain an understanding of machine code, functional, procedural, object-oriented, declarative and low-level programming. You will also be able to normalise numbers, perform binary arithmetic operations and conversions between different number systems, and develop an understanding of the principles of operation of hardware.

“A level computer science is more a development than a leap from GCSE; you go deeper into what you’ve learned and build on it. Before, a lot of my questions went unanswered and I just had to accept things as fact – now I enjoy how in-depth we go so that you really understand it. I enjoy that challenge.

We are learning Visual Basic, which is the best language to learn. I really like coding... that click when something you’ve made works is really satisfying.

Ideally, I’d like to be a software engineer and I’m applying to do a degree in computer science.”

JOSEPH LAWRENCE
from Wren Academy

Read more about Joseph on our website subject pages.

COMPUTER

SCIENCE



WHY DRAMA & THEATRE?

This course will provide you with an opportunity to analyse, direct and perform a wide range of plays. The emphasis is on learning from practical work. You will have the opportunity to gain confidence through performing devised and scripted plays. You will learn how to work as a team and communicate effectively, gaining confidence that will help you in all aspects of your life. You will also be able to analyse plays from a performer's, designer's and director's perspective and gain an understanding of the playwright's intentions. Many students go on to study drama at Russell Group universities or train to be actors at prestigious drama schools.

We offer a wide range of theatre trips which will include experimental and more traditional productions and tours of theatres. You will also take part in workshops run by visiting practitioners like Frantic Assembly and Splendid Productions. Our drama hall is equipped with a full lighting rig and sound system, a conventional proscenium arch stage and moveable seating to create more intimate acting spaces. Productions are well attended and successful. Our teachers are very experienced and have worked professionally in theatre and television.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Devising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An original piece of theatre• Writing a portfolio of coursework	Internally assessed Performance and coursework	40%
Text in performance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A group performance of a play• A monologue or duologue	Externally assessed Performance	20%
Theatre makers in practice <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A live theatre review• Interpretation of the staging of <i>Machinal</i> by Sophie Treadwell• Creating a concept for a production of <i>Woyzeck</i> by Georg Büchner	Externally assessed Written exam	40%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE drama if taken and grade 6 in GCSE English literature. Recent performance experience needed if no GCSE drama		

COURSE CONTENT

You will have the opportunity to study five texts from a diverse range of plays, both classic and contemporary and work with at least two different theatre practitioners.

You will devise your own original piece of theatre as well as being directed in a production and you will explore how to develop your own concept as a director. The emphasis will be on creating a brave ensemble of actors and directors who are not afraid to take risks and develop a wide range of skills.

“Introductory afternoon made my mind up about coming to Woodhouse; the whole drama environment was so inviting.

You have to build up your confidence to perform in front of others – and because here everyone is at that stage where they want to perform, everyone’s prepared to work hard and do whatever they need to to be an actor.”

ROSIE COPP
from Fortismere School

“A level is different – it’s much more serious than GCSE. It’s like you are part of a theatre company here. You can’t get anywhere just focusing on your own acting, it’s a group effort.”

JAMES JANI
from Central Foundation Boys’ School

Read more about Rosie and James on our website subject pages.

DRAMA & THEATRE



WHY ECONOMICS?

Studying A level economics will allow you to understand how scarce resources are allocated and the choices that consumers and firms make within a market.

You'll discover how markets work and the positive and negative outcomes produced by the workings of such a market (microeconomics). You'll be exposed to strategies the government uses to deal with issues such as unemployment, inflation, debt and international trade (macroeconomics), and learn to interrogate these strategies and understand the impact they have on the consumer and the firm.

You will have the opportunity to apply for a place on our Career Ready programme which will include talks by guru lecturers, visits, work experience and links with mentors in the world of work. A degree in this subject is a traditional route to a range of careers in finance, banking and insurance. Many of our students go on to study economics or related degree courses at Russell Group universities and Oxbridge.

EXAM BOARD – WJEC EDUQAS		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Economic principles <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiple choice questions• Structured questions	Exam 1hr 30mins 60 marks	30%
Exploring economic behaviour <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data response questions to assess all of the A level content	Exam 2hrs 30mins 80 marks	30%
Evaluating economic models and policies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Microeconomics• Macroeconomics• Trade and development	Exam 2hrs 30mins 90 marks	40%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade B in GCSE economics if taken and Grade 6 in GCSE maths. Economics cannot be taken in conjunction with business		

COURSE CONTENT

The course encompasses three main components: microeconomics, macroeconomics and globalisation/trade and development. You will develop an understanding of economic concepts and theories, problems and economic institutions that affect everyday life. You will learn about the roles of the key players in any economy – the firm, the consumer and the government. You will develop a critical approach to economic models as well as the strategies used to solve some of the current economic problems in the UK. All students will develop analytical skills in selecting, interpreting and using data from a range of sources.

“I like economics because it’s literally the study of how we live our lives. Everything we consume or use is a product of economics – and I want to delve deeper and understand the economic factors and variables that affect us.

I plan to work in corporate law so it’s definitely relevant to my degree and career path.

You may think college is great for socializing, and it is, but realise it’s also a very intense place to learn and for good reason – that’s why it’s one of the best sixth form colleges in the country. I really recommend it.”

TAGBO EGWUONWU
from Finchley Catholic High School

Read more about Tagbo on our website subject pages.

ECONOMICS



WHY ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

Studying English language will open up new perspectives on the world around you as you increase your awareness of all aspects of interaction and expression. You'll develop your knowledge of the technical aspects of language and enhance your analytical skills through exploring the relationship between texts of all types and their contexts.

Many students go on to study an English-related subject at university, such as linguistics, English language, speech and language therapy, creative writing and journalism. Others successfully apply for subjects such as law and psychology.

You'll attend journalism and creative writing workshops with professional writers, and visit museums and exhibitions, including the British Library and Keats House. We also participate in the UK Linguistics Olympiad, competing against students across the country using language skills to solve problems.

EXAM BOARD – OCR		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Exploring language <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Language under the microscope• Writing about a topical issue• Comparing and contrasting texts	Exam 2hrs 30mins	40%
Dimensions of linguistic variation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child language acquisition• Language in the media• Language change	Exam 2hrs 30mins	40%
Independent language research <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Language investigation• Academic poster (1,000 words)	Coursework 2,500 words 1,000 words	20%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in both GCSE English language and English literature		

COURSE CONTENT

You'll be introduced to topical debates within linguistic study, raising questions such as whether grammar rules really matter and whether technology is having a negative impact on language use. Sociolinguistic topics regarding how language shapes social identity are covered, including the relationship between gender, language and power. We also explore the origins of the English language and draw on psycholinguistic studies to help us understand how children acquire language. There is an original writing component where you develop your own skills at shaping language for a variety of genres and audiences. For coursework you'll investigate an area of language change of your own choosing with support from your teachers.

“I want to be a journalist so English language is a good subject to choose.

The rooms, the teachers and their passion for the subject, the interesting group projects, and the discussions on what kind of reading we all enjoy... it's all so engaging and I learn things that I'm genuinely interested in.

The vibe you get here is that everyone enjoys their studies and everyone enjoys being here. It's impossible to not have friends if you go to Woodhouse.”

ZOSIA MELANCZUK
from Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Read more about Zosia on our website subject pages.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE



WHY ENGLISH LITERATURE?

You will develop an appreciation of how writers shape meaning across a range of texts such as poetry, drama (including Shakespeare), novels and short stories. You will be able to assess how texts are influenced over time by historical, literary and cultural factors.

Our students have gone on to study English literature or an English-related degree course at a range of well-respected universities. Many will combine their study of literature with another subject and some will choose to go on to study other subjects at university that require similar skills, such as history, philosophy or law. Students studying literature at Woodhouse are likely to achieve final grades well above the national average.

You'll take trips to the Globe and West End productions, attend lecture days with university professors, and experience cinema screenings of drama productions. We'll also provide students with creative opportunities for collaborative work using video and drama, and poetry and design competitions.

EXAM BOARD – OCR		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Drama and poetry pre-1900 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Shakespeare's The TempestThe Merchant's Tale by ChaucerThe Duchess of Malfi	Exam 2hrs 30mins 60 marks 3 questions Closed text	40%
Comparative study <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dracula or Frankenstein and The Bloody Chamber	Exam 2hrs 30mins 60 marks 1 of 3 questions Closed text	40%
Literature post-1900 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Close reading or re-create: Jerusalem play by Jez ButterworthComparative essay on poetry and modern novel (teacher choice)	Coursework 40 Marks 15 marks for play 25 marks for comparative essay	20%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in both GCSE English literature and English language		

COURSE CONTENT

You will study texts from medieval Chaucer through to Shakespeare and revenge drama, as well as more contemporary poetry and prose. You will explore a range of styles from Gothic fiction to 17th century Jacobean drama. Your examined units will focus on Shakespeare and drama pre-1900 and comparing a classic Gothic novel with Angela Carter's The Bloody Chamber. Class discussions explore a range of adult themes such as forbidden desire, adultery, revenge, gender and power. In addition, you will complete two coursework assignments, one on a modern play and the other comparing 20th century poetry with a modern novel.

"I love literature, the way that it can create a picture in your head... so I wanted to continue to study it at A level. It's definitely a big jump from GCSE. Now we are looking at context and the effects on the reader rather than just the words themselves. It's more interesting and we look at the history behind the literature too.

I wanted a place where I'd develop my independent thinking and Woodhouse is the best fit for that."

ABI BOJA
from Ashmole Academy

Read more about Abi on our website subject pages.

ENGLISH LITERATURE



WHY FRENCH?

Studying French will enable you to communicate with French speakers around the world, boost your academic skills, increase your options for undergraduate studies, and enrich your appreciation of influential cultural contributions of the French-speaking world. You'll develop transferable skills and enhance your language learning strategies.

Many of our students have chosen to study French or a wide range of subjects combined with French at Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, or indeed abroad. Students go on to have successful careers in fields such as banking, accountancy, law and teaching.

The department is equipped with a modern language laboratory; we also have a native language assistant who conducts speaking practice. Students will have many opportunities to engage with the language, including a study trip to Paris, work experience in Brussels, links with a school in Dijon, and theatre and cinema trips in London.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Listening, reading and writing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listening and reading tasks• 2 translations, one into English, and one into French	Exam 2hrs 30mins Marked out of 100	50%
Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 essays, one on the set literary text, and one on the set film	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	20%
Speaking <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A discussion based on a stimulus card, and a presentation and discussion of the individual research project	Oral exam 21–23mins Marked out of 60	30%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE French		

COURSE CONTENT

In year one, aspects of the social context are studied, including the changing nature of the family, 'cyber-society', and the place of voluntary work, together with highlights of French-speaking artistic culture, including francophone music and cinema. In year two, topics include life for the marginalised, positive features of a diverse society, and the treatment of criminals, as well as aspects of political life in the French-speaking world. You'll discuss issues such as the political commitment of teenagers, the purpose of strikes and demonstrations, and the politics of immigration. You'll also study in depth a literary text and a film. Finally, you'll have the opportunity to undertake an individual research project and explore a key question of personal interest.

“The department is so extensive with the language lab computers and headphones switchboard set-up. At random we are connected with other students at different ends of the classroom and we get to hear all different opinions and accents and improve our speaking and understanding.

And every week you get a least half an hour with a native speaker one-on-one, which is great for getting to grips with the language.

My outlook has definitely changed since I came here; I'm more confident and I study better – simple.”

ROSS KELLY
from St Aloysius' RC College

Read more about Ross on our website subject pages.

FRENCH



WHY FURTHER MATHEMATICS?

This is a challenging qualification which both extends and deepens your knowledge and understanding beyond standard A level mathematics. It identifies you as having excellent mathematical, problem solving and analytical skills.

You will develop the ability to work in a team, communicate effectively and show initiative. If you are planning to take a degree such as engineering, sciences, computing, finance/economics or especially maths itself, you will benefit enormously from taking this course, as it introduces new topics such as matrices and complex numbers that are vital in many STEM degrees. Indeed, some prestigious university courses require further maths.

We provide opportunities to hear from engaging speakers with mathematical backgrounds, both on site and at external lectures, in addition to trips to mathematical shows and events. We have an experienced team of enthusiastic teachers, who provide excellent support and inspiration to students.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
AS – YEAR 1		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1	Exam 1hr 40mins. 80 marks	50%
Paper 2: Further Statistics 1 and Further Mechanics 1	Exam 1hr 40mins. 80 marks	50%
A LEVEL – YEAR 2		
Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1	Exam 1hr 30mins. 75 marks	25%
Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2	Exam 1hr 30mins. 75 marks	25%
Paper 3: Option 1 (Further Pure Mathematics 1, Further Statistics 1, Further Mechanics 1 or Decision Mathematics 1)	Exam 1hr 30mins. 75 marks	25%
Paper 4: Option 2 (topics as above)	Exam 1hr 30mins. 75 marks	25%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 8 in GCSE mathematics. Can only be taken as a fourth subject with A level maths. High AS grade required to continue to A level		

COURSE CONTENT

You'll develop and extend your understanding, apply skills learnt in a range of situations, and encounter new concepts, including topics such as matrices, complex numbers, differential equations and hyperbolic functions. In addition to the pure mathematics half of the course, there are options involving more mechanics (where you will study areas including circular motion, variable forces, energy and kinematics) or more statistics (where you will meet and interact with more advanced probability scenarios, statistical distributions and hypothesis testing), or decision mathematics (algorithms, linear programming and graph theory) or further pure.

“I’ve always found great comfort in maths. When everything is messy around you, maths is logical and always there. I like how you can solve real world problems using numbers and get a definitive answer. I chose further maths because it goes beyond the curriculum, and I chose Woodhouse so I could be around like-minded individuals who I felt could push me and help me get better. I was waiting for maths to get hard, and now it has, it’s exciting.

You are trusted to do your work here, which I like, rather than being forced to do stuff that you don’t need to. If you really like further maths and you’re worried that you might not be able to cope, you will; there’s plenty of people here that will support you – and you can do it.”

ISSY DARLINGTON
from Acland Burghley School

Read more about Issy on our website subject pages.

FURTHER

MATHEMATICS

VOLUME OF SPHERES

$$= \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 + \frac{4}{3} \pi (2r)^3$$

$$= \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 + \frac{4}{3} \pi 8r^3$$

$$= \frac{36}{3} \pi r^3 = 12 \pi r^3$$

VOLUME OF SPHERES

OF CYLINDERS

$$V = \frac{\pi h r^2}{4}$$

$$4 \times 12r = h$$

$$48r = h$$



WHY GEOGRAPHY?

With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. You'll develop skills in written and oral communication, research, critical thinking, evaluating resources and statistical analysis.

Many students go on to study geography at Oxbridge or Russell Group universities. A degree in geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and advance you professionally onto a diverse range of careers from disaster management and meteorology to environmental consultancy and town planning.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Dynamic landscapes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tectonic processes & hazards• Coastal landscapes & change• Physical systems and sustainability• Water cycle & water insecurity• Carbon cycle & energy insecurity	Exam 2hrs 15mins 105 marks 3 sections Questions range from 4 to 20 marks	30%
Dynamic places <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Globalisation• Diverse places Human systems and geopolitics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Superpowers• Health, human rights, intervention	Exam 2hrs 15mins 105 marks 3 sections Questions range from 4 to 20 marks	30%
Synoptic investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Given an unseen resource booklet containing information about a geographical issue (e.g. resource exploitation in the Congo basin), students draw on synoptic knowledge and understanding	Exam 2hrs 15mins 70 marks Questions range from 4 to 24 marks	20%
Independent investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on two days of fieldwork on either coasts or diverse places	Coursework 3,000–4,000 words 70 marks	20%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE geography if taken and grade 6 in GCSE maths. If not taken at GCSE, then grade 6 in a GCSE science required		

COURSE CONTENT

You will have the opportunity to study physical geography through topics such as tectonic process and hazards; coastal landscapes and change; the water cycle and water insecurity; and the carbon cycle and energy insecurity. You will also study human geography through topics such as globalisation; dynamic places; superpower geographies; and health, human rights and intervention. You will investigate case studies from a range of locations and at varying scales including population change in London; coastal process along the Dorset coast; water conflict along the river Nile; oil in the Niger delta; and the health and life expectancy of the aboriginal peoples in Australia.

You will undertake two days of coastal fieldwork and an additional two days of urban fieldwork. There is also the possibility of an optional international field trip. Past destinations have included China, Morocco, Thailand and Iceland.

“I’ve definitely changed at Woodhouse and come out of my shell a bit, because you are expected to be a lot more independent here. The classes are relatively small and we have great discussions, so you get to know everyone... and everyone wants to learn. It’s the next step to uni.

The geography course has similar topics to GCSE but in much more detail and depth, and we use modern examples from the week’s news. We did a really interesting lesson on the Jurassic coast last term and I enjoyed it so much that I went and visited – in fact, I walked 96 miles of it!”

CHARLIE CORKE
from Mount Grace School

Read more about Charlie on our website subject pages.

GEOGRAPHY



WHY GERMAN?

‘Deutschland – Land der Dichter und Denker.’ Studying German will enable you to appreciate German culture as part of the world heritage. With a good knowledge of German you could also access courses at Germany’s excellent universities, and work for a globally recognised German company like Siemens, Volkswagen or Adidas. Finally, you will develop transferable skills and enhance your language learning strategies.

Some of our students have chosen to study German or a wide range of subjects with German at Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, or indeed abroad. Students go on to have successful careers in fields such as banking, accountancy, law, and teaching.

The department is equipped with a modern language laboratory; we also have a native language assistant who conducts speaking practice. Students will have many opportunities to engage with the language, including a study trip to Berlin, work experience in Herne, and theatre and cinema trips in London.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Listening, reading and writing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listening and reading tasks• 2 translations, one into English, and one into German	Exam 2hrs 30mins Marked out of 100	50%
Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 essays, one on the set literary text, and one on the set film	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	20%
Speaking <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A discussion based on a stimulus card, and a presentation and discussion of the individual research project	Oral exam 21–23 mins Marked out of 60	30%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE German		

COURSE CONTENT

In year one, aspects of the social context are studied, including the changing nature of the family, and the digital world, together with highlights of artistic culture in the German-speaking world, including festivals, art, and cultural life in Berlin. In the second year, topics include multiculturalism, and aspects of political life, including Germany and the EU, politics and youth, and German reunification. You will also study in depth a literary text and a film. Finally, you will have the opportunity to undertake an individual research project and explore a key question of personal interest.

“I love the way the German language sounds and am interested in the culture and the history of the country. Studying German and history gave me the chance to put all of that together.

Woodhouse has changed my life. People told me, ‘Oh you won’t get any support, you won’t make any friends because it’s too big’... I’m so glad I ignored them – they were completely wrong.

I honestly think that Woodhouse has taught me to love learning. Before, I just thought education was something I had to ‘get through’, whereas here I love working every day because everyone is so excited and passionate about the process of learning that it’s infectious.”

ORLI VOGT-VINCENT
from Jewish Community Secondary School (JCoSS)

Read more about Orli on our website subject pages.

GERMAN



WHY HISTORY?

Studying history at Woodhouse will provide you with access to a fascinating and dynamic subject that deals with hard facts but varied and ever-changing perspectives. You'll develop skills in written and oral communication, research, critical thinking, and evaluating both primary and secondary sources. You'll work collaboratively with your peers inside and outside the classroom but also become an independent learner, equipped to cope with the rigorous demands of university study.

Many students go on to study history or a closely related degree course at Oxbridge and Russell Group universities. A good degree in history will allow you to pursue a high-powered career in various fields, such as the law, the media, the civil service and business. We provide many opportunities to listen to distinguished speakers, and various study trips are organised, including one to Berlin.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Britain 1603–1702 Three questions. One compulsory with secondary sources linked to historical interpretations, and two from three essays	Exam 2hrs 30mins Marked out of 80	40%
The Cold War 1945–91 Three questions. One compulsory question linked to primary sources or sources contemporary to the period, and two from three essays	Exam 2hrs 30mins Marked out of 80	40%
Historical investigation Independently researched essay on an aspect of Russian history covering the years 1855–1956	Coursework 3,500-word essay marked out of 40	20%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE history if taken		

COURSE CONTENT

Britain in the 17th century was transformed by intense political and religious conflict that led to civil war, the execution of King Charles I, the abolition of the monarchy and the imposition of a military dictatorship under Oliver Cromwell.

The years after World War Two were defined by the Cold War, a prolonged ideological and diplomatic struggle between the USA and USSR which, in an age of nuclear weapons, at times threatened humanity's very existence.

Before 1917, Russian emperors (or tsars) claimed to possess God-given authority. World War One created the revolutionary conditions that, in 1917, resulted in the overthrow of tsarism and the establishment of the world's first Communist dictatorship under Lenin and his successors Stalin and Khrushchev.

“We have a lot of class discussions and there aren’t really any rights or wrongs, it’s quite open ended. You need to voice your opinion at A level, but you also need to know the facts – and know them well.

I went on the Berlin trip and really recommend it. Being able to just be there and see what’s left of the wall... amazing.

Everyone’s really friendly here – I’ve never met a person that I couldn’t talk to. There’s pretty much a society for everything and lots of extracurricular. Woodhouse makes you more open to things.”

TASHEEKA WILSON
from Ark Elvin Academy

Read more about Tasheeka on our website subject pages.

HISTORY



WHY LAW?

This course provides a proper insight into the realities of both a law degree and a career in the profession. A level law is not only for budding solicitors and barristers, it's also popular with those seeking to enter the business or financial worlds and is highly regarded by universities.

Law is an empowering subject. Everyone should know how the legal system of their country works. Hopefully, you will never be charged with murder, but in your lifetime you may buy a property, make a Will, enter into a contract and sue or be sued! All of these things cease to be intimidating once you have studied law. You will learn to express yourself clearly both in writing and orally, and become capable of researching at a high level and arguing a case from all sides.

You'll visit a magistrates' court, Crown Court, High Court and the Supreme Court to see law in action. You will have the opportunity to hear outside speakers such as senior Crown prosecutors, and take part in a mock trial.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
English legal system & criminal law <ul style="list-style-type: none">Combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 100	33.3%
English legal system & tort <ul style="list-style-type: none">Combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 100	33.3%
Human rights <ul style="list-style-type: none">Combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 100	33.3%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in one other GCSE essay writing subject such as English, history or religious studies		

COURSE CONTENT

You'll gain an understanding of both civil and criminal law and how they impact on our everyday lives. You'll study the roles of magistrates, judges and juries in our society and learn how law is actually made by judges and by parliament. Law covers criminal offences such as ABH and GBH, murder and manslaughter, as well as self defence. In civil law you'll be taught how to sue someone, learn about the Hillsborough tragedy, and what to do if your neighbour plays loud music all night. You'll discuss the philosophy behind the law and question whether law can always, or ever, deliver justice. You will also learn about the Human Rights Act.

“I chose law because I was interested in studying something that I didn’t get to cover at GCSE. Law is something you see a lot in everyday life but you don’t tend to know exactly how everything works.

There’s a lot of precision – it’s like ‘this is the exact law’ and you have to know it. We can throw out a question in class like ‘How does this relate to that case in the news today?’ and our teachers make it relevant. They give us great resources and there’s lots you can do here to consolidate your learning.

It’s definitely different to school life, but in a good way. There’s more independence, which at first I was worried about, but you get used to it really quickly and I’ve met a lot of new people.”

CHRISTIANA AJAI
from St Francis’ College

Read more about Christiana on our website [subject pages](#).

LAW



WHY MATHEMATICS?

Maths at Woodhouse provides an understanding of the subject and processes in a way that promotes confidence, fosters enjoyment and provides a strong foundation for progress to further study.

You will develop skills in the use of mathematical knowledge to make logical and reasoned decisions in solving problems both within pure mathematics and in a variety of contexts, and learn to communicate the mathematical rationale for these decisions clearly.

Many Woodhouse students go on to study mathematics or a closely related degree course at Oxbridge and Russell Group universities.

The department provides many opportunities to listen to distinguished speakers both on and off the college premises, and often invites back recent college leavers to describe the demands and requirements of higher-level study.

COURSE CONTENT

Content is in three areas: Pure mathematics, mechanics and statistics.

We encourage students to use appropriate technology to deepen their mathematical understanding and extend the range of problems they can solve.

You'll use pre-release data in statistics to enable you to develop an understanding of working with real data to solve real problems.

We often include mathematical comprehension in our assessments to prepare students to use mathematics in a variety of contexts in higher education and future employment.

“A level maths is more to do with actually understanding the content than just remembering how to do a question; you have got to know why you are doing what you are doing.

Our teachers are always open to help and support us, and they push you to go as far as you can. We have our own study area, upstairs in the maths block, where everyone can just sit and do maths – it’s a really good environment.

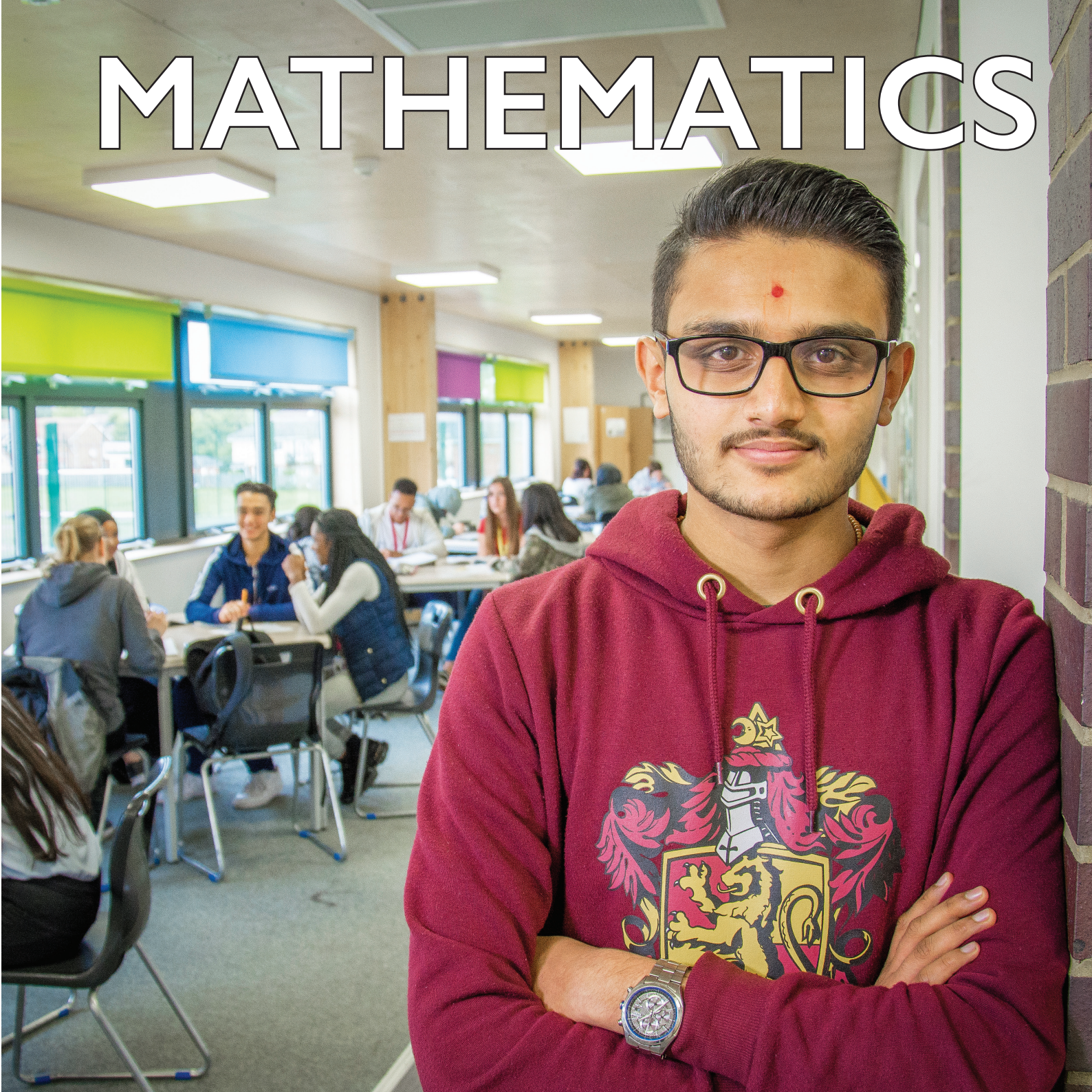
I value my learning more at Woodhouse and don’t get bored. I’m doing the subjects that I want to do – so I enjoy coming to college.”

CHANDAN VARSANI
from Park High School

Read more about Chandan on our website subject pages.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Pure mathematics 1	Exam 2hrs 100 marks	33.3%
Pure mathematics 2	Exam 2hrs 100 marks	33.3%
Mechanics and statistics	Exam 2hrs 100 marks	33.3%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 7 in GCSE maths		

MATHEMATICS



WHY MUSIC?

Studying at the Barnet A Level Music Centre (BEAT) at Woodhouse will give you the opportunity to explore a fascinating practical, creative and academic subject. You will learn to perform, compose and appreciate different types of music, developing critical and creative thinking, cultural and aesthetic awareness, and the ability to make music individually and as part of a group.

Many Woodhouse students have gone on to study music or a closely related degree course at Oxbridge, Russell Group and other universities. A good degree in music will give you the necessary grounding to thrive in a highly competitive profession with many different career paths. The three-way transferable skills (practical, creative, academic) also make this a desirable subject for those who intend to study other subjects at university. There are many opportunities to perform in concerts, both on and off campus, learn how to use modern notation software, and to take part in extra-mural music activities including choir and a range of ensembles run by BEAT.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Performing • A recording of a performance of at least 8 minutes	Externally assessed Marked out of 60	30%
Composing • 2 compositions of a total minimum 6 minutes. One to a set brief and one either a free composition or also to a brief	Externally assessed Marked out of 60	30%
Appraising	Written exam 2hrs Marked out of 100	40%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Music if taken and Grade 5 on an instrument or singing or Grade 5 music theory. Applicants without above will need to attend an audition		

COURSE CONTENT

You'll learn to perform music at Grade 7 level with control and continuity, using appropriate tempi, and show critical understanding of the music chosen. You'll study the processes involved in creating music, and develop the technical and expressive skills needed by a composer. You'll be encouraged to explore a range of compositional starting points and investigate a variety of techniques for developing and manipulating ideas. You will then turn these ideas into completed pieces of music. You will engage critically with music, develop an understanding of its place in different cultures and contexts, and learn how to analyse and evaluate music in aural and written form.

“I’ve found the A level in music much more interesting and engaging than GCSE. I really like the longer essay questions where you compare two pieces of music. But you’ll need to have a strong grounding in music theory and be able to listen to a piece and pick out stuff like the harmonic and melodic devices. It’s a bit of a jump.

Support? No problem. There’s always a teacher who is willing to help you and there’s lots of subject tutorials. Woodhouse is relaxed and friendly but at the same time everyone’s working really hard. My work ethic and independent study skills have really improved – and so have my social skills.”

DAISY CORDER
from Highbury Grove School

Read more about Daisy on our website subject pages.

MUSIC



WHY MUSIC TECHNOLOGY?

Studying music technology at the Barnet A Level Music Centre (BEAT) at Woodhouse will provide you with a gateway into the fascinating and evolving world of music technology. You will learn about recording, technology-based composition, listening, analysing and producing. You will be encouraged to engage with a wide range of music technology techniques and develop an understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of the use of music technology in the creation and production of music.

In recent years, many Woodhouse students have gone on to study music technology, sound production, sound engineering and other courses requiring a similar skill set at university level.

The department is proud of its state-of-the-art recording studio and Mac-based teaching space with relevant software including Logic.

COURSE CONTENT

You'll explore techniques for capturing, editing and manipulating sound to help you understand the impact of music technology on creative processes in the studio. You will then produce a completed mix. You'll develop ideas and turn them into completed technology-based compositions, develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements and musical language, and apply them.

You'll identify, analyse and evaluate creative music production techniques, as applied to the unfamiliar commercial recordings supplied in the exam. As well as identifying effects and their associated parameter settings, you will explain the principles behind the choice of the effects heard on each recording, and their sonic character, in a series of written responses.

“I'd already taken my grade 8 in classical guitar and begun learning electric guitar and wanted to study more technology-based music as a proper subject. We use Logic Pro X, which is very exciting once you get the hang of it.

We also performed at the end of year concert and I learnt how to set up the microphones and mixing desk for a live show. It gave me the opportunity to discover another side of music technology.

I love it at Woodhouse – the sense of independence and the fact that I get to study subjects I love and that are related to what I do outside.”

AMELIA PELLEGRINO-WHITE
from Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle

Read more about Amelia on our website subject pages.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Recording <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One recording chosen from a list of 10 songs. Total time 3–3½mins	Coursework <ul style="list-style-type: none">Externally assessedMarked out of 60	20%
Technology-based composition <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One composition to a brief. Total time 3mins	Coursework <ul style="list-style-type: none">Externally assessedMarked out of 60	20%
Listening and analysing	Exam <ul style="list-style-type: none">1hr 30minsMarked out of 75	25%
Producing and analysing	Written/practical exam <ul style="list-style-type: none">2hrs 15minsMarked out of 105	35%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE music if taken and ability to play basic melodies and chords on keyboard. Applicants without above will need at least grade 2 music theory		

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY



WHY PHILOSOPHY?

This subject poses some of the most challenging questions that have ever been asked, underlying many of the most important questions confronting us today. It will give you the opportunity to think deeply about the nature of God, the mind, knowledge and ethics whilst allowing you to develop important transferable skills which will help you become an independent learner and thinker.

On a more practical level, studying philosophy is an excellent route into both higher education and work. Many of our students go on to study philosophy and related subjects, such as PPE, at Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, and graduates regularly feature in the top undergraduate employment rates coming above other humanities subjects because of their ability to problem solve, think logically and laterally, and to formulate and express opinions. Philosophy graduates are found working for almost every type of employer in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, particularly the law, financial institutions and the creative industries.

You'll listen to external speakers both in college and outside at different study days, and attend lectures, exhibitions and other events in and around London.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Epistemology and moral philosophy • 5 questions, all compulsory	Exam 3hrs Marked out of 100	50%
The metaphysics of the mind and the metaphysics of God • 5 questions, all compulsory	Exam 3hrs Marked out of 100	50%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE English literature. Religious studies useful but not essential. Cannot be taken in combination with religious studies		

COURSE CONTENT

You will study four foundational philosophical topics: ethics, epistemology, the metaphysics of the mind, and the metaphysics of God.

Students will consider the big questions, such as: ‘What is knowledge?’ and ‘What do good, bad, right and wrong really mean?’. You will also explore further questions including: ‘Is the concept of God incoherent?’ and ‘What is mind?’.

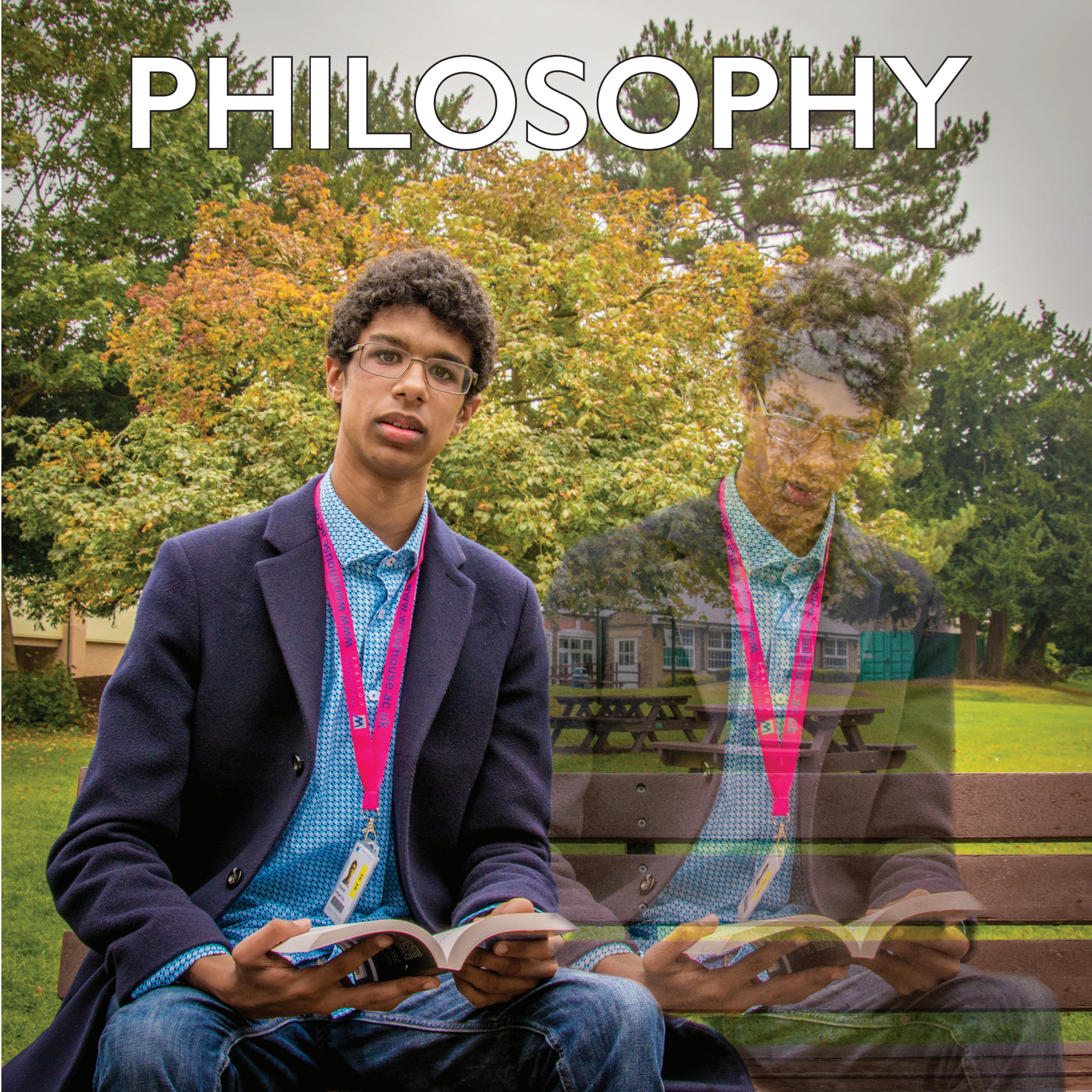
“One of the things I like about philosophy is how it applies to my other interests. I am a big film fan and I love how themes in films like Blade Runner of ‘what it is to be human’ have been tackled in my philosophy class – connecting the two is quite fun. Politics, culture, history – philosophy relates to all of it... it’s everywhere.

I think Woodhouse is a very healthy learning environment. Everyone is friendly and the resources are amazing. With all the computers, libraries and study areas, there’s no way I can’t do all the necessary research in study periods, and the teachers are very helpful – even those who don’t actually teach you.”

ISHMAEL TIKLY
from Highgate Wood School

Read more about Ishmael on our website subject pages.

PHILOSOPHY



WHY PHYSICS?

Physics at A level is a subject for the curious, for those who ask the deepest questions about the universe but who also want to know about the workings of the physical world in everyday life. You'll develop the ability to plan, implement, analyse and evaluate practical exercises. You'll learn strategies for successful problem solving, and gain an understanding of the use of IT for analysis of results using Excel, data gathering and research. You'll also become skilled at communicating difficult concepts clearly.

The course is essential for students who wish to go on to study engineering as well as physics and prepares you for a wide range of other related degrees such as architecture, natural sciences, maths and medicine. Our students often gain entry to Russell Group universities including Oxbridge and Imperial.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
First year content and periodic motion	Exam 2hrs. 60 marks. Short and long answer questions, and 25 multiple choice questions	34%
Thermal physics, fields and nuclear physics. A knowledge of first year work and periodic motion is also assumed	Exam 2hrs. 60 marks. Short and long answer questions, and 25 multiple choice questions	34%
Practical skills and data analysis An optional topic from: astrophysics, electronics, medical physics, applied physics and turning points in physics	Exam 2hrs 45 marks. Short and long answer questions; 35 marks. Short and long answer questions	32%
Additional course entry requirements: Grades 7+6 in GCSE combined sciences or grade 7 physics. 6 biology and 6 chemistry (separate sciences). Grade 7 in GCSE maths. BTEC science is not a suitable entry qualification for this course		

COURSE CONTENT

The course covers a complete A level grounding in the fundamentals of the subject. In the first year, you'll cover familiar areas in more depth: mechanics, materials, electricity and waves, and exciting new topics: particles, quantum phenomena and material science.

In year two, you'll be introduced to topics including fields and nuclear physics, and choose from options such as astrophysics, electronics, medical physics, and engineering physics. The practical skills relating to how science works are integrated throughout the two years.

Recent trips include visits to the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva and Astrium, an aerospace manufacturer. There is an astronomy club that also visits local observatories, and an electronics club where you can learn practical skills such as circuit design and soldering. We also enter students for the British Physics Olympiad.

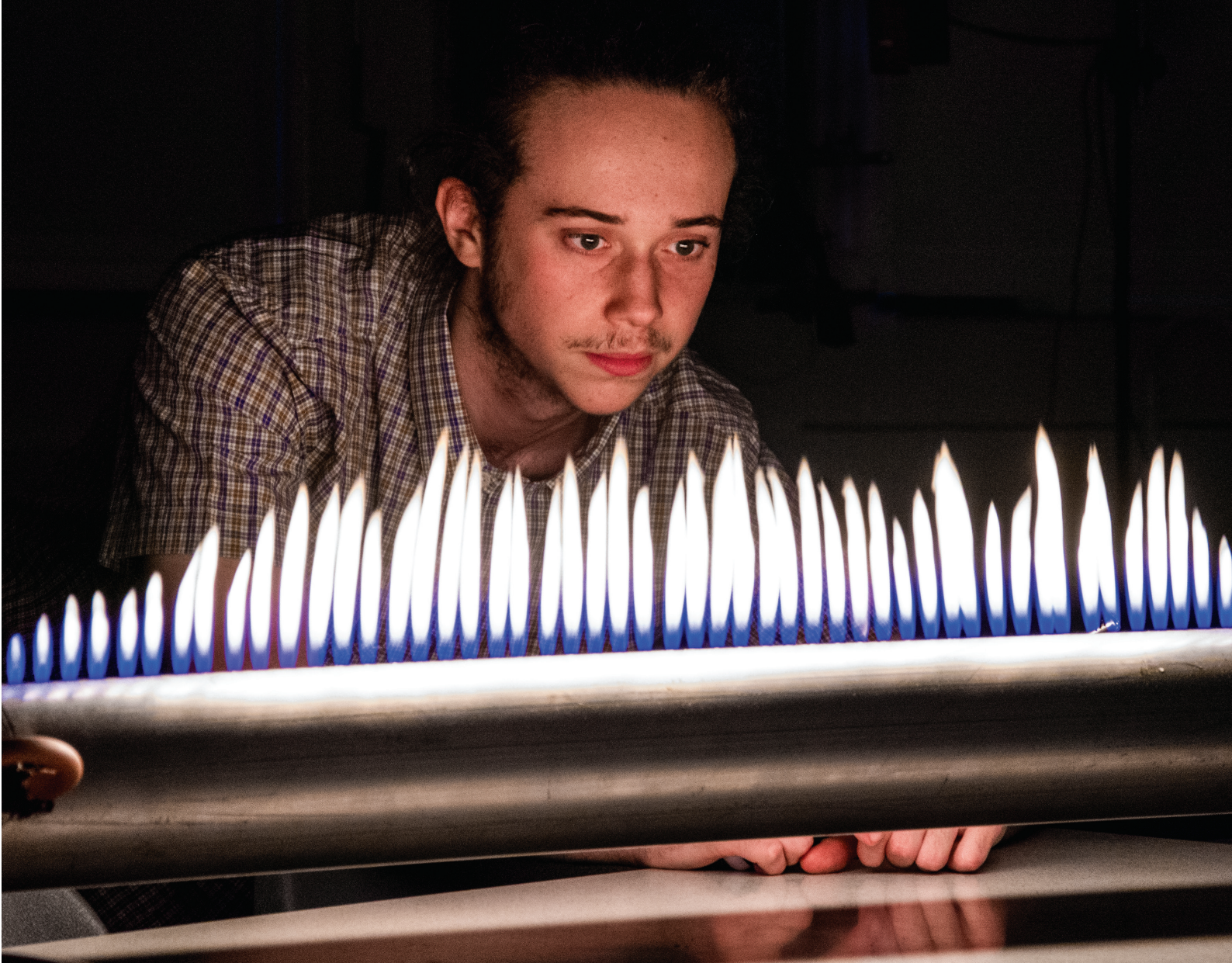
“A level is not a smooth continuation from GCSE, it’s a jump. It takes time to understand the concepts in a more rigorous way.

I wanted to study physics at a college where it would be taken a bit more seriously. Before I came here people told me, “There’s no support, the teachers just lecture you, you can’t ask them any questions...” It was quite strange really because it’s not true at all. I’m applying for natural sciences at Cambridge and have been very impressed with the support; it’s been really good.”

JAY MONTGOMERY-JOHNSON
from Fortismere School

Read more about Jay on our website subject pages.

PHYSICS



WHY POLITICS?

Just 62 people own half of the world’s wealth and 71% of the world’s population lives on less than \$10 a day. Although the Conservatives lost seats in the 2017 election and formed a minority government, they received their highest share of the total vote since 1983. Watch the news and the world seems to be endlessly war-torn, but the facts show it is more peaceful now than at any time since 1945. It is sometimes hard to make sense of what we see around us.

The study of politics is about making sense of and analysing Britain and the world. You’ll learn to form political judgments and establish a broad set of analytical skills that universities and employers value highly. Many of our former students pursue an active role in British and international politics, going on to study the subject at university and working in journalism, law, think-tanks, universities, charities, international institutions and national government. Our politics department hosts a Model United Nations Conference at the college, inviting over 200 sixth formers to a weekend of stimulating debate. We also invite speakers from parliament on a regular basis.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
UK politics	Exam 2hrs	33.3%
UK government	Exam 2hrs	33.3%
Global politics	Exam 2hrs	33.3%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE geography or history. Expected to read a quality newspaper every day and keep up to date with current affairs		

COURSE CONTENT

You’ll study British government and politics, including the workings of parliament, the role of the prime minister, political parties and their policies, and how patterns of participation have changed in recent years. You’ll also study the key political ideologies of conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

You’ll also focus on themes of global politics, such as the rise of China, the ‘decline’ of America and the challenges of globalisation, terrorism, population migration and climate change; we also study how the world is ordered, the rise of multipolarity, poverty and debt, and the role of international organisations and non-state actors.

“Politics is a subject ingrained in everything and it’s hard not to engage with it. It’s so important in our society that I felt I had to study it at A level. Classes are very discussion based and you are often prompted to give your own ideas and think deeply about them.

It’s drilled into us from the beginning to ‘watch the news, subscribe to different articles, make sure you read, and have a news app on your phone’ because you must keep up to date with current events.

What I enjoy here is that there’s such a mix of students and I’ve made friends who have had very different experiences to me. I’ve developed my study and organization skills, but I’ve also developed as a person.”

COSOB AWIL
from Hornsey School for Girls

Read more about Cosob on our website subject pages.

POLITICS



WHY PSYCHOLOGY?

Studying psychology at Woodhouse will provide you with an understanding of human behaviour and mental processes, and allow you to better understand why we think, act and feel the way we do. You'll learn to think critically and evaluate the various explanations of human behaviour that psychologists have developed. You'll learn how to handle data and use statistical analysis to draw conclusions about behaviour, while the ability to think logically will develop through activities which involve planning experiments and other forms of research.

Psychologists often go on to work in research or take the applied route as clinical psychologists, sports psychologists, therapists or forensic psychologists. Others are well-equipped for roles in human resource management, advertising, marketing or even working for the government. Our department provides opportunities to listen to distinguished speakers, and various study trips are organised throughout the year.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Introductory topics in psychology • Multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 96	33.3%
Psychology in context • Multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 96	33.3%
Issues and options in psychology • Multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 96	33.3%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE maths and grade 6 in (any) GCSE science subject		

COURSE CONTENT

In your first year you will study social psychology where you will learn about the explanations of behaviours such as obedience, conformity, defiance of authority and how psychology can be used to bring about social change.

You will study disorders such as OCD, depression and phobias, and how psychologists treat these disorders. You will also learn about how children form attachments with their care-givers and how the quality of these attachments can influence cognitive, emotional and social development.

In year two, topics covered include gender development, forensic psychology and schizophrenia.

“Psychology explores how we can empirically measure human behaviour and scientifically say why people do the things that they do.

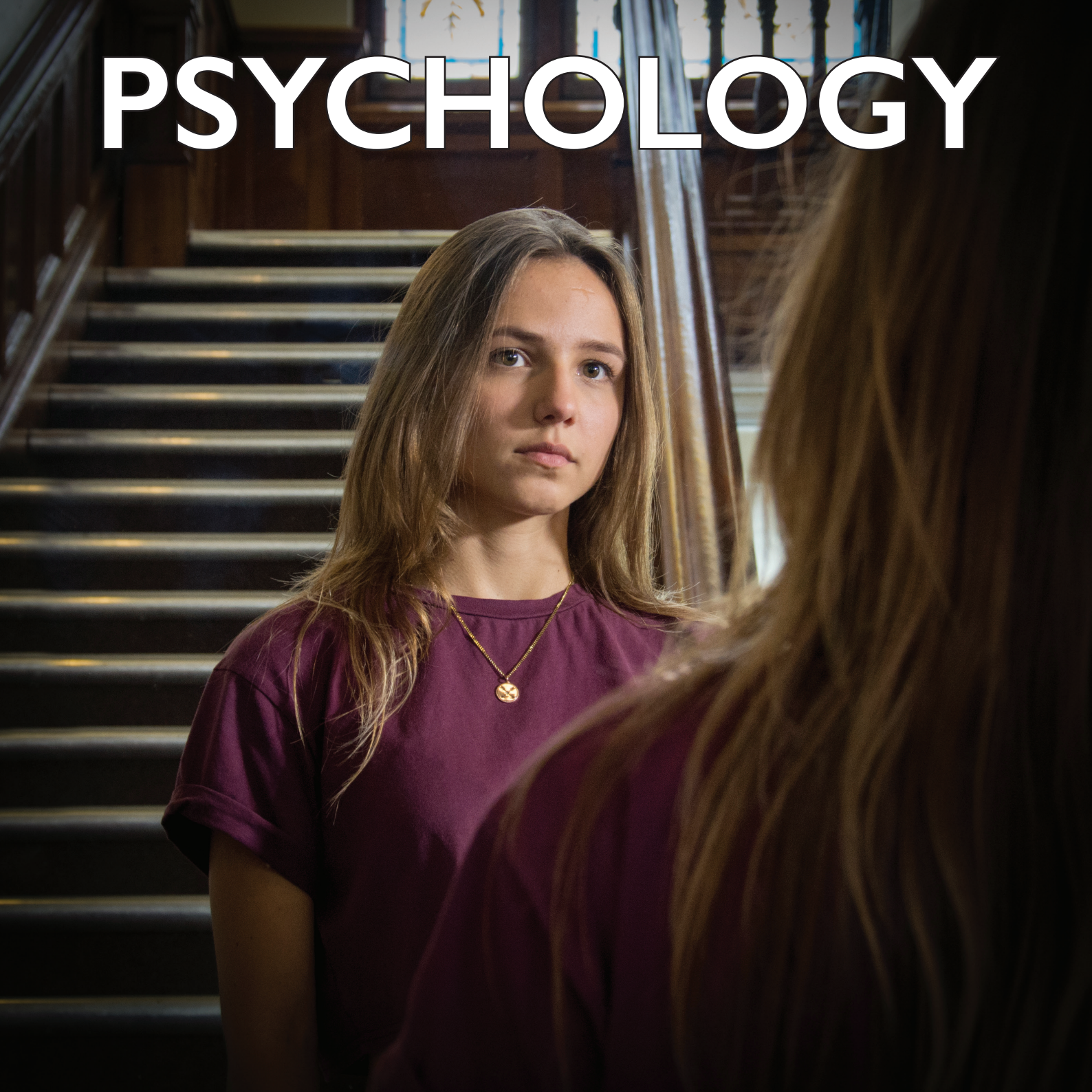
There’s always lots of discussion as things we talk about in psychology are often controversial and everyone has their own opinion. Classes are never just passive listening.

Woodhouse is such a welcoming place and very diverse – there will never be anyone who feels like they don’t fit in. And staff are not patronizing – they understand that we’re young adults now; they don’t just tell us we’re right or wrong, they talk to us.”

LIZ MALTSEVA
from Friern Barnet School

Read more about Liz on our website subject pages.

PSYCHOLOGY



WHY RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

Religious studies at Woodhouse will provide you with an introduction to one of the most fascinating and relevant areas of study today. It's an opportunity for students to engage with a variety of topical questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth. Students will be able to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in light of what they have learnt.

RS is seen by the Russell Group as a 'suitable preparation for university generally' and Oxbridge include it in their top level list of suitable arts A levels. Theology graduates are found working for almost every type of employer in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, as the subject provides an excellent foundation for a range of careers.

There will be opportunities to listen to external speakers, and students are encouraged to take the initiative and attend lectures, exhibitions and other events in and around London.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Philosophy of religion • Two structured questions: a two-part essay question on an extract of text and an extended essay	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	33.3%
Religion and ethics • Two extended responses: a two-part essay question on an extract of text and an extended essay	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	33.3%
Christianity • Two extended responses: a two-part essay question on an extract of text and an extended essay	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	33.3%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE religious studies if taken or grade 6 in GCSE English literature. Cannot be taken in combination with philosophy		

COURSE CONTENT

You'll study three out of four components and focus on philosophy of religion, religion and ethics and Christianity. You'll engage with philosophical issues and questions such as the nature and influence of religious experience, the problems of evil and suffering, philosophical and ethical language, and the application of ethical theories through the works of scholars.

In the Christianity option, you'll examine the development of Christian beliefs, values and teachings, and the nature of sources of wisdom and authority for those beliefs. You'll look at the practices that shape and express the Christian identity, as well as the social and historical developments in the religion over time.

“What interests me in religious studies is the idea of debate and the big philosophical questions like ‘Does God exist?’ and ‘Who created us?’. At A level there’s a lot more freedom of interpretation and we get to look at the scholars more deeply. There’s no right answer; you have to be open and think critically.

I always thought about coming to Woodhouse as I’d heard it was nice and inclusive – and a ‘next step’ towards university. There are so many activities and social areas, as well as study areas – you’re not confined to one classroom or small library, like in school. I’ve really enjoyed it here – it’s gone too quickly.”

MELISSA DIETER
from Queen Elizabeth’s Girls’ School

Read more about Melissa on our website subject pages.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES



WHY SOCIOLOGY?

A Level sociology gives you the opportunity to question everything about society, to view it from a completely different perspective and develop your academic understanding of key issues relating to class, gender, ethnicity, inequality and power.

You'll develop skills such as essay writing, analysis, evaluation, critical thinking, teamwork and independent research. These skills are good preparation for university courses and complement many other humanities and social science subjects, particularly history, geography, English, philosophy, politics and psychology. Students progress to Russell Group and Oxbridge universities. They read for social science/humanities degrees including economics, law, psychology, politics, sociology and international relations. A sociology degree can be used for careers in the civil service, advertising, journalism, business, working for non-government organisations and think-tanks, law and policing.

Trips include the Sociology in Action conference, and previous excursions include visiting the BBC, the Museum of Childhood and taking part in youth conferences.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Education with theory and methods Two essays and four short answer questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	33.3%
Topics in sociology • Families and households • Inequalities in society Two essays and four short answer questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	33.3%
Crime and deviance with theory and methods Two essays and four short answer questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	33.3%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade B in GCSE sociology if taken		

COURSE CONTENT

You will study a wide range of topics to develop your understanding of different areas of society, such as families, education, crime and social inequality.

You will study why people commit crime, gender differences in crime, how childhood has changed over time, equality in families and how the education system has changed. You will also learn how to carry out research and the theories that sociologists use to understand society.

“Sociology opens your eyes a bit more in the way that you see the world. At A level there’s more theory but there’s still the basics; sometimes it feels like ‘enhanced GCSE’ but it’s more interesting and you can relate it to your other subjects.

It’s really group focused. When we come to class we collectively talk about the work that we have done independently. At Woodhouse I have done so much debating – my subject choices make sure I have to debate.

I like the vibe at Woodhouse. Everyone gets along in a mature way – everyone wants to do well.”

NNENNA EGELE
from Bishop Stopford’s School

Read more about Nnenna on our website subject pages.

SOCIOLOGY



WHY SPANISH?

Spanish is the third most widely spoken language in the world, meaning a good command of the basics will be helpful for more than just your holidays in the sun. Speaking another language makes you more marketable.

You'll develop skills and knowledge highly valued by employers, such as a deep understanding of other cultures, attention to detail and problem-solving skills. We will give you the tools to master the grammar and vocabulary needed to express yourself in a sophisticated way orally and in writing, as well as to understand complex text and the spoken language.

You'll have many opportunities to engage with the language, including an exchange trip to Barcelona as well as theatre and cinema trips to London.

A level Spanish will make you stand out from the crowd and is considered a facilitating subject by Russell Group and other prestigious universities.

COURSE CONTENT

In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, including the changing nature of the family, 'cyber-society' and gender equality, together with highlights of Spanish-speaking artistic culture, including Hispanic music and cinema.

Second year topics include life for the marginalised, positive features of a diverse society, and measures against racism, as well as aspects of political life in the Hispanic-speaking world. You'll discuss issues such as the political commitment of teenagers, the purpose of strikes and demonstrations, and the politics of immigration. You'll also study in depth a literary text and a film.

Finally, you'll have the opportunity to undertake an individual research project and explore a key question of personal interest.

“I want to become fluent in Spanish and know that by the end of the A level I'll be at a high standard. We learn about the history and culture of Spain and South America, which really interests me.

When we have exams coming up, you can pretty much sign up every day to do extra speaking lessons.

Here, you're treated like your age and have the freedom to make the choices that you want to – that prepares you for uni. Studying at Woodhouse has made me feel freer. I feel like I can dress how I want and really express myself.”

SHARLEEN OLLIVIER
from Hendon School

Read more about Sharleen on our website subject pages.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Listening, reading and writing • Listening and reading tasks, as well as two translations, one into English, and one into Spanish	Exam 2hrs 30mins Marked out of 100	50%
Writing • Two essays, one on the set literary text, and one on the set film	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	20%
Speaking • A discussion based on a stimulus card, and a presentation and discussion of the individual research project	Oral exam 21–23 minutes Marked out of 60	30%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish		

SPANISH





THE WOODHOUSE EXPERIENCE

Work-life balance is just as important as academic achievement at Woodhouse and we try to make sure that all of our students have plenty of opportunities for fun social activities between busy periods of study.

Many of our societies organise themed events such as Halloween movie nights and activities for Valentine's Day. Our talent show committee selects acts for an annual show, which is always exciting and entertaining. And we regularly have costume days such as 'wear your national colours', 'suit up' or fancy dress.

Our Instagram, Facebook and Twitter feeds have many followers and paint an enlightening picture of the student experience at Woodhouse.

The prom is a fitting celebratory end to the two-year Woodhouse journey and takes place at the end of June after all the exams are over. Our student prom committee meets regularly in the second year to organise DJs, caterers, event decorators, fireworks and ticket sales. This ultimate highlight of our social calendar is an incredibly popular and memorable occasion.

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