



UPLANDS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Sixth Form
Subject Information
Entry in 2019

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Art and Design

Level: A Level

Board: EDEXCEL

This course is intended for those students who wish to pursue, extend, and develop their studies of art and design to a greater depth than that required for GCSE. The A Level course aims to accommodate a wide range of styles and abilities and allows students to work with a variety of media. It also aims to develop a knowledge and understanding of the place of art, craft, and design in history and contemporary society.

Although materials are supplied in college, students are expected to have some of their own materials for independent study. The approximate cost will be £150 in Year 12 and £150 in Year 13.

Self-motivation and a strong desire to learn are essential if students are to be successful. In addition to class time, students are expected to spend an additional 4 - 5 hours per week on art coursework out of lesson time.

The course is mainly structured to allow and support individual progress, with much of the teaching being on a one to one basis. There will be, at certain times, group workshops on techniques and group discussions where everyone has individual input into each other's project development.

Students take the A Level art and design course to extend their art knowledge, or may already know they want to pursue a career in art and design. Students will develop a strong portfolio of work that will gain them a place at an Art College. Students in the past have gained places at prestigious colleges such as Camberwell and St. Martins, as well as directly onto art degrees.

Assessment

- Component 1 - personal investigation. 60%.
- Component 2 – externally set assignment. 40%.

A Level art and design is a good combination with photography and graphics, particularly if a student is interested in pursuing a career in art and design. It is also a good route for anyone interested in media or filmmaking.

Possible careers include book illustrator, graphic designer, fashion journalist, 3D design, art historian, gallery curator, art therapist, and architect. However, many businesses and industries are now asking for creative qualifications.

Subject contact: Mrs M. Miles

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Biology

Level: A Level

Board: AQA

Biology A Level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. Biology literally means the study of life and if that is not important, what is? Being such a broad topic, you're bound to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers including being a doctor, veterinarian, marine biologist, dentist, nature conservation officer and research scientist, to name a few.

A Level biology lasts for two years, with examinations at the end of the second year.

Assessment

- Biological modules: energy transfers in and between organisms.
- Cells: Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments.
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment: Genetics, populations, evolution, and ecosystems.
- Genetic information variation and relationships between organisms: The control of gene expression.

There are no practical assessments on this course. However, your performance during practical work is assessed.

There are three examinations at the end of the two years of A Level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A Level biology are based on what you learn in your practical work.

Biology, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course, you will carry out practical activities including using microscopes to see cell division, dissection of animal or plant systems, and aseptic technique to study microbial growth.

These practical activities will give you the skills and confidence needed to investigate the way living things behave and work. It will also ensure that if you choose to study a biology-based subject at university, you have the practical skills needed to carry out successful experiments in your degree.

Subject contact: Mr G. Thraves

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Business Studies BTEC

Level: BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Board: EDEXCEL

The course is equivalent to one A Level and is graded at a Pass, Merit, or Distinction level. It is suitable for students who have a good independent work ethic, as the ability to meet deadlines is essential. Having general knowledge of current affairs would also be beneficial.

Assessment

This is a two-year course with four individual components:

- Two examined units cover business finance and marketing. The finance examination covers both personal and business finance. It is a two-hour written paper and can be taken in Year 12 and Year 13.
- The marketing examination is based on a pre-release case study provided by EDEXCEL. Candidates have three hours to write up a marketing campaign based on the information provided which is then submitted to the examination board.
- The remaining two units are internally assessed through the completion of assignments. The first assignment examines the business activity of a multinational business and the second unit concentrates on both the theory and demonstration of customer service.

BTECs carry the same weighted UCAS points as an A Level and are accepted by the majority of universities.

Subject contact: Mrs S. Wilkins

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Chemistry

Level: A Level

Board: OCR (Salters B)

The different units cover chemical principles that are drawn from modern applications of chemistry, in everyday life in industry, and in the environment. Students will recognise the value of chemistry to society, and how it may be used responsibly.

Students will undertake practical work, investigative work, and problem solving tasks during lessons. There is both independent and group work employed as appropriate as we cover various aspects of the A Level syllabus.

A Level chemistry complements the study of biology, physics, mathematics, and geography. Students who have recently studied chemistry at Uplands have gone on to study medicine, veterinary science, accountancy, chemistry, radiology, forensic science, disaster management, media, sport science, law, psychology, and history.

Chemistry students have gone on to work in television, in the RAF (pilot), the city, accountancy, medicine, the chemical industry, and education. The list is endless.

The skills gained from studying chemistry can be transferred to any other subject and are highly valued by both universities and employers.

Assessment

- Fundamentals of chemistry. 41%.
- Scientific literacy in chemistry. 37%.
- Practical skills in chemistry. 22%.
- Practical endorsement (completion essential). 0%.
- Non-examined assessment. No assessed coursework.

Subject contact: Miss K. Carlile

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Computing

Level: A Level

Board: AQA

Within this course, you will study a range of theory topics, which include the principles and understanding linked to programming, topics such as hardware and software, networks, systems development life cycles and implications of computer use.

This course will develop your ability to:

- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- Apply skills in and an understanding of computing (including programming) in a range of contexts to solve problems
- Delve into producing graphical user interfaces and object-orientated programming solutions.

Assessment

A Level computer science is assessed through two examinations (each worth 40%).

- Paper one will test your ability to program, as well as your theoretical knowledge of computer science and is assessed on-screen in a 2 hour 30 minute examination. You will answer a series of short questions and write/adapt/extend programs in an electronic answer document provided by the examination board. The examination board will issue preliminary material, a skeleton program and, where appropriate, test data, for use in the examination.
- Paper two tests your ability to answer compulsory short-answer and extended-answer questions on theoretical aspects of computing in a 2 hour 30 minute written examination.

Non-examined assessment

This project will allow you to develop your practical skills in the context of solving a realistic problem or carrying out an investigation. The project is intended to be as much a learning experience as a method of assessment; you will have the opportunity to work independently on a problem of interest over an extended period, during which you can extend your programming skills and deepen your understanding of computer science.

Subject contact: Mr S. Brooks

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Drama and Theatre

Level: A Level

Board: Pearson / EDEXCEL

This exciting and challenging course emphasises drama as a practical, intellectual and artistic subject. The course has a similar structure to the GCSE in drama and is assessed through devising coursework, public performance, and a written examination.

As well as providing practical opportunities to act, direct and create new drama, this course enables students to become reflective theatrical practitioners and researchers through a wide range of reading, discussion and practical experimentation. An ability to collaborate effectively with other students and to perform work during lessons and in front of audiences is essential. This course requires commitment to extra rehearsals in preparation for practical examinations.

Students studying drama at Uplands have successfully combined this course with a wide range of other subjects including English Literature, history and languages, as well as maths, sciences and other practical and creative subjects. Students who have studied drama A Level at Uplands have successfully auditioned for drama schools, including Central School of Speech and Drama and East 15, and secured places at universities to study a wide range of subjects including English, creative writing, law, and French.

Assessment

- Unit 1: Devising coursework. 40% of the qualification. As a group, students devise an original piece of drama using ideas from a theatre practitioner. The coursework comprises a 3000-word portfolio (75%) and the performance (25%).
- Unit 2: Performance examination. 20% of the qualification. Students perform a group piece and a monologue or a duologue in front of a visiting examiner.
- Unit 3: Written examination. 40% of the qualification. Students sit a two hour thirty minute examination in which they evaluate a live theatre production and write extended answers about how they would interpret two texts from the perspective of a director, performer and designer. Their answers will demonstrate knowledge of a chosen theatre practitioner and understanding of the text's original performance conditions.

Subject contact: Mrs M. Stevens

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English Literature

Level: A Level

Board: EDEXCEL

English literature at A Level will develop your understanding and enjoyment of literary studies through the exploration of a range of texts. You will be encouraged to become an independent and reflective reader - one who can draw on a number of approaches to interpret literary works. The course is designed to deepen your understanding of both the classics of English literature and a variety of modern texts. Alongside Shakespeare, you could find yourself studying writers such as Kazuo Ishiguro and Margaret Atwood.

Through group work and discussion, you will develop insight as a critical reader. You will develop increasing confidence to express yourself when talking and writing about literature. As reflective learners, you will be encouraged to assess your own progress and peer assessment will play a vital role in your understanding of ways forward. You will be expected to read several substantial texts as well as completing research, writing essays and giving presentations.

Your developing skills in English literature will complement every area of study. Drama, history, and law are just a few subjects, which draw on the skills developed through the close analysis of a written text. English Literature is a highly respected academic subject and many students have gone on to study arts and sciences at top universities. An A Level in English literature is a facilitating subject. Facilitating subjects are the subjects most commonly required or preferred by universities to get on to a range of degree courses. They help you keep your options open when choosing a degree and many of the top universities will ask you to have at least one A Level in a facilitating subject when you apply.

Assessment

- Component 1 (examination). Interpretations of Drama. A study of Shakespeare and paired tragedy. 30%.
- Component 2 (examination). Interpretations of Prose. A study of two prose texts from a chosen theme. 20%.
- Component 3 (examination). Interpretations of Poetry. A study of poetry, both unseen and of a selected poet. 30%.
- Unit 4 (coursework). Reflection in Literary Studies. A 3,000-word comparative essay based on the study of two texts. 20%.

Subject contact: Mrs S. Wolfe

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Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Level: Level 3

Board: AQA

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) provides an opportunity for students to extend their abilities beyond the A Level syllabus and prepare for university or their future career. It can also earn you extra UCAS points.

The EPQ allows students to embark on largely self-directed projects. By taking responsibility for the choice and design of an individual project (or an individual role in a group project) students:

- Become more critical, reflective and independent learners;
- Develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills;
- Increase their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills;
- Learn to apply new technologies confidently;
- Demonstrate creativity, initiative, and enterprise.

Both universities and employers like the EPQ as it demonstrates that a student is capable of independent study. Unlike national examinations – which are the same for everyone taking them – the EPQ provides the student with the opportunity to talk about something unique to themselves. A well-chosen EPQ will have a clear link to either a career or a degree course – and therefore discussing the EPQ in an interview enables the student to distinguish themselves from the crowd. It adds substance to any stated desire or interest.

The EPQ is completed in Year 12.

Subject contact: Mr J. Cunningham

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French

Level: A Level

Board: AQA

The syllabus aims towards a high level of fluency in the target language, particularly in speaking and comprehension. The full Advanced GCE remains the main qualification for gaining entry to courses in French in higher education. Both AS and the full A Level offer evidence to prospective employers of a significant level of achievement in all language skills, together with critical insight and a knowledge and understanding of another culture and its place within European development.

The transition to A Level French will include a revision of all “the basics”. Content will be firmly rooted in the culture of French-speaking countries and covers topics for study such as technology, music, family relationships, politics, multicultural society, and contemporary social issues. Students will also study a French novel and a film.

The combination of French with other subjects is attractive to both Higher Education and employers as travel and the Internet mean that communication, study, and business are frequently carried out with European and worldwide partners.

We will offer students the chance to visit France to take part in a language-intensive trip to improve their skills.

Students who have studied French at Uplands in recent years have gone on to study at a range of institutions, including Oxbridge and Russell Group universities. As well as continuing with French as their main subject, an increasing number of students have gone on to include French as a subsidiary part degrees such as geography, business and sports studies. Ex-Uplands’ languages students now work for international companies such as Barclays, using their language skills on a daily basis.

Assessment

- Paper 1: Students take a listening, reading and writing paper, which assesses knowledge of the topic areas.
- Paper 2: Students write essays on the book and the film they have studied.
- Paper 3: A speaking examination with their teacher. Students prepare an independent research project on a French subject of their choice, as well as answering on the topic areas.

Subject contact: Mrs A. Clayton

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Geography

Level: A Level

Board: AQA

Geography students are very employable. They possess the skills that employers are looking for. Geography combines both the arts and sciences and so it goes well with all other subjects on the curriculum

This course is designed to give students an appreciation of a sense of place and geographical processes. This is done using case studies that provide practical examples of geographical concepts and principles. Links between and within various human and physical environments are emphasized. Contemporary geographical issues are studied which enable students to develop an awareness of the role of values and attitudes in geographical decision-making processes. Skills and techniques for the analysis and interpretation of data are developed throughout the course as well as developing map skills, the use of computers and other technology for analysis and presentation.

We visit the Field Studies Centre at Nettlecombe Court in Exmoor at the end of Year 12 or beginning of Year 13. This is a residential four-night stay and it is very important for all students to attend so that they can complete their fieldwork for component 3. The cost is approximately £400.

Uplands' A Level geography students have gone on to work in, amongst other fields of employment architecture, agriculture, law, leisure and tourism, civil engineering, social work and surveying. As well as combining well with other subjects, geography itself contains many skills that can be learnt in other subjects.

Assessment

- Component 1: physical geography.
 - Section A – water and carbon cycles;
 - Section B – hot desert environments, or coastal landscapes;
 - Section C – hazards or ecosystems under stress, or cold environments;
 - Written examination – two hours thirty minutes. Worth 40% of the A Level.
- Component 2: human geography.
 - Section A – global systems and global governance;
 - Section B – changing places;
 - Section C – contemporary urban environments, or population and the environment, or resource security;
 - Written examination – two hours thirty minutes. Worth 40% of the A Level.
- Component 3: geographical investigation. Students complete an individual investigation based on fieldwork. It will be a report of 3,000 to 4,000 words. This component is marked by the teachers and moderated by the examination board.

Subject contact: Mr M. Green

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Health and Social Care BTEC

Level: BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Board: EDEXCEL

The BTEC in health and social care has been designed to provide a specialist work related qualification. It gives learners the knowledge, understanding, and skills they need to prepare for further education or for moving into employment within the health and social care sector.

The aims of this BTEC qualification in health and social care are to:

- Develop and sustain an interest in health, social care, and issues affecting the care sector.
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of health social care and issues.
- Develop skills that will enable them to make an effective contribution to the care sector including skills of research, evaluation, and problem solving in a work-related context.
- Prepare students for further study and training.

Assessment

The content of the BTEC will focus on the needs of the clients and the techniques and professional services aimed at meeting those needs. Learners will be assessed using the following:

- Written examination – human lifespan development.
- Written examination – working in health and social care.
- Mandatory assignment – meeting individual care and support needs.
- One optional assignment from a choice of:
 - Work experience in health and social care.
 - Sociological perspectives.
 - Psychological perspective.
 - Supporting individuals with additional needs or physiological disorders and their care.

This qualification supports progression into further education, training, or employment, as it offers a mix of both theoretical and vocational learning. Learners who successfully complete the BTEC in health and social care have several routes of progression:

- Further training within employment.
- BTEC Diplomas in health and social care-related subjects.
- Degrees in health and social care-related subjects.
- Other further and higher health and social care qualifications.

Subject contact: Mrs C. Jenkins

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History

Level: A Level

Board: AQA

This very well respected A Level gives students the opportunity to study British and German history, two countries with extremely rich and fascinating histories. For students who progress from our GCSE history course, the British depth unit has a familiar world context as it is set in the controversial period following the Second World War and charts the recent history of Britain. The breadth unit gives students the opportunity to study how a country such as Germany struggled for over a century to get to grips with democracy and political stability. We follow Germany's relentless path from the Kaiser and his empire to the impact of Nazism, World War II and division. Key questions will be addressed such as 'how did a young country such as Germany come to rival a great power such as Britain before WWI?', 'why did democracy ultimately fail in the 1920s?', 'how was a dictator, such as Hitler, always destined to rule Germany?' and 'why was a wall needed to divide East and West Germany until 1990?'

A Level coursework includes an extended essay on the causes of rebellions against the Tudor monarchs, from dynastic plots to overthrow Henry VII, to religious violence against Henry VIII's reformation. This unit is highly valued by universities and takes the format of a mini-dissertation; students write and research their own enquiry. The range of work and approaches include source work, role-play, video, concept mapping, discussion, debate, and presentations.

Uplands' A Level historians have gone on to study a very broad range of degrees and work in a variety of different occupations. Notable historians include Lord Sainsbury; the chairman of Barclays Bank; the chairman of Sony; the CEO of Railtrack; Michael Palin; Ed Norton; Jonathan Ross; Al Murray; Sacha Baron Cohen and Lord Sebastian Coe.

Assessment

Year 12 content and assessment focus:

- Unit 1 (written examination: interpretations and a study in issues of change, continuity, cause, and consequence). The Quest for Political Stability: Germany, 1871-1929 Empire to Democracy.
- Unit 2 (written examination: using primary sources and a study of major change in depth, focusing on key ideas, events, and developments). The Making of Modern Britain: 1951-1979 Building a New Britain.

A Level:

- Unit 1 continued (written examination: interpretations and a study in issues of change, continuity, cause, and consequence). The Quest for Political Stability: Germany, 1929-1991.
- The Impact of Nazism, War, and Division. 40% of total A Level.
- Unit 2 continued (written examination: using primary sources and a study of major change in depth, focusing on key ideas, events, and developments). The Making of Modern Britain: 1979-2007. Impact of Thatcherism to New Labour. 40% of total A Level.
- Unit 3 (coursework: 3000-3500 words. Internally assessed). How far was religion the key cause of Tudor rebellions between 1485 and 1603?' 20% of total A Level.

Subject contact: Mrs S. Underdown

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ICT

Level: BTEC Level 3

Board: EDEXCEL

This qualification is suitable for wide range of learners, keen to understand the ever changing topic of Information Technology. It is a work-related qualification and is designed to accommodate the needs employers as well as allowing progress to university.

This qualification will also help learners develop six essential skills, which will be of significant use to throughout all of a learner's Key Stage 5 studies:

- Independent enquiry;
- Creative thinking;
- Reflective learning;
- Team working;
- Self-management;
- Effective participation.

Assessment

Two mandatory units will be studied.

- Communication and employability skills for ICT.
- Computer systems.

In addition, a third unit will be chosen for study, dependent upon the interest and abilities of the cohort. Some of the units that could be chosen for study include:

- Ecommerce;
- Website production;
- Digital graphics;
- Computer animation;
- Supporting business activity.

Subject contact: Mr S. Brooks

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Law Applied BTEC

Level: BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Board: EDEXCEL

The course is equivalent to one A Level and is graded at a Pass, Merit, or Distinction level. It is suitable for students who have a good independent work ethic and a sound grasp of the English language. The ability to meet deadlines is essential. Having general knowledge of current legal issues would also be beneficial.

Assessment

This is a two-year course with four individual components:

- In year one, students will complete an externally assessed examination based on civil disputes. The two-hour examination will be based on an unseen case study and explores the law of negligence and potential remedies;
- The second unit is internally assessed through coursework and investigates the UK's legal system in both civil and criminal law;
- In year two, students will sit another externally assessed examination based on criminal law which covers homicide, criminal damage, and possible defences;
- The final unit is an internally assessed piece of coursework, which requires students to apply the principle of tort (negligence) and a duty of care.

A BTEC carries the same weighted UCAS points as an A Level. BTECs are accepted by the majority of universities.

Subject contact: Mrs S. Wilkins

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Mathematics (Advanced) Mathematical Studies

Level: Level 3 (one year)

Board: AQA

Mathematical Studies is the newest version of the Level 3 qualification for students who achieved a Grade 5 or above at GCSE mathematics and wish to develop their practical mathematical skills for the real world, be it in work, study, or everyday life.

Core mathematics has been designed to maintain and develop real-life mathematical skills. What you study is not purely theoretical or abstract; it can be applied on a day-to-day basis in work, study, or life and most courses will include a financial mathematical element. It will also help with other A Level subjects – in particular with science, geography, business studies, psychology, and economics.

Assessment

We are not doing “graphical methods” this year but instead further statistics, which is more closely linked to the humanities subjects.

Subject contact: Mrs V. Sims

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Mathematics

Level: AS and A Level

Board: EDEXCEL

A Level mathematics is suitable for students who enjoy the rigour of the subject. Since mathematics underpins so many other disciplines, this choice of A Level complements the study of a variety of other subjects and combines well with science, particularly physics and chemistry and for those wanting to follow a career in engineering.

The main part of the course is made up of pure mathematics which takes the algebra and trigonometry studied at GCSE to a higher level, and introduces the new field of calculus; one of the most important and powerful of all the areas of mathematics. Both mechanics and statistics are compulsory units of the course. The statistics module develops further the work covered at GCSE, exploring and extending the different ways of analysing data and drawing conclusions. Many of these tools of analysis are also used in science and geography. The mechanics unit supports work covered in physics.

There is a significant emphasis upon explanatory approaches to learning through discussion and the use of mathematical modelling and problem solving. In addition, lessons combine explanations of concepts and techniques covered with the opportunity for students to work individually and cooperatively to consolidate their understanding. Computer software and information from the internet are increasingly being used to help discover and illustrate new ideas in mathematics.

Our students have gone on to study mathematics or mathematics combined with a wide range of other subjects such as science, forensics, medicine, engineering, design, commerce, computer science, philosophy, the list is endless. Mathematics is a universally recognised, valuable, and well-respected A Level to have.

Assessment

The course is assessed entirely by written examinations. You will study three units in Year 12 and these are then extended further in Year 13.

- Paper 1: pure mathematics 1. Two-hour examination.
- Paper 2: pure mathematics 2. Two-hour examination.
- Paper 3: statistics and mechanics. Two-hour examination.

Subject contact: Mrs V. Sims

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Music

Level: A Level

Board: EDEXCEL

A Level music is an exciting, informative, and challenging course not just for students who intend to pursue a career in music as it makes an excellent supplement to a number of other courses. Due to the small number of students taking this subject, it is important that you indicate your interest at the earliest opportunity.

This course builds on the skills already covered at GCSE, but moves them to a much higher level. It is important that students are strong performers, and have an understanding of how to compose well-structured pieces, using melody and harmony effectively. They should be interested a wide range of music, and wish to study and analyse pieces in depth. Students must be able to study independently, as well as learn from their teachers and work well within the group.

Lessons are active and practical and involve listening, composing, and performing, in addition to text-based theory work and research. The music department has a number of PCs running Cubase and Sibelius software, and students can use these facilities in lessons and independent study time.

Many of the students studying music at Uplands have gone on to study successfully at a range of universities, with some choosing to continue their musical studies successful securing places at Leeds College of Music and ACM (Academy of Contemporary Music) as well as others.

Assessment

- **Performing:** 30%. 8 minutes performing to be undertaken at one time. May be solo or ensemble. This follows on from the performances expected at GCSE. Practical examination - the performance is recorded and marked by the examination board.
- **Composing:** 30%. Two compositions – totaling six minutes. One focuses on composing techniques, and the other is composed to a set brief. This is much more detailed than GCSE, but builds on the skills already acquired. Examined coursework.
- **Appraising:** 40%. Students study six different topic areas, with set works within each of them: vocal music, instrumental music, music for film, popular music and jazz, fusions, and new directions. This unit builds on the analysis work completed at GCSE. This component is a two-hour written examination.

Course contact: Miss E. Leader

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Photography

Level: A Level

Board: EDEXCEL

Students will be introduced to all the basic skills of photography. They will learn how to experiment and manipulate these techniques to their advantage and produce some exciting images. Students will learn how to use traditional photographic techniques as well as Photoshop to manipulate their images. Alongside all this, they will keep a virtual journal, which records all their ideas and research on artists and photographers' concepts, which will inspire their own photographs.

All students must have access to a 35 mm SLR camera, as well as their own digital camera. Students are expected to complete independent tasks each week; this includes using the darkroom. Photography can be expensive to run and students are required to get certain equipment, which they can purchase from us. There is also an amount required for photographic chemicals.

The course starts with theory lessons into the basics of photography, and then progresses into practical lessons where the skills of photography are taught in groups. Ideas are shared in group discussions as well as individual tutoring. Later in the course, the work is more self-directed, so teaching becomes more one-to-one.

A Level photography is a good combination with Art and Design and Graphics. It is a good route for anyone interested in art, media, or filmmaking. Possible careers include photojournalism, wedding, fashion, and sports photography.

Assessment

- Component 1: personal investigation. 60%.
- Component 2: externally set assignment. 40%.

Subject contact: Mrs M. Miles

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Physical Education

Level: A Level

Board: AQA

At A Level, students will study a variety of topics including the effects of sport on the human body, the development of skills, sport and society, the development of health and fitness and understanding sport in wider society.

They are assessed practically in one chosen activities, and we would expect students to be participating at least at club level in that activity outside of college. Students are able to experience activities from across different activity profiles in the roles of performer, coach/leader, and official. Students will also be assessed in responding to a live performance in their own assessed activity.

A Level Physical Education combines well with biology and psychology. Possible courses of study for further education include sports science, physiotherapy, and sports rehabilitation. Careers in any of these areas might be available, as well as careers in teaching or coaching.

Assessment

- Unit 1: examination. 70%. Externally set and externally assessed.
- Unit 2: practical. 30%. Externally set, internally assessed and externally moderated. Candidates are assessed in one chosen activity and in a response to a live performance.

Subject contact: Mr S. Joyce

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Physics

Level: A Level

Board: OCR

Physics is about understanding the world in which we live, from the incredibly large (cosmology) to the study of the incredibly small (quantum mechanics), and in so doing overlaps with the other sciences in many places. In this course, students build on previous GCSE science work to look at such topics as electromagnetism, wave-particle duality, and nuclear physics through a mixture of theory and practical work.

Assessment

- Module 1 - practical skills.
- Module 2 - foundation physics.
- Module 3 - forces and motion.
- Module 4 - electrons, waves, and photons.
- Module 5 - Newtonian world and astrophysics.
- Module 6 - particles and medical physics.

These modules are assessed through three written examinations, six hours in total, at the end of the two-year course.

Students also receive a practical endorsement statement of Pass or Fail based on twelve practical activities, which are completed during the course.

Physics goes well with any science subjects, but A Level mathematics would be particularly beneficial, as how the world works can often be best described mathematically.

Subject contact: Mr I. Pert

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Politics

Level: A Level

Board: EDEXCEL

The new linear A Level politics course from September 2017 allows students to deepen their knowledge of ways in which countries can be governed, including the UK. It also explores the different ideologies behind how countries can be governed, evaluating their strengths and weaknesses. Year 12 is broadly focused on studying the UK, and explores how and why people vote as they do, and the different structures in place for governing the UK. The Year 13 course looks more broadly at different political ideas and theories and makes comparisons with political systems in the USA. In both years, topics covered include political parties, pressure groups, and questions regarding political participation and voter apathy.

As a very current subject, we use case studies that are happening at the time of the lesson as examples and include newspapers, video, and the internet to broaden our understanding. Students are expected to keep up to date with the news. Many lessons involve discussion and debate and students are expected to express opinions and appreciate those of others. As the course is assessed on written examinations there will be ample essay practice, much of it timed. The issues will be explored not only through debate but also through other methods including note taking. This is tackled in a variety of ways including diagrams and focused questions. We use an array of different resources to make the topics accessible, relevant, and interesting.

A Level government and politics contains aspects of law, sociology, and history and is a highly regarded academic subject. It follows naturally from GCSE citizenship, which will have given an excellent grounding in many of the topics covered. It links well with humanities and social sciences as well as complementing other subjects such as English. Career links are vast with obvious ones involving work in the public sector, law, policing, and journalism.

Assessment

All completed in Year 13.

- Component 1: UK Politics (*Paper code: 9PL0/01). Written examination: two-hours. 33⅓% of the qualification. 84 marks. Political Participation. Core Political Ideas.
- Component 2: UK Government (*Paper code: 9PL0/02). Written examination: two-hours. 33⅓% of the qualification. 84 marks. UK Government. Optional Political Ideas, students will study one idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism.
- Component 3: Comparative Politics (*Paper code: 9PL0/3A or 3B). Written examination: two-hours. 33⅓% of the qualification. 84 marks.

Students study USA (9PL0/3A) and UK government and politics.

Subject contact: Miss A. Farrall

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Product Design

Level: A Level

Board: EDEXCEL

Product design is running a brand new A Level and seeks to develop students' knowledge, understanding, skills and application for designing high quality products. Good design is vital to our world and economy. It is important, therefore, that we give our talented young designers the passion and tools needed for designing their futures.

Product design encompasses a wide range of design disciplines but is firmly rooted in the skills required to design and make high quality products. Products that are fit for purpose, environmentally friendly, meet client's requirements, enhance our day-to-day lives, and most importantly, give students the opportunity to demonstrate their design and technology capability.

This is a two-year linear course, which will consist of theory, NEA (Non-Examined Assessment, or coursework in old terms) and an examination at the end of the two years. Our students enjoy a wide variety of workshop and theory based lessons, with theory and independent making tasks dotted throughout the first year, with the major NEA in the second year.

During the NEA task, students will have the opportunity to design and make a working prototype of a commercially viable, feasible product. This will be fully researched, designed, developed, tested, manufactured, and evaluated in an iterative way, to allow for excellent outcomes and a more skilled design process. Due to the challenging nature of this course, we recommend that students take GCSE product design before taking the A Level.

Assessment

- Unit 1. NEA: 50% of qualification. Students are given the opportunity to apply the skills that they have acquired and developed throughout this course of study, to design and make a product of their choice that complies with the requirements of a product, for a live client of their choice.
- Unit 2. Examination: 50% of the qualification. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of a range of modern design and manufacturing practices and contemporary design issues.

We expect our students to be creative thinkers and makers, who have a real passion for design, and will push design boundaries to discover new things of their own. Product design A Level has an outstanding legacy of results with some of best results across the school for the last three years in a row, we are so proud of our wonderful young designers. The majority of our students every year go off to study a design related course at university with courses including motor sport engineering, civil engineering, aeronautical engineering, architecture, interior design, product design, graphic design, landscape design and more.

You will need to be organised, focused, and meet deadlines. If you are keen to do a design degree, this is an excellent place for you to really extend your skills and build an outstanding design portfolio of your own.

Subject contact: Miss A. Thunström

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Psychology

Level: A Level

Board: AQA

Psychology is the study of the human mind and behaviour. It covers many aspects of life, including cognitive process, influences and motivations. It is ideal for those fascinated by human nature. If you are interested in finding out why people behave the way they do or how the brain works, then psychology could be for you.

Current students find the course fascinating, as well as challenging due to its rigorous nature. Students must be prepared to take on a subject with no coursework, but with many essays and scientific concepts requiring considerable independent learning to master. Support is given throughout the course, including catch up sessions, but commitment and enthusiasm is imperative for success.

This course covers a range of fascinating topics such as 'memory', which includes forgetting, models of memory, as well as eyewitness testimony; 'attachment', which includes theories, animal studies and neglect; 'social influence', including obedience and conformity; 'psychopathology', including the study of depression, phobias and obsessive compulsive disorder; 'biopsychology', including the brain and sleep; approaches in psychology, research methods, schizophrenia, cognition and development and forensic psychology.

Psychology A Level will be beneficial for a wide range of careers including both those specific to psychology (educational, clinical, occupational, sport psychologist or art therapy) as well as other sectors including law, medicine and business.

Assessment

- Unit 1 (examination). Introductory topics in psychology. Social influence, memory, attachment, and psychopathology. 33.3% of the total A Level mark.
- Unit 2 (examination). Psychology in context. Approaches in psychology, biopsychology, and research methods. 33.3% of the total A Level mark.
- Unit 3 (examination). Issues and options in psychology. Issues and debates in psychology, schizophrenia, cognition and development and forensic psychology. 33.3% of the total A Level mark.

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Spanish

Level: A Level

Board: AQA

The syllabus aims towards a high level of fluency in the target language, particularly in speaking and comprehension. The full Advanced GCE remains the main qualification for gaining entry to courses in Spanish in higher education. Both AS and the full A Level offer evidence to prospective employers of a significant level of achievement in all language skills, together with critical insight and a knowledge and understanding of another culture and its place within European development.

The transition to A Level Spanish will include a revision of all “the basics”. Content will be firmly rooted in the culture of Spanish-speaking countries and covers topics for study such as political and artistic culture in Spain and South America, modern and traditional values, technology, religion, multiculturalism, and contemporary social issues. Students will also study a Spanish novel and a film.

The combination of Spanish with other subjects is attractive to both Higher Education and employers as travel and the Internet mean that communication, study, and business are frequently carried out with European and worldwide partners.

We hope to offer students the chance to visit Spain to take part in a language-intensive trip to improve their skills.

Students who have studied Spanish at Uplands in recent years have gone on to study at a range of institutions, including Oxbridge and Russell Group universities. As well as continuing with Spanish as their main subject, Spanish may be studied as a subsidiary part of degrees such as international relations, hospitality, travel and tourism, geography, business, and sports studies.

Assessment

- Paper 1: Students take a listening, reading, and writing paper, which assesses knowledge of the topic areas;
- Paper 2: Students write essays on the book and the film they have studied;
- Paper 3: A speaking examination with their teacher. Students prepare an independent research project on a Spanish subject of their choice as well as answering on the topic areas.

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