

heathfield school



SIXTH FORM

SUBJECT GUIDE

2013/2014

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Subjects that could run 2013/2014 depending on uptake:

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* The most popular of courses will run

** TBC

Accounting



Exam board: AQA

This course aims to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to be able to assess the performance of all types of business organisations. It will enable them to effectively analyse and evaluate financial data in order to make judgements, decisions and recommendations about how businesses can manage their financial affairs.

The course is ideal for anyone focused on further study or a career in accounting, banking or business and as such it is best if you have at least an A grade in Maths at GCSE as well as A grades in other subjects given the complexity of the subject.

Accounting helps students develop a number of skills:

- ◆ Organisation and assessment of data
- ◆ Investigation and analysis
- ◆ Effective communication
- ◆ Working on your own initiative
- ◆ Methodical and critical thinking

Requirements from the student:

- ◆ High level of confidence and competence in Maths (a B grade at GCSE is recommended)
- ◆ Perseverance, organisation & logic (the style of questioning requires the student to remain focussed whilst using and dealing with a lot of financial information)
- ◆ A real interest in accounting particularly if their main desire is to take their studies further e.g. onto to university

Topics that You Will Learn

In the first year (AS) you will have two study modules: 'Introduction to financial accounting' and 'Financial and management accounting'. In the first module you will learn about key accounting records like ledgers, balance sheets and profit & loss accounts. Your second module includes accounting for sole traders and for limited companies, final accounts, budgetary controls and the impact of technology on accounting.

Year two (A2) builds on that firm foundation with two more study modules, which are a more in-depth study of financial accounting and then of management accounting. In financial accounting you'll investigate sources of finance, partnership and limited company accounts, plus accounting standards. Then in management accounting you'll move on to manufacturing accounts, costing, capital investments, budgeting and social accounting.

Career Paths/ University courses

Students who study Accounting A Level would do well if they continued their studies in Accounting (or other Business related courses) at university. The course will also teach the student practical skills for running a small business.

Art & Design



Exam Board: Edexcel

At AS and A2 level Art and Design, students will start a foundation course in core skills such as drawing, colour theory, screen printing, visual analysis and digital image manipulation with Adobe Elements. They will then be given a choice of continuing a broad experience in **Art and Design** which could include painting, 2D and 3D textiles, ceramics (clay sculpture and pots), wire sculpture and mixed media or specializing in **Textiles**. Trips to galleries and museums to gather resources for a set theme are recorded visually and through analytical writing.

Students should have a B grade at GCSE or a portfolio of work to show. Students who took Art GCSE will recognise this course as a direct extension of their previous studies and will move the work on to an even higher level of sophistication.

There will be regular life drawing classes (optional). It would be an advantage if students were to buy a small camera although not essential. The department can loan out a digital camera.

Girls are encouraged to build up extensive sketchbooks and portfolios, spending a good deal of time working on Art projects outside lessons. Private study between lessons is an essential requirement and enables the student to personalise their work further. Private study is also an opportunity to pursue individual research, undertake visits, read and collect information and resources not available in the art room.

The ownership of the course largely lies with the students. Each unit starts with teacher lead workshops over the first few lessons to enable students to see the creative and technical potential of the projects and the course is punctuated with teacher lead workshops, but the emphasis is with the students challenging themselves to learn by experimentation. A high level of motivation is required.

What can I take with Art and what career this lead to?

Some students who have chosen to do Art at A Level at Heathfield have gone on to gain prestigious places at St Martins , Camberwell, Chelsea, City and Guilds and Parsons in New York, to name but a few. Others have gained valuable UCAS points to add to university applications. Creativity is the key to success! On any course you choose to do, Art is regarded as a subject that helps you to be flexible and creative in your thinking.

Art goes well with other creative subjects such as Photography, Design Technology (Textiles) or Theatre Studies and obviously with Art History however there are interesting connections between Art and the Sciences or Mathematics and between Art and subjects like English, History or Religious Studies.

There are many careers where visual communication and artistic and design skills play an important role. However, artistic careers could include illustrators, curators, scenery for the cinema and theatre, graphic artists, digital artist and animation, photographers, artistic directors, costume and fashion designers, events organiser, heritage curator, make-up artists, teaching, advertising and marketing, etc.

Biology



Exam Board: AQA

Why study Biology?

".. the experiments are fun and I really want to do a dissection soon.."

"..I enjoyed the theory behind photosynthesis.."

"..I enjoy the pop quizzes.."

Biology is a very flexible A level and can be used in combination with both other sciences and humanity subjects such as Geography. There are a whole range of careers accessible from Biology from medicine and biomedical science to forensics. Advances in Biology have been spectacular in recent years. Research has cloned sheep, genetically engineered drugs such as insulin and wiped out smallpox. Biology is at the centre of issues that matter – should we allow human cloning? What do we think about research conducted on embryos? Does it make a difference eating genetically modified food? Is organic really better for you? Not a week goes past without Biology making the headlines in our newspapers – interested in being involved and understanding more – Why not study Biology?

Exam Layout

	33.33%	46.67%	20%
AS	Unit 1 - Biology & Disease	Unit 2 - The variety of living organisms	Unit 3 - Investigative & Practical skills
A2	Unit 4 - Populations & the environment	Unit 5 - Control in cells & in organisms	Unit 6 - Investigative & Practical skills

What's covered?

AS - Topics include the study of exchange systems such as the digestive and respiratory systems, the ways in which diseases such as cholera and TB affect our bodies and how they can be treated by drugs as well as defence within the body. We also look at the way in which DNA affects genetic variation as well as adaptation and selection as components of evolution. The course also includes a wide variety of practical work during which students' practical skills are assessed.

A2 – The first unit is mainly concerned with the role of human activity in the environment and the importance of microorganisms in recycling elements, as well as the importance of energy. A large part of this is experienced through a field trip to Nettlecombe, Taunton, this is a residential course during which students get to experience sampling techniques first-hand and gain a realistic look at how ecology works in real life. The second unit focuses more on how cells and organisms are controlled. This includes how we are made, and how we control all the systems within our body.

What do you need?

To study and succeed at A level Biology you should be on course for at least a B in Biology GCSE or B in your biology modules if studying double award science

Business Studies

Exam board: AQA

Given that business underpins so much of our very existence, it makes sense that we should try to understand how commercial organisations operate.

At AS, you explore the challenges facing entrepreneurs as they attempt to convert fledgling ideas into thriving realities. You look at the problems facing a firm as it tries to raise finance. Organisations need to evaluate and control risk – how do they do this? Each department (e.g. marketing, operations, finance and human resources) needs to understand how it fits into the overall organisation and what impact inter-relationships between these functions can have – you examine how this works in practice. Armed with this knowledge, maybe you could be giving Richard Branson a run for his money in a few years' time.

At A2, you analyse the issues facing businesses as they grow in scale and complexity. You consider how larger firms set objectives and identify strategies to achieve these goals. Companies need to assess long-term investments – how do they do this and how do they balance the financial arguments with non-financial considerations? As the business environment changes, companies need to respond. You see how big business responds to economic, political, social, ethical and technological developments. You also review and criticise practical examples of leadership.

There is no requirement for girls to have studied Business Studies at GCSE, but due to the nature of the course, it recommended that girls have a minimum of a C grade in GCSE Maths and English.

Skills students learn:

- ◆ How to assemble data and assess it
- ◆ How to investigate facts and use deduction
- ◆ How to put over your point of view fluently

Examinations:

AS: Unit 1 – Planning and Financing a Business. 20% of total A level marks. Exam – Short answer questions and extended responses based on a mini case study.

AS: Unit 2 – Managing a Business. 30% of total A level marks. Exam – Multipart data response questions.

A2: Unit 3 – Strategies for Success. 25% of total A level marks. Exam – Unseen case study with a range of numerical data.

A2: Unit 4 – The Business Environment and Managing Change. 25% of total A level marks. Exam – Section A contains essays based on prior research; Section B has a choice of essay titles from which you select one. This is the synoptic paper.

University courses:

Any Business related course; including those with Languages, Maths and Economics

Chemistry



Exam board: OCR Chemistry B (Salters)

Why study Chemistry?

From the moment you are born, and throughout your life, you are surrounded by Chemistry - the air you breathe, the food you eat and the clothes you wear - they're all Chemistry. Chemistry is the study of substances; what they are made of, how they interact with each other and the role they play in living things. Whether you want to care for penguin colonies in Antarctica or work in a dynamic business environment, Chemistry can help you. From research in space, to the depths of the oceans, Chemistry helps you understand the world around you and opens up lots of career opportunities. Chemistry students are highly valued for their numerical, linguistic and analytical skills. A Chemistry qualification can take you almost anywhere.

Requirements

The course has been designed for students who have completed GCSE Dual Science or Chemistry Triple Award. You must have at least a grade B in both Science/Chemistry and Mathematics.

The AS level course

At Heathfield, we follow the Salters Chemistry syllabus. This is 'context-led' which means that you will immediately see the relevance of what you are learning. The emphasis is on the ways Chemistry is used in world and how it relates to people's lives. There is plenty of practical work to help you understand the ideas covered and in the A2 course you get the opportunity to carry out an investigation of your own choice. It is rigorous and lays the foundation for future studies as well as satisfying those who will study no further.

Course content and examinations

<u>AS level unit titles and content</u>	<u>A2 Chemistry unit titles and content</u>
Chemistry for Life (30%) Chemistry of Natural Resources (50%) Chemistry in Practice (20%). This involves assessment of practical skills.	Chemistry of Materials (30%) Chemistry by Design (40%) Individual Investigation (30%)

After A Level

Chemistry is essential or strongly preferred for studying Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Biochemistry, Biology, Geology, Food Science, Nutrition, and Dietetics, as well as Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Today there are many joint degrees for Chemistry with Management, Law, Economics and Languages. Chemistry is highly regarded as a suitable A-level for courses such as Law, Economics and Accountancy at leading universities because a good grade proves you have well-developed logic and analytical skills as well as the ability to learn and understand complex material. You will also have a clear understanding of many current and topical issues.

Classical Civilisation



Exam board: OCR

Classical Civilisation is a study of the civilisations and literatures of the ancient world that have shaped and influenced humanity to the present time. The languages, politics, economics, religions and literatures of the western world and beyond owe much to the Greek and Roman civilisations. The subject is an enquiry into the past from which a shared cultural heritage with ancient Greeks and Romans is realised. Students who like studying literature, drama, history, religion and culture will enjoy Classical Civilisation. Visits to Harrow, Wellington and universities are usually arranged either to watch performances of ancient drama or to participate in lectures and seminars. There is also the possibility of an over-seas trip to either Greece or Rome, at an additional cost, depending on how many take up the subject at A-Level.

What will I study?

Classical Civilisation is examined in four modules. Two modules are taken at AS level: *Homer's Odyssey and Society*, and *Greek Tragedy in its Context*. *Homer's Odyssey* tells the epic story of a hero's journey home to see his wife again after twenty years away fighting. Pupils will study themes including gods, monsters, heroism, revenge and trickery amongst others from a text that has inspired the whole of Western literature. No knowledge of ancient Greek is necessary, as the text is in an easy-to-read English prose translation, as are all the other texts read for both AS and A2 Level. In studying Greek tragedy, pupils read plays covering a range of stories from Greek myth. This module is not for the faint of heart with harrowing themes such as suicide, betrayal, enslavement and worse. There is also a special focus on the role of women in Greek society, and how it was believed that an ambitious woman was also a dangerous one, a viewpoint that would intrigue the modern pupil, especially girls.

The two modules taken at A2 level are *Virgil and the World of the Hero* and *Comic Drama in the Ancient World*. For the first module, pupils study parts of Homer's *Iliad* and the whole of Virgil's *Aeneid*. Just like *Homer's Odyssey*, both the *Iliad* and *Aeneid* are stories full of heroes and tales of adventure. The *Aeneid* puts a Roman spin on a Greek concept, telling of how Rome was eventually founded by one hero battling against gods and monsters to reach the new world of Italy. The Greek and Roman comedy module introduces pupils to some of the earliest forms of humour, and in reading the plays, it is easy to understand where most modern comedy has its influences. The plays can contain many forms of comedy ranging from sophisticated satire of the political climate in Athens to the rudest and most personal insults of Athenian celebrities.

How will Classics be useful to me?

Classical Civilisation is the most versatile of courses and experience of the subject is not needed prior to starting the A Level. The course is primarily an essay subject and demands evaluative and analytical skills from its learners. These skills and the knowledge learned will equip the pupil for any number of Classical and non-Classical courses at university and it is no surprise that many institutions are offering Classics taster courses to students studying European and British culture, history and literature so that they can appreciate their subject in more depth. In terms of careers, a degree or A level in a Classical subject does not limit one's choice of jobs and they are highly valued by prospective employers.

Economics



Exam board: AQA

In Economics you will look at the fundamental forces which affect our lives, such as employment, prices, international trade and poverty. Economists are often in healthy debate with each other over these issues. It is this controversy which makes Economics lively and interesting and which allows you the opportunity to make your own judgements and form your own opinions.

There are several definitions of economics, with each trying to encapsulate the essence of the subject. However, most textbooks seem to agree that economics concerns the allocation of society's scarce resources amongst the many alternative uses to which they could be put.

At AS you will focus on both Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. Microeconomics addresses issues such as: "Why are house prices so high?", "Can pollution be controlled?" and "Should governments interfere with markets?" The macroeconomic issues covered include: "Why does the Government have an inflation rate target and how does it affect us?", "What happens to the economy if people decide to spend more?" and "How are we affected by the Chinese and Indian economies?"

At A2 you will build on your micro and macro knowledge from year one and study another two key topics. First, 'The Global Context' includes the impact of globalisation on UK economic performance. Second, 'The European Union Context' includes the effects of EU membership and economic policies on the UK economy.

There is no requirement for girls to have studied Economics or Business Studies at GCSE, but due to the nature of the course, it is recommended that girls have a minimum of a **B grade** in GCSE Maths and English.

Skills students learn:

- ◆ Research skills
- ◆ Analysis and evaluation techniques
- ◆ Working with others to discuss economic issues and solve economic problems

Examinations:

Each year you will have two written papers to complete. Each paper accounts for 50% of the marks for that year. There is a mix of short answer questions and a choice of questions where you can give a longer, more detailed answer.

In the A2 year, you will be expected to write at length with essay-style answers. In both years, you will be expected to read and describe graphical information and be able to use economic data within your answers.

Economics and your career:

Economics is a versatile subject that can help you in a number of careers. Not only could you find yourself working for big corporations, banks or the government but your qualification in economics could also be valuable support in a career like marketing, law, journalism or teaching.

English



Exam board: OCR

The aim of the AS and A Level English Literature specification is to encourage you to develop an interest and enjoyment in literary study through reading widely, critically and independently across many styles and genres. The OCR course encourages you to reflect on your own responses to texts; to consider other readers' interpretations; to use critical concepts and terminology with understanding and discrimination; to develop an awareness of the significance of cultural and historical influences upon readers and writers.

What texts will I study?

The AS Level topics of study are: the poetry of W.B. Yeats; novels such as *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley and *The Go Between* by L.P. Hartley; drama such as Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*. A2 Level focuses upon the study of a range of texts written before 1800, as well as a play by Shakespeare, and coursework developing the exciting option of independent reading.

What skills do I need before I begin?

Try asking yourself these questions. Do you enjoy reading novels and then researching or discussing them and finding out more about their meanings? Do you enjoy going to plays and exploring the ways writers bring their characters to life? Do you want to discover poets who offer you new experiences and challenge your perceptions? Do you relish the opportunity to assert your views in discussion and on paper? If so, you will enjoy the study of English Literature greatly.

What will work be like in English?

You will be asked to work in a whole-class group, in pairs and individually. Tasks set will include: reading and research; close textual analysis; creative writing in different literary styles ; presenting arguments and analysis of literature. There is a strong emphasis on discussion and sharing of ideas. Of course, there is also structured written work, ranging from close textual analysis to essay writing. Activities are always stimulating and rewarding.

What will you be expected to do?

You will need to read a minimum of six texts each year, but you will also benefit from reading about the background to these books and conducting your own research. The coursework amounts to 3000 words in each of the two years.

What will you gain from an A Level in English Literature?

The subject is very highly regarded by both universities and employers. You will be able to construct and present a coherent point of view in discussions and on paper, as well as make a significant contribution to a wide range of ambitious, inspiring projects. The rewards are not only practical, but personal too. A fascination with the human condition will become a gateway to new discoveries about yourself and an ever growing understanding of the world around you.

How can you prepare?

Aim to achieve at least a B grade in English Literature GCSE and then read, read... and read again! Your English teacher will be delighted to offer you lists, suggestions and choices.

Geography



Exam board: AQA

Contemporary Geography engages with the relationship of human populations to each other over space and time as well as their relationship with their environment at a variety of scales from the local to the global.

As Michael Palin says, “*Geography is the subject which holds the key to your future*”.

Geography is a bridge between the Humanities and the Sciences which promotes the demonstration of knowledge and understanding of content, contexts and processes. Through topics like ‘rivers, floods and management’, students learn to analyse, interpret and evaluate geographical information, issues and viewpoints as well as apply understanding in unfamiliar contexts. Being able to select and use a variety of methods, skills and techniques, including those using new technologies, allows girls to investigate questions and issues surrounding topics such as ‘food supply issues’ to reach conclusions and communicate their findings. At A2 skills are further developed through the popular topics of ‘plate tectonics’ and ‘World Cities’. The new topic of ‘contemporary conflicts and challenges’ should promote a need to be curious and willing to participate in discussion, listening actively to other points of view and responding with reasoned opinions. Field trips, such as that to the Naples Bay area, Italy, provide an excellent opportunity to learn fieldwork skills.

How will Geography help me?

The course supports transferable skills which will open up a wide range of career opportunities. There are a number of Geography-related subjects to consider at University, including Sociology, Anthropology, and Environmental studies. Possible career areas for those qualified in Geography include estate management, tourism, landscape design & planning, environmental management, publishing, business management, surveying, teaching, international relations and advertising.

Although we usually require a Grade C or above in Geography GCSE to indicate competence in the subject, AS and A level Geography can be studied by students who have not completed the GCSE course.

Government & Politics

**Exam Board: Edexcel**

In order to study A-level Government & Politics it is advisable to have a GCSE grade C or above in English, as well as five GCSEs in total.

The AS course aims to help students develop an understanding of the governmental processes in the UK, with topics ranging from the composition and powers of Parliament to the role of pressure groups. A strong emphasis is placed throughout the course on up-to-date knowledge and students are encouraged to follow current affairs and to read newspapers and political journals.

What makes Politics different as an academic subject is its emphasis on debate, discussion and argument. It Politics exists because people disagree, then studying Politics must mean studying how, when and why people disagree. Students will develop their skills of argument and debate as they are required to defend a particular viewpoint in the light of the available evidence and through an awareness of alternative viewpoints. In Politics there are no simple “rights” or “wrongs”.

What will I study?

The course is divided into two Units, both of which are examined in written papers lasting one hour and twenty minutes. These both include short and long answer questions, with the lowest tariff question being 5 marks and the highest, 40 marks.

The A2 course involves a study of the government and politics of the USA. A complete contrast to the UK political system in many ways, the USA does politics bigger, bolder and wackier! Students will learn about why Americans practically worship their constitution and what kind of political system it has created. They will also study the job of arguably the most powerful person in the world and his endless battle with Congress (Parliament).

The course is divided into two units both of which are examined in written papers lasting 1 hour 30 minutes. These include medium length 15 mark answers and essay style 45 mark answers.

The Politics department organises an ‘access all areas’ trip to the Houses of Parliament for the lower sixth which incurs no additional cost to parents. It is hoped that a cross-curricular trip to Washington may be arranged for the upper sixth in the future, but this will have to be paid for.

How will studying Politics help me?

Having A-level politics presents you as a person who can rationally debate a passionate subject, who understand the needs of the UK, who understand how the country is run and what affects it, who can look at arguments with an empathetic but level-headed view and with great social knowledge. Having A-level politics can lead you to university degree courses in politics, sociology, ethics, philosophy, advertising, media studies, cinema studies and journalism amongst others. You will be a strong candidate for jobs in politics, international organisations, the media, government and political parties or the civil service.

History



Exam Board: Edexcel

"The study of history is the best medicine for a sick mind; for in history you have a record of the infinite variety of human experience plainly set out for all to see; and in that record you can find yourself and your country both examples and warnings; fine things to take as models, base things rotten through and through, to avoid." Titus Livius, 59BC-AD17.

It is not a prerequisite for girls to have studied History at GCSE prior to taking it at A Level. Having said this, it will prove to be quite challenging for those getting less than a B grade in GCSE History or English.

What will I study?

The AS History course is comprised of two units; one examined by essay and the other through source analysis. Unit 1 topics focus on the rise of dictators in twentieth century Europe with a particular focus on Mussolini and Hitler. Unit 2 involves a study of the impact of war on Britain 1854-1929, in the Crimean, Boer and First World War.

Both Units are assessed by written examinations lasting one hour and twenty minutes.

The A2 course also comprises of two Units, one requiring an in-depth study of Superpower Relations: 1944-1990 (Unit 3) whilst the other, Unit 4, is an internal assessment focusing on themes from the Tudor period 1485-1603.

Unit 3 is assessed through a two hour examination, whereas the coursework is completed over the course of the year, marked internally and moderated internally.

The History department hopes to take a joint lower and upper sixth residential trip to Berlin to compliment the studies of the Third Reich and Cold War at AS and A2 respectively. This will be an additional cost and therefore it will not be compulsory for all.

How will History be useful to me?

Girls who study AS or the full A level in History have access to a wide range of career and higher educational opportunities. The ability to evaluate information, to debate and put forward a well-argued case are skills which are recognised and valued by employers, universities and colleges. History AS/A level provides an excellent foundation for a number of popular careers including journalism, law and business.

History of Art



Exam Board: AQA

'A picture is worth a thousand words' Napoleon Bonaparte

Aims

- ◆ To impart understanding and appreciation of some of the most significant artistic and cultural ideas and achievements in painting, sculpture and architecture from classical Greece to the end of the twentieth century
- ◆ To develop visual analytical skills both orally and in written form
- ◆ To relate works of art to their social, historical and cultural context

History of Art is an increasingly popular A Level choice in Sixth Form. In an age where communication is increasingly dominated by visual media, the study of art history offers invaluable insights into the ways messages and meanings have been expressed in the past, revealing the concerns and values of various periods of European society including our own. The course involves visits to London museums, such as the National Gallery and Tate Galleries and a trips abroad to Paris or Florence at an additional cost.

The A Level

'Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life' Pablo Picasso

Students are introduced to the formal characteristics, terminology and background contexts of painting, sculpture and architecture. These include composition, colour, light, space, ornament, volume, techniques, line and shape. We also look at significant art historical themes such as patronage, form and style, materials and techniques. In the second year we study art and architecture of the nineteenth century in Europe, as well as 1900 to 1945 in Europe and America. It should be noted that there is no practical element to the course.

The course assumes no prior knowledge of the subject although students must have strong literacy skills and a willingness to visit galleries and museums in their own time. It is advantageous for girls to have gained at least a grade B at GCSE in either English Language or Literature and at least one other text based subject. An enthusiastic love of beauty and interest in the visual environment as well as a desire to search beneath its surface will serve students of art history well. To pursue the subject at a more advanced level a modern language is highly desirable. The subject also compliments studies in English, History, Classics, Art and even Chemistry if a student is interested in restoration.

History of Art is a well-respected academic subject that is offered by both Oxford and Cambridge. Students with a degree in History of Art will find that their visual, literary and analytical skills will not only prepare them for careers in the academic and commercial art worlds but make them attractive candidates for entry to the creative and marketing industries. As an essay based discipline it would support any career where the expression and organisation of ideas is important.

'Art doesn't transform. It just plain forms' Roy Lichtenstein

Latin



Exam board: OCR

The course offers pupils the opportunity to acquire a competence in the Latin language and to make a personal response to a selection of Latin Prose and Verse literature. Pupils also acquire some understanding of the culture, politics and social life of Rome at significant periods in its history.

A good grade at GCSE (at least a B) is required before pupils can begin A level Latin.

AS consists of two modules, tested in two assessment units in June (written examinations):

- ◆ Unit 1: Two unseen Latin translations, **or** one unseen Latin translation and one English into Latin translation.
- ◆ Unit 2: Literature papers, based on the study of one Latin prose text and one Latin verse text.

The AS language papers are not a significant step up from GCSE standard Latin, with a few more grammar points included, as well as more vocabulary. Candidates do have the opportunity to attempt an English into Latin translation, rather than a second unseen Latin into English translation. The English into Latin paper is of a much easier standard grammatically. It will be agreed at the start of the year which paper the candidate will sit in the summer, but ultimately the decision will be the pupil's.

The prose literature text will be from Cicero's *In Verrem*, where the great orator prosecutes a kleptomaniacal and depraved Roman governor in a speech which was to start his long and illustrious career. The poetry set-text is from Ovid's *Amores*, in which the poet addresses a potential lover as he tries to advertise his charming qualities.

A2 consists of two further modules, again tested in written examinations:

- ◆ Unit 3: Prescribed verse text and verse unseen Latin translation
- ◆ Unit 4: Prescribed prose text and prose unseen Latin translation **or** prescribed prose text and English into Latin translation

A2 Latin provides more of a challenge than AS, particularly with the unseen translations, where pupils will be translating unadapted Latin passages with no set vocabulary list provided. However, pupils are told which author they will be translating, in order to spend the year familiarising themselves with the style and vocabulary of that particular author. For verse unseen translations, the pupils will be given a passage from the works of Ovid. Pupils may also choose between a prose unseen translation from the works of Livy with added comprehension questions, or an English into Latin passage which is made more difficult than the AS version as it includes all the grammar learned so far.

For the set-texts, pupils have more of a choice than at AS level. For the verse section, pupils may study either Virgil's *Aeneid* Book IV, which tells of the tragic suicide of Dido, or Propertius' *Elegies*, a selection of poems focusing on his lover, the mysterious Cynthia. For the prose section, pupils can either choose Tacitus' *Annals*, which gives an account of the Emperor Nero as he watches Rome burn, or Livy, who reports on the founding of Rome.

With the small numbers of pupils being taught classical languages nowadays, those who do wish to pursue these subjects on to higher education have a very high chance of obtaining a place at a prestigious university as the competition is less fierce than in other, more popular areas of study. Qualifications in classical languages are highly valued by prospective employers as they indicate ability to think logically and clearly.

Maths & Further Maths



Exam board: Edexcel

"Maths A Level is very enjoyable and each of us are given a lot of support by the teachers" (UVI 2011)

"I really enjoy doing Further Maths, because it enhances my passion for Maths I am very pleased that it is offered at Heathfield now" (UVI 2009)

- ♦ AS Level: **Core 1, Core 2 and Statistics 1**
- ♦ A Level: **Core 3, Core 4 and Mechanics 1**
- ♦ AS Further Maths: **Further Pure 1, Decision 1, Statistics 2**
- ♦ A Level Further Maths: **Further Pure 2, Further Pure 3, Mechanics 2**
- ♦ **There is no Coursework required at any level.**

Minimum requirement to do AS Level: Grade 'A' at GCSE Level

Mathematics AS Level is a course worth studying in its own right, because it is both challenging and interesting and it builds on work students will have met at GCSE. Mathematics serves as a very useful support for many other qualifications as well as being a recognised qualification for the workplace and courses in Higher Education. An AS in Mathematics offers valuable support to A Levels in the Sciences in particular and will help with applications to study subjects such as Geography, Psychology, Sociology and Business and Management at University. Higher Education courses or careers that either require or prefer A Level Mathematics include Economics, Medicine, Architecture, Engineering, Accountancy, Environmental Sciences, Computing and Information Technology.

While studying Mathematics in the Sixth Form at Heathfield School, students will develop their understanding of Mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment. They will develop abilities to reason logically and recognise incorrect reasoning, to generalise and to construct mathematical proofs. This also stimulates the mind to tackle difficult problems independently. The course involves studying Core Mathematics (C1 and C2 at AS, C3 and C4 at A2), which extends knowledge of such topics as algebra and trigonometry as well as introducing some brand new ideas such as calculus. Those who enjoyed the challenge of problem-solving at GCSE using such mathematical techniques should find the prospect of this course very appealing. AS module S1 (Statistics) teaches students to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions about it. This can help with other subjects which involve analysing data. A2 module M1 (Mechanics) enables students to describe mathematically the motion of objects and how they respond to forces acting upon them, from cars in the street to satellites revolving around a planet.

Girls embarking on this course will be expected to have at least a grade A at Higher level in GCSE Mathematics. Students must have a genuine liking for the subject, a degree of natural ability, an aptitude for problem solving and the motivation to succeed. It is advisable that the student must have enjoyed GCSE and the desire to solve more complex topics.

Modern Foreign Languages

Examination board: French Edexcel, Spanish Edexcel

"A different language is a different vision of life" **Federico Fellini**

Communication is essential in today's world. By studying a foreign language, students will not only be given the tools to communicate with people from other countries but will also be introduced to their culture, politics, customs and thoughts. Language learners agree to say that language proficiency facilitates better relationship with other countries and is undoubtedly helpful to their future career goals. The skills developed in the course are highly regarded by University. It can form the basis of a university course in Modern Languages or lead to degrees in Science, Business, Arts and Humanities. Students of Modern Foreign Languages or of a joint honours degree often have the option of spending few months abroad studying their main subject in the foreign language.

What will I study?

There are four units of examination; two in AS covering the four skills of speaking, writing, listening and reading and two extra units in A2 focusing mainly on speaking and writing. The AS Level can be taken as a qualification in its own right. The oral examinations are conducted internally. In AS and A2, various interesting topics are studied. In addition, the A2 course offers students, in negotiation with their teacher, the freedom to determine the content of their research which will be assessed at the examination, although we do recommend to study literature and a historical period.

The course aims to develop critical insight into the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of countries or communities where the foreign language is spoken. It encourages students to extend their knowledge of the grammar and vocabulary of the foreign language to understand the language from a variety of register and communicate clearly, confidently and creatively. Advanced GCE students will have opportunity for more advance study, including literary or cinema studies.

Some skills are needed to be successful in starting an A Level course in French or Spanish. Students will normally have achieved an A at GCSE. A genuine interest in the culture and heritage of the country is highly recommended.

In December 2012 we ran a Sixth Form French school exchange with our partner school in Rueil Malmaison near Paris. It was extremely valuable, especially for working on language skills. In May 2013, following a successful trip to Cordoba in May 2011, an optional four day language trip to Malaga will be organised.

Music



Exam Board: OCR

This subject will foster a real love and understanding of music within students through the study of great masters, writing compositions, developing aural awareness and building upon performing skills. However, music cannot be studied in isolation and other subjects including philosophy, culture and religion are also discussed. This is a good starting point for further study at all universities and colleges and a good grounding for a career in performing.

AS Level

- ◆ Performing: Recital lasting 6-8 minutes on one or two instruments to Grade 6 standard or above in front of a visiting examiner, followed by an informal viva voce session on the candidate's performing and interpretation
- ◆ Composing: Composing to a given brief - free composition for between 4-10 instruments lasting up to three minutes and completed using Sibelius 6 software
- ◆ Seven Harmony exercises in compositional stylistic techniques. One of these will be done as a Controlled Assessment
- ◆ Listening: Aural awareness and stylistic analysis. This will be examined as part of the Listening Examination: An Introduction to Historical Analysis
- ◆ Set works/extracts. This is also examined as part of the Listening Examination. Two out of the six set works are examined via a recorded musical extract and personal CD-player, whilst the other four are examined more broadly in a comparative essay-type question
- ◆ Entry requirements: Grade B or above at GCSE
- ◆ Grade Associated Board V Theory
- ◆ Weekly participation in one of the ensembles, such as Choir or Orchestra
- ◆ There is a biennial European Choir Tour to which all AS and A2 students are invited, provided they attend Choir or Orchestra on a regular, weekly basis. This bears an additional cost

A2 Level

- ◆ Performing: Recital lasting about 15 minutes on one instrument to Grade 7 standard or above, with a specific focus on one composer or style. The examiner will ask the candidate questions regarding aspects of their performance and their interpretation of the pieces
- ◆ Composing: Coursework composing to a set brief – compose a song, a piece of programme music or music for film lasting up to four minutes and completed using Sibelius 6 software
- ◆ Eight exercises using compositional techniques in the style of Early Romantic Keyboard Accompaniments. One of the exercises will be done as a Controlled Assessment
- ◆ Listening: Aural awareness and stylistic analysis. Two essay questions from a choice of three are examined covering three set works and a further three comparative works of the candidate's own choice
- ◆ An aural extract of vocal music taken from the period 1900 – 1945 is examined using personal CD-players
- ◆ Entry requirements are the same as those outlined for AS level

"The advantage of Music AS is that curricular and extra-curricular music often overlap. Lessons are relaxed but challenging and it is really a case of learning a new thing every day. Harmony work is difficult, and I did not realise how important it was until I really understood it and was able to recognize various harmonisations. Composition is also hard work, but you get a real sense of achievement when you have worked so hard on something and you are pleased with the outcome." An A Level pupil

Photography



Exam Board: Edexcel - Art & Design

"Everyone can enjoy Photography. We study many things from traditional darkroom work to going to Paris!" (UVI 2009)

Photography focuses on independent thought and self-expression. Students are encouraged to progress their own ideas and development with individual guidance to ensure interesting and personal images are made.

What does the course involve?

The course consists of four submissions, two each academic year, where students will be expected to submit a unit of coursework and an examination module; taken during the Lent term. All units require a preparatory work journal and completed images to be submitted, however, the coursework at A2 requires an additional dissertation. The examination units span an approximate 6 week period and at the end of this time students will produce quality portfolio prints. All coursework and examination units are completed prior to other academic examinations.

There is no need to have studied photography at GCSE level as students are taught from a basic level in 'traditional' black and white photography where they learn technical ability in order to produce their photographs. Students will then go on to explore the art of digital photography including the use of computer software such as Adobe Photoshop. It is not necessary to have any photographic equipment as the school will provide all that is needed. However, should her interest in photography grow, your daughter would definitely benefit from having her own camera. Together with the technical knowledge gained, the student will also undertake lessons in contextual study, where she will learn how to 'read' images, make links with other areas of creative fields and transfer this knowledge to her own work. She will also gain theoretical and historical knowledge. An annual residential trip is timetabled with destinations such as Paris or Florence offered where students gather important research and participate in practical workshops that form part of their coursework or examination unit, depending on the time of year the trip takes place. Photography is particularly suited to students who feel themselves to be creative, but are unable to express themselves in other disciplines.

Photography is an increasing choice for students at A level and a growing number are choosing to study photography at university with popular destinations including Contemporary Photographic Practice at Northumbria and Photography at Parsons, New York. However, Photography does not restrict opportunities and can lead to any type of creative design course at university. Photographic careers could span an extremely vast area from photographic styling to image archiving, from fashion to forensic photography, from recording wildlife to film and video to name but a few!

Physics

**Exam board: OCR**

The study of Physics is the study of reality....what things are ultimately made of, how they behave and why....from the tiniest sub atomic particle to the vastness of the Universe and beyond? Applying universal principles and using one's imagination to realise that the obvious is often untrue but that there is logic and there are fundamental truths.

Physicists are in huge demand not only for their subject understanding but also for their ability to rationalise, question accepted views, find solutions, analyse, to think "outside the box" and for their imagination and creativity. The appeal of Physics is that it combines a set of transferable skills that are valued by employers with the study of fundamental and exotic phenomena such as the origin of the Universe, the nature of time and space and quantum mechanics. Since some of the concepts go well beyond our common sense notions, potential students should have imagination and a mind open to new ideas.

Many of the important problems facing society, such as energy supply and climate change, are going to require Physicists to solve them, so there is an attraction for those students who want to change and rescue their world. There are also a great wealth of career paths which can lead off from such a qualification ranging from both the arts and sciences e.g film/theatre set design or building bridges to improve infrastructure.

What does the course involve?

Any potential candidates for the AS course should be performing to at least an A or B grade at Physics GCSE and show the flare and commitment to achieve well in the future. Excellent practical skills are also essential. The AS course is assessed by practical skills, 20%, and 2 theory papers, Mechanics 30% and Electrons Photons and Waves 50%. The A2 course is assessed by practical skills 10%, and 2 theory papers The Newtonian World 15% and Fields, Particles and Frontiers 25%. At AS the knowledge and understanding of key concepts are treated separately whereas important links between different areas of Physics are largely assessed synoptically at A2.

Psychology



Exam board: AQA A

Why study Psychology?

Psychology is a discipline that will benefit individuals in several areas of their curriculum and day to day encounters. Psychology is essentially the science of human behaviour. The aim of much research is to understand causes of certain disorders and to find ways to make changes for the better. Implications of psychological research are all around us, from the way our road signs are designed all the way to the layout of classrooms, textbooks and styles of teaching. Psychology is an everyday part of life.

Psychology greatly benefits report writing, analytical and evaluative skills, and the ability to discuss debates and issues effectively.

Student thoughts on Psychology:

'...I wasn't even going to study Psychology at A Level, now all I talk about is Psychology! I am planning to study Experimental Psychology at Cambridge next September'

'...I have such fun observing my younger siblings and making detailed judgements with regards to their attachment style'

'...I find the lessons entertaining; the teacher tries to make research memorable using great stories and analogies'

Exam layout

	50%	50%
AS	Unit 1 — Cognitive, developmental and	Unit 2—Biological psychology, social influences
A2	Unit 3 —Topics in Psychology	Unit 4 —Psychopathology, Psychology in action and research methods

What's covered?

AS— Topics include Cognitive, developmental and research methods. Students learn the essentials of research, how our brain deals with and focuses our attention alongside looking at attachment in children and the importance of care in the child's development.

A2— Topics include Schizophrenia, addictive behaviour, research methods, relationships, eating behaviour and aggression. Psychology offers a fascinating selection of topics where students really get to experience more exciting topics and world changing research at an in depth level.

Religious Studies



Exam board: AQA

Religious Studies AS and A2 level is a thriving, dynamic and popular subject at A Level, both nationally and at Heathfield. Results are excellent with pupils regularly gaining full marks in both AS and A2 papers. Many pupils enjoy the philosophical dimension of the course, consequently philosophy is a popular university course; students have gone on to gain places at Oxford, Cambridge, Durham Edinburgh and London to study Philosophy and Theology. Religious Studies fosters critical thinking and is thus good training for undergraduate level study in any discipline.

What will I study?

The course focuses on the popular areas of Ethics and Philosophy of Religion. There is a considerable leap from GCSE to A Level in terms of depth of subject knowledge, but students will benefit from having developed their skills in critical analysis and evaluation. At AS girls investigate how we can navigate the 'moral maze' using ethical theories proposed by thinkers such as Bentham, Mill, Fletcher and Kant. Girls then apply these moral principles to practical ethical problems such as how we should respond to environmental issues. In addition, the girls study Buddhist ethics: an unusual opportunity to explore this thought provoking philosophy of life. At A2 girls go on to examine topics such as beliefs about the soul, life after death and how we can reconcile the existence of a loving God with the existence of evil. Religious Studies is examined via 4 units (2 at AS and 2 at A2) with no coursework unit.

To do well in Religious Studies at A Level girls need to have good skills in English literacy, to be happy reading a lot and writing regular extended pieces. A*-B GCSE grades in RS and English are required. The same success in other related subjects, such as Geography, History or Classics, would also be a good indicator of a girl's ability to cope at this higher level. We recognise that not all entrants to sixth form will have previously studied RS at GCSE and such cases would be considered individually. However, all potential students need to be curious and willing to participate in discussion, listening actively to other points of view and responding with reasoned opinions. Religious Studies teachers at Heathfield encourage girls to read widely from our extensive collection of subject-related books. To consolidate and enrich students' knowledge we will be attending an RS conference delivered by a variety of charismatic, expert speakers from different fields.

What can studying Religious Studies lead to?

Religious Studies is a well-respected academic A Level which has traditionally been studied alongside subjects such as English Literature and History to prepare for an Arts degree. However, in recent years, girls choosing science subjects have taken Religious Studies, at least to AS, to maintain and develop their skills in debate and essay-writing and to increase their awareness of medical and environmental ethics. Many admissions tutors in Medicine and Law like applicants who have chosen to do this and the subject may help preparations for BMAT and LNAT tests. Employers really value the skills pupils learn during A Level Religious Studies and it is good preparation for careers as diverse as medicine, the law, journalism or work in the media.

Sports Education



Exam board: OCR

Physical Education is an excellent choice for anyone who has a keen interest in sport; an enquiring mind; wants to know more about the effects of exercise and how the body reacts; want to evaluate and improve their own performance and wants to investigate sport around the world. Its breadth of content means it combines well with both the Humanities and the Science subjects.

What will I study?

AS	
One written exam of 2 hours (60%) Anatomy & Physiology Acquiring Movement Skills Socio-Cultural Studies	Practical assessment (40%) Two sports from different areas: Athletics, Dance, Invasion, Net, Striking, Swimming, Outdoor Drills & competitive performance Oral Evaluation of a practical performance
A2	
One written exam of 2 hours 30 minutes (70%) A choice of 3 topics from the following: Anatomy & Physiology Biomechanics Comparative Studies Historical Studies Sports Psychology	Practical Assessment (30%) One sport Drills & Competitive Performance Oral Evaluation of a practical performance

What will you learn?

- To develop your knowledge and skills in selected activities
- Explore sociological issues in modern sport
- Examine the effects of exercise and the relationship between training and performance
- Analyse the way we learn to be skilful
- Compare and contrast sport through different cultures
- Enhance your understanding of the role of technology and psychology in sport
- Find ways to improve your own performance through greater understanding of the subject.

Theatre Studies



Exam Board: AQA

"Drama is an art, a practical activity and an intellectual discipline... Like all the arts, drama helps us to make sense of the world." (**Drama in Schools, Arts Council England**)

Drama and Theatre Studies offers students opportunities to experience Theatre from the perspective of an actor, director, designer and member of the audience. Whilst Drama at GCSE is useful it is **not** a pre-requisite, neither is the requirement for students to be actors. As well as an interest in and love of performance, students should have a good standard of written English and as with any A Level, at least a B (preferably an A) in an essay based subject at GCSE would be the minimum entry requirement.

The Course:

With the focus on the ways in which theatrical theory works in practice, this A Level aims to develop students' skills in a range of practical drama elements with a choice from acting, directing, costume, set, mask and technical design. Students are offered a wide choice of set plays for study and the opportunity to write about live productions seen. Theatre visits are integral to the course and those organised by the school will not be charged to the students.

AS;

Unit 1: Live Theatre Production Seen and Prescribed Play (60% of total AS marks)(30% of total A Level) Written Paper: 1 hour 30 minutes (100 marks). This examination is externally set and assessed. One question to be answered from each of two sections. **Section A:** response to live theatre seen during the course and **Section B:** study of *Antigone* by Sophocles and Ancient Greek Theatre.

Unit 2: Presentation of an Extract from a Play (40% of total AS marks)(20% of total A Level) .Internally assessed and externally moderated, the students work in groups to develop and present an extract from a published play, which they have chosen. Students also study an influential director, designer, Theatre Company or other practitioner, linked to their practical work. The assessment also takes account of the candidates' preparatory and development work, and supporting notes.

A2;

Unit 3: Further Prescribed Plays including Pre-Twentieth Century (30% of total A2 marks) Written Paper: 2 hours (100 marks) This examination is externally set and assessed. One question to be answered from each of two sections. **Section A:** Pre- twentieth Century: *The Recruiting Officer* by George Farquhar and **Section B:** Twentieth Century or Contemporary Drama: *Our Country's Good* by Timberlake Wertenbaker. **Section B** is synoptic, requiring suggestions for a complete stage realisation of a short extract from the play printed in the paper. Both questions carry equal marks.

Unit 4: Presentation of Devised Drama (20% of total A2 marks) Working in groups to develop and present a devised drama, students research and perform in the theatrical style of their choice. The assessment also includes candidates' preparatory and development work, and supporting notes. Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Further Study and Career Opportunities:

Such is the nature of the course that it provides a good foundation for either a theoretical or more practical course. Former students have gone on to vocational Drama schools as well as to Universities. Many Drama courses at University are offered as Single or Joint Honours (i.e. with another subject) and graduates embark on a range of careers not only in the theatre but also in Film, Television, Advertising and Marketing, PR and Promotions, Law or if they are really lucky; Teaching !