



WALTHAMSTOW HALL
SEVENOAKS

A LEVEL CHOICES

2023 – 2024

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A Levels at Walthamstow Hall

Making your A Level choices is an exciting prospect: you can pick the subjects that you enjoy and wish to explore further. Through studying your A Level courses at Walthamstow Hall, you will gain a deep understanding and life-long love of each your academic subjects, guided by expert and passionate teachers.

You will be supported throughout the decision-making process to ensure that you choose subjects that suit you and further your future ambitions. You will have a one-to-one interview with our Careers Coordinator, as well as attending A Level taster lessons. Your current teachers and the Heads of Department are ready to give you information and advice.

At Walthamstow Hall, you can choose one of the following:

- **Three A Level Subjects** - typically those with GCSE scores of 6 – 9, or a significant co-curricular programme
- **Three A Level Subjects and the EPQ** - typically those with scores of 7, 8 and 9, or perhaps with a heavier co-curricular load
- **Four A Level Subjects** – typically those with GCSE scores of 8 or 9. This challenging option will need to be discussed with Ms Evernden, Director of Studies, in order to ensure that you understand its demands.

If you choose to apply to a UK university as the next step in your education, you will find that for the vast majority of subjects, most UK universities require **three A Levels**.

Whilst extremely rewarding, studying for the EPQ alongside three A Levels is demanding and you should consider this choice carefully.

If you choose Further Maths – which is aimed at students planning to study Maths, Physics or Engineering in the subsequent stage of their education – you will choose three other A Level subjects, one of which will be Maths.

If you are choosing a “new” subject that you have not studied before – such as Business, Economics, Photography, Politics, Psychology or Sociology – there will be considerable emphasis on you gaining an accurate impression of what it entails before starting your Year 12 studies. Whilst the School will provide as much information as possible, including taster lessons, it is also important for you to conduct your own research (likely to include direct conversation with the teachers in question).

If you wish to choose two Art and Design courses, you will need to speak to Mrs Norman, Director of Creative Arts, so she can discuss with you the work that this will entail.

Options Choices Deadline: 9am Friday 3rd February 2023

Please note that the subject information is correct at the time of publication, but Heads of Department may review and change specifications in the best interests of students.

Summary of Subjects Offered

SUBJECT	QUALIFICATION	YEAR OF EXAMINATION
Art & Design: Fine Art	A Level	2025
Art & Design: Photography	A Level	2025
Art & Design: Textile Design	A Level	2025
Art & Design: Three-Dimensional Design	A Level	2025
Biology	A Level	2025
Business	A Level	2025
Chemistry	A Level	2025
Classical Civilisation	A Level	2025
Drama and Theatre	A Level	2025
Economics	A Level	2025
English Literature	A Level	2025
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	Equivalent to a "half A Level"	Work submitted Summer 2024
French	A Level	2025
German	A Level	2025
Geography	A Level	2025
History	A Level	2025
Latin	A Level	2025
Mathematics	A Level	2025
Further Mathematics	A Level	2025
Music	A Level	2025
Physical Education	A Level	2025
Physics	A Level	2025
Politics	A Level	2025
Psychology	A Level	2025
Religious Studies	A Level	2025
Spanish	A Level	2025
Sociology	A Level	2025

Art & Design: Fine Art

Board and Specification: Eduqas A651QS

Why choose this subject?

Every artist is unique and Fine Art covers a huge range of art and design practice, both contemporary and historical. It combines creative exploration with broad contextual and cultural research, enabling you to develop rigour and independence alongside the freedom to discover and hone skills pertinent to the materials, methods and interests most suited to you. Fine Art is about a passion for creating purely for aesthetic and intellectual purposes. Personal commitment, problem solving, and an ability to communicate complex concepts creatively are an integral part of this course and are highly valued within higher education, industry and business.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

Small group sizes and access to specialist equipment across the Creative Arts department will mean you are able to discover, explore and refine your own visual language through an enviable range of approaches, resources and specialist equipment should you choose to do so. You will work in a vibrant studio environment with a balance of taught skills and conceptual challenge alongside highly supportive and experienced teachers. We operate an open studio for A level students enabling you to make full use of the facilities during study periods with dedicated working areas for those in Year 13.

What you will learn (course outline):

The beginning of the course is dedicated to broadening your understanding of the context, impact, breadth, and diversity within art practice across time and diverse cultures. You will have technical skills-based workshops using traditional approaches in two- and three-dimensions. These will be complemented by utilising installation, photography and film to extend and explore the concepts you are introduced to.

In November of Year 12 you will be given an assignment that includes a selection of thematic, written and visual starting points for you to explore within your coursework (Component 1).

You will be personally supported to develop an understanding of and evidence for the following:

Contextual Understanding

Developing ideas that are informed by contextual study, an awareness of the wide variety of fine art processes, and analytical skill when appraising and comparing the sources you use.

Creative Making

To select, explore and experiment with a breadth of media and processes appropriate to your intentions, and to demonstrate discrimination when reviewing your work as it progresses.

Reflective Recording

Observe, select, and organise relevant information through drawing and other means suitable to intentions, using critical reflection to review your work showing an ability to clarify and act upon what you have learned.

Personal Presentation

Produce skilful, genuine, personal, and informed work, demonstrating an understanding of how it engages an audience, and an awareness of the context you are working within.

In February of Year 13 you will receive your externally set assignment from the exam board which will culminate in a 15-hour sustained study in the summer term.

Areas you may choose to explore within a Fine Art endorsement include:

- painting and drawing
- mixed media, including collage and assemblage
- performance and conceptual art
- sculpture

- land or environmental art
- installation
- printmaking: relief, screen processes
- animation, video, photography
- digital media

How it will be assessed:

There are two components at A Level: **Component 1** – Personal Investigation (60% of the qualification) and **Component 2** – Externally Set Assignment (40% of the qualification).

Component 1: Portfolio 60% of the qualification

The Personal Investigation consists of two integrated constituent parts:

- A practical and theoretical investigative project/portfolio and outcome/s.
- An extended written element of 1000 words minimum, which may contain images and texts and must clearly relate to practical and theoretical work, using an appropriate working vocabulary and specialist terminology

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment 40% of the qualification

This component is based on preparatory study that leads to a 15-hour period of sustained focus in which you will produce a response to a chosen visual or written stimulus.

Assessment is continuous and structured around the four assessment objectives set by the examination board. You will be assessed on your performance in each of these objectives at pertinent times throughout the course. All support and advice are given on a one-to-one basis. Both Components 1 and 2 are assessed internally and externally moderated.

Recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 or above in any Art and Design GCSE course.

Entry by portfolio in any media, and an informal interview may also be considered, however both passion and skill must be evident alongside a keen interest in visual art and culture to access study at this level.

What skills will you develop?

- Thinking: creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, communication strategy.
- Working: research, collaboration, perseverance, self-direction.
- Practical skills: (appropriate to your own areas of strength and interest), design skills, presentation skills, digital communication, drawing and recording appropriate to your intentions.
- Experience: citizenship, ethical concerns, global social responsibility

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

- Life drawing workshop run by tutors from the Royal Academy of Art.
 - Access to the MOMA list of current competitions available through Firefly
 - Personal recommendation of courses, TED talks, videos, programmes, lectures, talks, podcasts, and publications that will deepen your knowledge and understanding
 - Opportunities to 'lead' within the visual arts at School
 - Involvement in the exhibition of your work and how to present yourself as an artist.
 - Personal recommendations of exhibitions and galleries pertinent to the concepts you are studying.
 - A developing programme of internal competitions.

Careers opportunities:

The transferable skills acquired by pursuing Fine Art are highly valued by both employers and higher education. The most pertinent are:

- the ability to develop individual ideas and collaborate with others as part of a creative team
- strong observational, research and analytical skills
- creative problem solving
- the ability to communicate ideas, visually, orally and in writing
- resilience and the ability to learn from criticism and be objective.
- an openness to new influences and concepts
- a focused, goal-oriented and motivated approach.
- entrepreneurial skills in marketing your work.

Creative careers are dynamic and there will be future opportunities within this area that do not yet exist. There is currently a plethora of traditional and developing opportunities within the creative industries a small selection of which are listed below.

Advertising director, animator, architect, art editor, arts education, art gallery curator, art therapist, art valuer, arts administrator, community arts worker, conservator, exhibition designer, film director, fine artist, florist, furniture designer, furniture maker, glassmaker, graphic designer, illustrator, ceramic artist, interior designer, jewellery designer-maker, landscape architect, model maker, museum curator, colour forecaster, photographer, product designer, prop maker, set designer, visual merchandiser, web designer, games designer, motion graphic artist, visual effects artist.

Art & Design: Photography

Board and Specification: Eduqas A656QS

Why choose this subject?

The world is full of images. These days everyone has a camera in their pocket, but if you have a creative eye and have what it takes to stand out from the crowd and be a maker of professional images, then this is the subject for you. By studying how to frame the perfect composition, how to control the light, and how to use an SLR digital camera as a truly creative tool, you will gain the groundwork of knowledge and understanding to set you on a path to pursue a career in a myriad of creative industries.

Join the huge multinational industry that is 'the media', to work in graphics, tv news, fashion, advertising, press, magazines, online etc.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

Although this is a relatively new A Level subject at this School - introduced for first teaching in September 2021 - you will be taught by an art teacher who also has many years' experience of teaching Photography at A Level in the past. You will be introduced to a range of technical camera and editing skills, including Adobe Photoshop, and once you are working independently, you will not be restricted to one way of working or to one style. We very much encourage this diversity rather than a 'house' style. We will listen to what you hope to achieve, your preferred choice of techniques and encourage and help you to develop the skills you need as an individual to reach your ambitions.

We have a dedicated suite of powerful computers which run Adobe Creative Cloud and we have a large photographic studio with studio flash lighting and two cyclorama backdrops for controlled lighting set ups. In addition to class, you will be able and expected to use these facilities in your private study periods, at lunchtimes and after School. We have some DSLR cameras available for students to use, although you will need your own. This is a digital course, primarily for producing still images. However, you have the option of making some work using the moving image, and we do have use of a dark room for occasional creative experiments with traditional wet chemical developing.

What you will learn (course outline):

In the first term, you will work in teacher-directed workshops, responding to themes and or briefs in a creative way. This will develop your technical knowledge of using a DSLR camera - visual language and composition skills, studio lighting, image manipulation, creative shutter speed and aperture effects, problem-solving and idea development - within the conventions and genres of Photography. In this subject you do need to work with other people; for example, you need models if you are doing portraiture or figurative work and you will likely need to model for others too, so be prepared!

From January in Year 12 through to the end of January in Year 13, you will work on your own independent theme, based on researching and looking at photography works of your choice first-hand.

In February of Year 13 you will receive an externally set task booklet, which will give you a choice of seven themes. You will select one and develop ideas through sketchbook work and produce a final independent realisation.

How it will be assessed:

60% - Personal Investigation (coursework); this has two elements:

- A portfolio of practical personal explorations showing perceptive recording, analysis, organisation and experimentation with ideas, concepts, materials, techniques and processes showing in-depth evaluation and refinement. Starting points are based on your research for the written element below.
- A related illustrated written study, exploring genre, subject matter, movement or historical framework of the overarching starting point or selected theme.

40% - Externally Set Task – 15 hours

The Exam board sets a paper, given out in early February, offering a choice of themes, visual starting points, briefs and stimuli. Candidates will have a minimum of three weeks' preparation, although the timed outcome is usually completed after the Easter break. This will be a practical development of your ideas in a sketchbook towards a final outcome produced in 15 hours.

Recommended entry requirements:

Grade 7 or above in an Art and Design GCSE course. Although this will be at the discretion of the department. Interested students who do not have an 'Art' GCSE will be considered on their individual merit after an interview with relevant staff.

What skills will you develop?

You will develop your intellectual, imaginative, creative, and intuitive capabilities. Independence of mind in developing, refining and communicating your own ideas and personal outcomes will also be important to your success. You will specialise in one or two techniques and develop these to a high level, for example: portraiture, landscape photography, photojournalism, still life photography, documentary photography, experimental imagery, fashion photography and creative digital imagery.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

As part of the wider Art Department, Photography students will benefit from various curriculum enrichments. These include relevant gallery visits when possible, and each year tutors from The Royal Academy of Art come into School to run a Life Drawing Workshop with a mixed Year 12 and 13 class. We attend the Art in Action Lectures at a venue in London and hear from professional artists, designers, photographers and film makers working in the creative industries. At these events, students also get the opportunity to meet the speaker and ask questions.

We have a suite of computers with state of the art Adobe Photoshop Creative Cloud. We have an open studio approach for A Level students and lunchtime, free-periods and after School. We run lunchtime sessions on request for students interested in developing this skill, working with a specialist teacher.

Careers opportunities:

Advertising director, art director, news reporter, journalist, fashion photographer, animator, architect, art editor, arts education, art gallery curator, art therapist, art valuer, arts administrator, community arts worker, conservator, exhibition designer, film director, fine artist, graphic designer, illustrator, interior designer, landscape architect, model maker, museum curator, computer graphics, commercial photographer, product designer, prop maker, set designer, sign writer, visual merchandiser, website designer, online web content editor.

Art & Design: Textile Design

Board and Specification: Eduqas A653QS

Why choose this subject?

This exciting option is offered as a 2-year linear A Level with one externally set assignment at the end of the course. It is designed as a natural progression from GCSE Textile Design and offers the opportunity to explore materials and processes in depth. As at GCSE, you will continue to use broad-based themes as a starting point for your own personal investigations across the fields of Fashion Textiles, Interior Textiles and Fine art Textiles.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

The breadth of this course together with the small classes allows you to really engage with your chosen area of study. The department is well-equipped and therefore has the ability to allow you to experiment with a range of materials, techniques and equipment, across mediums of fashion, textiles for interior, costume or fine art textiles.

It is expected at Sixth Form that you will be independently visiting galleries, exhibitions and investigating processes outside your lessons to support your studies.

The Art and Textiles teachers have a range of specialist textiles skills and you will not be restricted to one way of working or to one style. The department is proud of the variety of approaches to Textiles that students take and we very much encourage this diversity rather than a 'house' style.

We will listen to what you hope to achieve, your preferred range of materials and choice of techniques and encourage and help you to develop the skills you need as an individual to reach your ambitions in Fashion Design, Textile Design, Interior Design, Costume Design or Fine Art Textiles.

Each student is assisted with a personalised tutorial learning journey. This prepares the student for university, encourages them to be independent and gives them a supported route through their A Level.

In Year 13 you will have a small space of open studio area where you can keep all of your work out and return to it at any time in the School day during a study period, or on most days after school until 6pm.

What you will learn (course outline):

In the first half term, you will work in teacher-directed workshops, responding to themes and learning new skills and techniques to broaden your horizons and imagination.

This will be underpinned by contextual studies, learning about artists and designers from around the globe, responding to ethical, environmental, social and political issues. Thereafter, you will set your own brief or theme and develop your ideas individually towards an outcome in January of Year 13.

A01 -Throughout the course you will learn to develop your ideas, through research and understanding your experiences and observations using drawing, photography, illustration and stitch.

A02 - You will utilise a wide range of skills learnt at GCSE and build and develop them for use at A Level. You will develop further your use of the formal elements such as colour, tone, texture, scale and form in relation to Textile Design for 2D and 3D processes.

A03 – You will learn to evaluate your work critically by developing and recording it as it progresses, with annotation, drawing, photography and sampling.

A04 – You will learn how to present your outcomes in a professional setting, for use at exhibitions and for portfolios if the student is going onto Higher education.

One to one, portfolio and university help is part of the course, if the student wishes to go down this route for university.

In February in the second year of your course, you will be given an exam component. This is a guided process with plenty of one-to-one help to guide you through, deciding with your tutor which exam question to follow. This results in a mini project of research and development before a fully supported three-day practical exam.

How it will be assessed:

Component 1: Personal Investigation (internally assessed and externally moderated)

This accounts for 60% of the total qualification and incorporates three major elements:

- Supporting studies
- Practical work
- Personal study (this is a written piece consisting of a minimum of 1000 words of continuous prose and is 12% of the total qualification).

Component 2: Externally set assignment

This accounts for 40% of the total qualification and incorporates two major elements:

- Preparatory studies
- 15 hour period of sustained focus (during this time you will produce final outcome(s) extending from your preparatory studies).

Assessment is continuous and structured around the 4 assessment objectives set by the examination board. You will be assessed on your performance in each of these objectives at pertinent times throughout the course. All support and advice is given on a one-to-one basis, with an indication of the level achieved at the end of a whole project.

The final assessments of coursework and exam are undertaken internally at the end of the course and externally moderated.

Recommended entry requirements:

GCSE Textiles Design grade 7 or above.

What skills will you develop?

You will develop your intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive capabilities. Independence of mind in developing, refining and communicating your own ideas and personal outcomes will also be important to your success. You will develop skills in drawing for the purpose of textile design, fashion design, design development and visualisation. You will develop your fashion communication skills and your wider knowledge of the art of fashion and textiles, whether you decide to pursue a Fine Art Textiles, Fashion Textiles and Design or Textiles for Interiors design pathway.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

Each year tutors from The Royal Academy of Art come into school to run a Life Drawing Workshop. We have guest speakers in to share industry and University experience and encourage students to take part in international competitions to raise their career profiles. We take students to New

Designers Graduate show or Graduate Fashion week, so they can take inspiration from recent graduate portfolios and prepare and investigate their university options.

Careers opportunities:

These include:

Interior designer, textiles designer for interiors (homes, hotels, cars etc.)

Fashion designer, textile designer of fabrics for fashion.

Trend Forecasting

Fashion buyer, Fashion Merchandiser

Costume Designer, maker or restorer

Fashion Communication; Stylist, Fashion marketing, Fashion PR

Museum curator.

Textile restoration.

Art & Design: Three-Dimensional Design

Board and Specification: Eduqas A655QS

Why choose this subject?

This exciting option is offered (only) as a 2-year linear A Level with one externally set assignment at the end of the course. It is designed as a natural progression from GCSE Three-Dimensional Design and offers the opportunity to fully explore materials and processes in depth. As at GCSE, you will continue to use broad-based themes as a starting point for your own investigations.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

The breadth of this course together with the small classes allows you to really engage with your chosen area of study. The department is small but well-equipped and therefore has the ability to allow you to experiment with a range of materials, techniques and equipment.

Teaching staff have an exceptionally broad experience within art and design, together with experience of working with a wide range of materials in various design disciplines.

It is expected at Sixth Form that you will be independently visiting galleries, exhibitions and investigating processes outside your lessons to support your studies.

What you will learn (course outline):

During this course you will be able to take full control of your own creative journey. You will be able to explore and refine your own ideas through focused and sustained investigations.

You will gain independence and a deeper understanding of your own work from an evolving critical awareness. You will also learn how to talk about, discuss and analyse your own work and that of other artists and designers.

It is recommended that you build on knowledge gained from previous study areas; however, the Three-Dimensional Design course has several possible areas of study:

- Ceramics
- Sculpture
- Jewellery/body ornament
- Exhibition design
- Production design
- Performance design
- Interior design
- Product design
- Environmental design
- Architectural design

How it will be assessed:

Component 1: Personal Investigation (internally assessed and externally moderated)

This accounts for 60% of the total qualification and incorporates three major elements:

- Supporting studies
- Practical work
- Personal study (this is a written piece consisting of a minimum of 1000 words of continuous prose and is 12% of the total qualification).

Component 2: Externally set assignment

This accounts for 40% of the total qualification and incorporates two major elements:

- Preparatory studies
- 15 hour period of sustained focus (during this time you will produce final outcome(s) extending from your preparatory studies).

Assessment is continuous and structured around the 4 assessment objectives set by the examination board. You will be assessed on your performance in each of these objectives at pertinent times throughout the course. All support and advice is given on a one-to-one basis, with an indication of the level achieved at the end of a whole project.

The final assessments of coursework and exam are undertaken internally at the end of the course and externally moderated.

Recommended entry requirements:

This course is open to all students who have a love of making and a desire to explore a wide range of materials and approaches in their development as a designer/maker.

It is advisable that students have experience of Three-Dimensional Design at GCSE and attained a grade 6 or above. Students who have followed alternative related courses, e.g. Design Technology, would still be welcome to apply and should present a portfolio of work that would demonstrate their suitability and enthusiasm for the core making skills required for this course. Prior knowledge of computer-based design is also preferable (for example Adobe Illustrator, 2D design V2, Google Sketchup).

What skills will you develop?

Through this course you will develop transferable skills, such as problem-solving, communication and critical thinking skills, which will prepare you for further study or the world of work, regardless of the subjects or career you wish to pursue.

The specific skills you develop are dependent on your chosen area of specialism and materials you want to explore. These are guided by your teachers before you continue your independent explorations.

You will develop a critical awareness and an appreciation for diversity.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

As a department, we work hard to identify new opportunities within external organisations appropriate to each individual, e.g. RIBA youth council, RA drawing program etc. Having unfettered access to your own working space during school hours should prepare you very well for college, university and beyond. You will be well supported in the skills needed to present your own distinct portfolio.

Careers opportunities:

This A Level would be a good partner to the humanities, Maths and/or Science, if applying for a course in architecture or a more science-led product design course.

If you wish to study Art and Design beyond A Level you could apply for university courses. You usually need to complete a one-year Art and Design Foundation Diploma. Some job roles will require you to study to a postgraduate level. Alternatively, you could research opportunities for apprenticeships, apply for an internship, gain relevant experience from voluntary work or take up an assistant role from which you progress.

This avenue of study could lead to a huge range of careers in areas such as:

- The built environment - architecture, landscape/interior/set designer.
- Fine Art - art lecturer, art curator, sculptor, painter.
- Product Design - automotive/exhibition/furniture designer.
- Communication - model maker, art editor, illustrator, art therapist, ergonomist.
- Practical - cabinet maker, jewellery maker, body artist.

Biology

Board and Specification: AQA 7402

Why choose this subject?

Biology is the study of living things - how they function, interact with each other and their environment. A Level Biology builds on concepts and skills developed at IGCSE. The course covers a wide range of topics, some of which you will have met already but will study at greater depth and others that will be completely new. It is essential to have a real curiosity about the way living things work, as well as an interest in the way Biology can be applied. Equally important is a willingness to work hard! You will be expected to follow up lessons with independent reading and consolidation.

Biology combines well with many other A Level subjects, including Chemistry or Geography. The style of the examination and the course itself also provide a refreshing contrast alongside other essay-based subjects.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

Biology is studied in well-equipped laboratories and class sizes are small. With excellent technician support, practical work is an integral part of the course. You will have four double lessons per week, divided equally between two specialist teachers. A residential two-day field course at the end of Year 12 is an exciting and essential part of your work on Ecology and a highlight of the course. It provides lots of opportunities to gain first-hand experience of a range of ecosystems and techniques. The field course does incur an additional charge, added to the school bill.

What you will learn (course outline):

The contribution of Biology to society is highlighted throughout the course. This is reflected by topics that are often in the news such as vaccination, anti-cancer drugs, stem cells and uses of genetic fingerprinting. The 8 topics will cover plants, animals and microbiology, from biological molecules and cell ultrastructure to ecosystems, energy flow and succession. You will increase your understanding of DNA structure, function and replication and Mendelian genetics. You will find out what a nerve impulse is and similarities in the way gases are exchanged in fish gills, insect tracheae and human lungs.

Year 12: Topics 1 – 4	Year 13: Topics 5 – 8
1. Biological molecules	5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
2. Cells	6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment	7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms	8. The control of gene expression

Practical work is an important part of Biology A Level. You will complete 12 core practicals, leading to a teacher endorsement of competence in practical work, as well as a range of other activities to extend and develop your skills.

How it will be assessed:

The qualification is linear. You will sit three 2 hour exams at the end of the course in Year 13.

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
<u>What is assessed:</u> Topics 1-4 Relevant practical skills	<u>What is assessed:</u> Topics 5-8 Relevant practical skills	<u>What is assessed:</u> Any content from topics 1-8 Relevant practical skills
91 marks - 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions - 15 marks: extended response questions	91 marks - 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions - 15 marks: extended response questions	78 marks: - 38 marks: structured questions - 15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data - 25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles
35% of A Level	35% of A Level	30% of A Level

Recommended entry requirements:

1/GCSE grade 8 or above in Biology (or 8/8 for Double Award Science), and at least a grade 7 in Chemistry and Mathematics.

You will study some biochemistry, so it is important that you are comfortable with aspects of chemistry including chemical formulae and types of bonding. You will be expected to carry out a variety of mathematical techniques, such as using significant figures and calculating percentages, rates and ratios. Data analysis involves drawing and interpreting frequency tables, histograms, line graphs and scattergrams. You will learn to use and interpret a range of statistical techniques.

What skills will you develop?

Studying Biology will leave you with valuable transferable skills, including data management and analysis, computer literacy and research skills. You will develop your knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures. You will develop your ability to apply your knowledge and understanding in a range of familiar and unfamiliar contexts, both theoretical and practical. You will develop your skills in analysing, interpreting and evaluating scientific information, ideas and evidence, to make judgements and reach conclusions and to suggest improvements to practical designs and procedures.

In your practical work you will develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills. You will assess risks, follow complex instructions in a written method, select equipment, consider which variables need to be controlled and whether you need to modify your method, make and record observations, process data and report your findings.

Co-curricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

You will take part in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad, run by the Royal Society of Biology. Other opportunities include attending Medsoc, helping with Science Club, Science Week and Science transition lessons for local junior schools.

Careers opportunities:

Biology A Level is an academic qualification that is widely valued by universities. It can open up a range of careers and higher education courses in medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, nursing and midwifery, engineering, optometry, physiotherapy, pharmaceutical sciences, environmental health and food science and scientific journalism, to name but a few.

Business

Board and Specification: Edexcel 9BS0

Why choose this subject?

Business broadly studies how a business operates. It comprises both a theoretical and a practical understanding of the wider economic environment in which businesses trade. This is considered from the point of view of individual businesses (their structure, motivation techniques, sources of finance) and from the perspective of the context within which the business is operating (level of competition, interest rates, environmental issues, government policy, global economic environment).

This course provides you with a breadth of knowledge that will enable you to explore the interrelationship between different operational business functions and begin to engage with the business environment.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

Small class sizes enable students to participate fully and receive excellent feedback. Both teachers of Business each have over twenty years of industry experience to draw from and to use to bring the subject to life.

Enrichment activities include Enterprise Club and debating current topical business news issues. In addition, you will have the opportunity to be a subject leader to promote the subject across the School to younger year groups and at open events.

What you will learn (course outline):

Year 12

Theme 1: Marketing and People

You will develop an understanding of:

- meeting customer needs
- the market
- marketing mix and strategy
- managing people
- entrepreneurs and leaders

Theme 2: Managing Business Activities

You will develop an understanding of:

- raising finance
- financial planning
- managing finance
- resource management
- external influences

Year 13

Theme 3: Business Decisions and Strategy

This theme develops the concepts introduced in Theme 2. You will develop an understanding of:

- business objectives and strategy
- business growth
- decision-making techniques
- influences on business decisions
- assessing competitiveness
- managing change

Theme 4: Global Business

This theme develops the concepts introduced in Theme 1. You will develop an understanding of:

- globalisation
- global markets and business expansion
- global marketing
- global industries and companies (multinational corporations)

How it will be assessed:

Assessment at the end of the two-year linear course consists of three 2 hour externally examined papers. Each paper has short data response answers followed by longer essay style answers. A pre-released research theme provides the context for Paper 3. Prior research themes have been as

follows: The Health & Fitness Industry, The Chocolate Confectionery Industry and the UK Travel Market.

Paper 1 is worth 35% of the overall grade and examines Themes 1 & 4.

Paper 2 is worth 35% of the overall grade and examines Themes 2 & 3.

Paper 3 is worth 30% of the overall grade and examines all 4 Themes focused on the pre-released research Theme.

The assessment of quantitative skills will include at least Level 2 mathematical skills as a minimum of 10% of the overall marks for this qualification.

Recommended entry requirements:

Level 6 and above in I/GCSE English and Level 6 and above in I/GCSE Maths. Strong writing skills are key.

What skills will you develop?

In this course you will develop your critical thinking, analytical and research skills and an understanding of why businesses succeed and fail and how external factors affect businesses. Additionally, you will make decisions, solve problems and explore business ethics.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

Students will have the opportunity to research firms to understand their secrets of success and to take part in competitions to develop their team working and other key employability skills.

Careers opportunities:

Business A Level can assist you if you want to start your own business or as an entry point into an advanced apprenticeship in an operational area such as marketing, finance, business administration or accounting. Business opens up a large variety of possible degree options. You could study the subject itself or a degree in accounting, finance, human resources, business management or events management. The subject knowledge will be relevant to degrees in business, management, economics, accounting, marketing, psychology and politics.

Chemistry

Board and Specification: AQA 7405

Why choose this subject?

Chemistry is the study of substances: what they are made of, how they interact and what role they play in living things. Are you curious about the materials around you and why they behave in a certain way? Do you want to have an understanding about *why* as well as *how*? We hope you will be inspired by knowledge of the atomic and molecular workings of the material world as we begin to explore and explain the appearance and behaviour of substances.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

Class sizes are small and taught in well-resourced laboratories by experienced staff. There is excellent technician support allowing practical work to be an integral part of the course. There are eight lessons a week divided equally between two different teachers.

The specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of Chemistry.

What you will learn (course outline):

	Inorganic Chemistry	Organic Chemistry	Physical Chemistry
First year of A Level	Periodicity Group 2 - the Alkaline Earth Metals Group 7 - the Halogens	Alkanes and Alkenes Alcohols Halogenoalkanes Analysis	Atomic Structure Amount of Substance Bonding Energetics Kinetics
Second year of A Level	Period 3 Elements Transition Metals Ions in Aqueous Solution	Isomerism More Functional Groups Aromatics Polymers Synthesis and Analysis	Rates Energy Equilibria Acids and Bases

Practical work

Practical work is a key component of studying Chemistry. Included in the extensive practical work, there will be 12 assessed experiments leading to an award of practical competency.

You will also be asked to apply knowledge and understanding from your practical work in your written exams.

How it will be assessed:

The Chemistry A Level qualification is linear. This means that you will sit all the exams at the end of the course.

A Level		
Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Physical and Inorganic Chemistry	Physical and Organic Chemistry	Any content Any practical skills
Written exam: 2 hours 105 marks	Written exam: 2 hours 105 marks	Written exam: 2 hours 90 marks
Short and long answer questions.	Short and long answer questions.	40 marks on practical skills. 20 marks testing across the specification. 30 marks of multiple choice questions.

Recommended entry requirements:

I/GCSE Grade 8 or 9 in Chemistry (or the Chemistry component of Double Award Science) and at least a Grade 7 in I/GCSE Mathematics.

What skills will you develop?

Studying A Level Chemistry will help you to develop competence and confidence in a variety of transferable practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills. You will use theories, models and ideas to develop scientific explanations, pose questions, define problems, present arguments and ideas. You will use appropriate methodology, including information and communication technology (ICT), to answer scientific questions and solve scientific problems.

During practical work, you will use appropriate risk management, in a range of contexts, analyse, interpret and evaluate data to provide evidence, recognising correlations and causal relationships, thereby developing a critical analytical approach to evaluating outcomes.

You will have the opportunity to work as a team and develop research skills and communicate information and ideas in appropriate ways using appropriate terminology.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

- Chemistry in Action lectures at London University.
- Organising and running an RSC Global Experiment for the lower years and local junior schools.
- Assisting with Science Week, Science Club and with Science transition lessons for local junior schools.
- Participating in the Cambridge University Chemistry Challenge C3L6 at the end of Year 12.
- Year 13 students have a weekend field trip to a disused copper mine in Derbyshire to learn more about transition metals.

Careers opportunities:

You should study Chemistry if you enjoy the challenge of a deeper understanding of the world around you. People with knowledge of Chemistry work in many different fields and this is expanding with the interest in environmental issues. Chemists develop our knowledge of the world, solve problems, improve safety and create new products and processes. Chemistry can lead to a wide range of career options, including analytical chemist, forensic scientist, pharmacologist, biotechnologist, teaching or chemical engineer to name a few. It is also useful for other careers such as engineering, law, accountancy and banking, since chemists are numerate, logical thinkers.

A Level Chemistry is essential for medical and chemical degrees and is useful for biological courses.

Classical Civilisation

Board and Specification: OCR H408

Why choose this subject?

The classical inspiration of the ancient world is all around us today. You might already be familiar with Odysseus and the wooden horse of Troy or any number of the other famous Greek myths and legends. You might have watched Percy Jackson or *The Hunger Games* or some other Hollywood classic recounting one of the many stories from the ancient world. You might even have watched a *Time Team* dig or seen one of the documentaries on life in Greek and Roman times.

The classical inspiration, however, goes even deeper than this and underpins much of what we see in our society. It has helped to shape today's democracy, theatre, literature, philosophy, art and architecture to name but a few.

Classical Civilisation allows you to study some of these areas in their original, classical context. Through discussion of ideas prevalent in classical times and appreciating their influence on modern civilisation, it will help you to develop a deeper understanding of today's society and issues.

Classical Civilisation is a little bit of English, a little bit of Drama, a little bit of RS and a little bit of History all rolled into one. It offers you the chance not only to read some of the best Greek myths, legends and plays, but also to study the Greek and Roman way of life and to learn about its principal personalities, influential ideas and incredible achievements.

You do **not** need to know any Latin and will not be learning Latin. You do **not** need to have studied GCSE Classical Civilisation.

Classical Civilisation is also offered as an AS Level. If you are interested in this, please speak to Mr Buckingham.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

A study of Classical Civilisation is never boring; it helps us to understand the world in which we live. It also complements many other popular A Levels; for example, English, History, Drama, RS, Art, Politics and Sociology.

Lessons are relaxed and fun and you will enjoy the benefits of small class teaching using the latest technology can offer. There is never a dull moment as the subject is so broad and diverse. It rewards someone who is prepared to work; you do not have to be naturally gifted to achieve a good grade. Results have been excellent with all students achieving A* - B in 2019-2022.

What you will learn (course outline):

Homer's *Odyssey* – If you enjoyed reading about Percy Jackson, you will love the story of Odysseus getting home from the war at Troy. Experience his many adventures including close encounters with the Cyclopes, Sirens, Giants and Lotus-Eaters. See how our hero is helped and delayed by an array of gods and goddesses and enjoy his final victory over the 108 Suitors who are trying to marry his wife.

Greek Theatre – The drama produced in the ancient Greek theatre forms some of the most powerful literature of the ancient world and has had a profound and wide-reaching influence on modern culture. Not only will you read some of the best tragedies and comedies (*Oedipus*, *Bacchae*, *Frogs*), but you will also study the ancient theatre used by the Greeks to stage their dramas, examine depictions of this staging in Greek art and explore how these plays might have been staged.

Virgil's *Aeneid* - This component provides you with the opportunity to appreciate Virgil's *Aeneid*, a cornerstone and landmark in Western literature of epic proportions. Drawing inspiration from

Homer, as well as from his own cultural and political context, Virgil explored what it was to be a hero in the Roman world and created a work which has proven enduringly popular and profoundly influential.

Greek Religion - Religion was an essential part of life for the Greeks, permeating all strata of society and all aspects of an individual's daily life. Religion could be connected to the household, to life in the city or life in the countryside; moreover, politics and religion were intertwined to the extent that political decisions were sometimes made on the basis of divine oracular intervention. You will learn about the Greek gods and how they interacted with this world; you will explore various temples and religious sanctuaries and how the Greeks worshipped these gods; you will read about what Socrates and Plato had to say about these deities.

How it will be assessed:

Three written examinations. There is no coursework.

Recommended entry requirements:

An enthusiasm for literature, history, drama and philosophy.

What skills will you develop?

A study of Classical Civilisation will help you to be more open-minded about the world in which you live. It strengthens your problem-solving skills, enables you to think precisely and to communicate clearly. It will nurture a love of literature, personalities and the past. It will provide an appreciation of the achievements and lasting legacy of a civilisation which has had such a profound influence upon our own society.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

Your study of the subject is not just limited to the classroom. You will have the opportunity to watch performances of some of the plays you study, listen to various experts talk about their specific fields in academia and to visit either Greece or Italy and experience close-up what you are learning at School.

Careers opportunities:

Some people say that if you choose a Classics degree you are opting for three or four years' pleasure to the detriment of your future career. But the truth is that a Classics student gets the best of both worlds, studying for a fascinating degree and coming out exceptionally well-qualified at the end of it. It does not get much better than that.

- Accountancy
- Teaching
- Librarianship
- Academia
- Civil Service
- Museum Work
- Archaeology
- Journalism
- Media
- Information Technology
- Military
- Management Consultancy
- Law
- Media
- Publishing
- Social Work
- Auction House Work
- Politics
- Arts Management
- Theatre and Performing Arts

Drama and Theatre

Board and Specification: Edexcel 9DR0

Why choose this subject?

If you love the theatre and enjoy acting, designing or directing then this course is for you. You will study the theatre practitioners Stanislavski and Kneehigh and embrace and adapt their performance philosophies into your own practical work - this will culminate in you producing and performing sophisticated and unique pieces of theatre.

Although Drama and Theatre A Level covers as much theoretical application of the subject as practical, the written work always stems from the practical undertakings you will have explored in the theatre space. Practical work is the core of this course and your learning will come from getting up and doing instead of sitting in a classroom and talking.

You will learn a huge amount about directing through the practical study of Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba*. You will learn the powerful subtleties of interpretation and how to ensure an audience is shifting their sympathies in the direction you want them to. As an actor, your confidence will grow steadily as the course progresses simply because you will have engaged in so much practical work through which you will have continually stretched yourself. By the time you perform your final exam piece in the second year The Ship stage will feel like your second home.

Should acting not be your thing then there are opportunities to instead offer lighting and/or sound as part of the practical examined aspects. However, all Drama students will participate in the practical explorations that lead to the devised piece and written exam.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

Drama has been very much part of the heart and soul of Walthamstow Hall since the School's founding years and the subject continues to grow from strength to strength. Wally Drama punches above its weight and the department's productions are well-regarded, both inside and outside of our community, for their high standards and professionalism. The students involved, whether on or off stage, have a fantastic experience from auditions through to the run and the skills they learn are invaluable for whichever career path they choose to take. Currently, over eighty students take Drama at GCSE and A Level and the standards they achieve are extremely high. Last year at A Level, 100% achieved Grade A or higher.

We are lucky to have The Ship Theatre as our main teaching space along with two drama studios and extra rehearsal spaces. Practice rooms are used as dressing rooms as well as for the storage of costumes and props for upcoming productions.

Class sizes are generally kept fairly small to ensure that high standards are maintained. Drama students enjoy getting involved in main School productions as well as producing examined performances throughout the year.

All students have the opportunity to apply for a Sixth Form Drama scholarship as well as to audition for the prestigious National Youth Theatre who use the School as an audition centre. All Drama students will go on several theatre trips as part of their academic course.

What you will learn (course outline):

Component 1: Devising

- Devise an original performance piece.
- Use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli.
- Performer or designer routes are available.

Component 2: Text in Performance

- A group performance/design realisation of one key extract from a performance text.
- A monologue or duologue performance/design realisation from one key extract from a different performance text.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

- Live theatre evaluation – choice of performance.
- Practical exploration and study of a complete performance text – focusing on how this can be realised for performance from the perspective of performer and designer.
- Practical exploration and interpretation of another complete performance text, in light of a chosen theatre practitioner – focusing on how this text could be re-imagined for a contemporary audience from a director's perspective.

How it will be assessed:

Component 1: Devising

Internally assessed and externally moderated - worth 40% of the qualification and 80 marks.

There are two parts to the assessment:

- A portfolio (60 marks).
- The devised performance/design realisation (20 marks).

Component 2: Text in Performance

Externally marked - worth 20% of the qualification and 60 marks

- Group performance/design realisation (36 marks).
- Monologue or duologue/design realisation (24 marks).

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

One written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes worth 40% of the qualification and 80 marks.

Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation (20 marks).

Section B: Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text (36 marks).

Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text (24 marks).

Recommended entry requirements:

No GCSE subject restrictions but a genuine interest in the theatre is essential plus a strong commitment to the subject. There must be a minimum of three in the group.

What skills will you develop?

Drama and Theatre will develop your confidence and communication with people and your ability to think creatively and imaginatively. You will work in teams to prepare and deliver public performances. Through the course you will develop your critical analysis of theatre and hone your performance techniques. Some of the skills you will develop include self-confidence, teamwork, working under pressure, initiative, responsibility, creativity, compromising, communicating, presenting and pitching - the list is endless.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

You will be invited to audition for the major November School production as well as other performance opportunities throughout the two-year course. In the Spring Term we host the National Youth Theatre auditions here at the School and this is a fabulous opportunity to audition and work with them. Part of the course involves seeing professional live theatre productions including work from live theatre immersive theatre companies.

Careers opportunities:

Drama and Theatre provides excellent training for careers in the theatre from production to performance. It provides a sound basis for future studies in the arts, law, media, publishing, marketing, education and all careers with a focus on interpersonal skills such as human resources and teaching. Professions that past Drama students have gone into include medicine, law, biochemistry, technical theatre, acting, film, journalism, science and business.

Economics

Board and Specification: AQA 7136

Why choose this subject?

In essence, Economics focuses on the ever-changing world around us and is the theoretical examination of the ways society organises its production of goods and services. It considers how the economy is best managed, considering economic objectives such as inflation, unemployment, the balance of payments, the exchange rate and economic growth.

The subject is highly regarded by universities because of its academic rigour and the development of transferrable skills involving the debate, analysis and critical evaluation of topical/current affairs. Economics incorporates maths and statistics and touches other subjects such as law, politics and geography. As a subject, it lies both within both the sciences and humanities.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

The department has excellent classroom facilities, an extensive in-department library of Economics books and small class sizes to ensure students get the most from the course. Enrichment opportunities include Enterprise Club, lecture trips and debating with other schools. In addition, you will have the opportunity to be a subject leader to promote the subject across the School to younger year groups and at open events.

What you will learn (course outline):

This Economics course blends theory with applied economics. It is broadly divided into two main areas – microeconomics and macroeconomics. Microeconomics deals with the actions of individual firms or markets. These concepts are introduced through the use of market supply and demand analysis and questions of interest apply the theory to reality, through contemporary issues such as government policy to reduce household waste, subsidies and the arts, and how to tackle rising petrol prices.

Macroeconomics deals with the whole economy. You will analyse changes to the economy through understanding the impact of interest rates, inflation, unemployment, the balance of payments and international trade. You will apply economic theory to current problems and issues such as how the government should stimulate growth in the UK economy, the effects of rich countries relaxing laws controlling immigration, and protectionism's impact on global trade.

Theme 1 - Individuals, Firms, Markets and Market Failure

- Economic methodology and the economic problem
- Individual economic decision-making
- Price determination in a competitive market
- Production, costs and revenue
- Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly
- The labour market
- The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
- The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets

Theme 2 - Macroeconomics

- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- How the macroeconomy works: the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis and related concepts
- Economic performance
- Financial markets and monetary policy
- Fiscal policy and supply-side policies
- The international economy

How it will be assessed:

Assessment is at the end of the two-year linear course and consists of three 2 hour exams worth 80 marks each.

Paper 1: Microeconomics - short answer, data response and essay questions (with choice of data response and essay question).

Paper 2: Macroeconomics - short answer, data response and essay questions (with choice of data response and essay question).

Paper 3: Economic Principles and Issues – 30 multiple choice questions from across the syllabus and a 50 mark multi-part essay on a given economic issue.

The assessment of quantitative skills will include at least Level 2 mathematical skills as a minimum of 10% of the overall marks for this qualification.

Recommended entry requirements:

Level 6 and above in I/GCSE English and Level 5 and above in I/GCSE Maths. Strong writing skills are key.

What skills will you develop?

You will develop your critical thinking, analytical and written skills by learning how to evaluate market situations, economic data and potential government solutions. You will be able to analyse, critically evaluate and explain the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy and the role of the government within it.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

Students will have the opportunity to enter the Royal Economic Society (RES) Essay Competition, to study fiscal policy in depth as part of the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) Budget Challenge and to debate topical issues with other schools.

Careers opportunities:

Economics A Level can assist you as an entry point into an apprenticeship in finance or accounting, to support a degree in accounting, finance, business management, economics or international relations. It can lead into careers in journalism, banking, and management consultancy. However, all medium to large companies and governments need economists to provide insight into how their markets might change and how changes in the external environment might affect them.

English Literature

Board and Specification: Edexcel 9ETO

Why choose this subject?

This course is a pure Literature course, so if you enjoy reading, discussing, analysing and writing about your reactions to literary texts then this is the course for you. It is also great preparation for the study of many subjects at university level.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

Wherever possible, A Level lessons are timetabled in 6E in The Lang Centre – this is the largest teaching room in the building so is ideal for group work or acting out key scenes in drama texts. Our class sizes are small enough so that you get lots of individual help and can contribute to discussions fairly. All of our teachers love teaching A Level and are passionate about the texts they choose, so they are very enthusiastic about sharing what they know with you.

What you will learn (course outline):

Component 1: Drama

- A Shakespeare play and an anthology of critical essays about that play to read, consider, and discuss in class and in your essays.
 - You will study this in Year 13, though we will start it at the end of Year 12.
 - You will choose one question out of a choice of two and must incorporate ideas from the critical essays.
- Another play from the genre either of tragedy or comedy.
 - You will study this in Year 12.
 - You will choose one question out of a choice of two.

Component 2: Prose

- Two prose texts from a chosen theme.
 - You will study this in Year 12.
 - At least one of the texts will be pre-1900.
 - You will answer one comparative essay from a choice of two on your studied theme.

Component 3: Poetry

- An anthology of post-2000 poetry.
 - You will study this in Year 12.
 - You will answer one question from a choice of two, comparing an unseen poem with a specified poem from the anthology.
- A group of poems linked in some way: from a certain form, period or poet.
 - You will study this in Year 13, in the Spring Term.
 - You will answer one question from a choice of two.

Component 4: Coursework

- Two texts compared in an extended essay.
 - You will start this in the Summer Term of Year 12, work on it over the summer, and finish it in the Autumn Term of Year 13.
 - The texts can be poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction, and linked by theme, movement, author or period.
 - Word count should be 2500-3000 words.

How it will be assessed:

Your essays will be assessed using the following objectives:

- AO1: articulate, informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression.
 - A controlled, critical evaluative argument.
 - Frequent, fluently embedded examples.
 - Evaluation of the effects of literary features with sophisticated use of concepts and terms.
 - Carefully chosen and sophisticated written expression.
 - Controlled and precisely signposted essay structure.
- AO2: Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts.
 - Critical evaluation of the effects of literary features and how they shape meanings.
 - Sophisticated, controlled understanding of the nuances and subtleties of the writer's craft.
- AO3: demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.
 - Sophisticated evaluation and appreciation of the significance and influence of context.
 - Detailed, sophisticated exploration of links between texts and context.
- AO4: explore connections across literary texts.
 - Evaluation of connections between texts.
 - Controlled integration of the texts with detailed examples.
- AO5: explore literary texts informed by different interpretations of texts.
 - Sustained, developed evaluation and exploration of different interpretations and alternative readings.
 - Controlled, cogent discussion, which considers alternative interpretations to develop and illuminate own critical position.

Recommended entry requirements:

Level 7 for both English Language and Literature I/GCSE

What skills will you develop?

English Literature A Level will help you develop skills of presentation and debating, structuring and supporting a clear, coherent, confident argument, and improving your writing style, expression and accuracy.

- The ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing
- Independent working
- Time management and organisation
- Planning and researching
- Articulating knowledge and understanding of texts, concepts and theories
- Leading and participating in discussions
- Negotiating and team-working to present ideas and information
- Effectively conveying arguments and opinions and thinking creatively
- Using your judgement to weigh up alternative perspectives
- Critical reasoning and analysis

Co-curricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

We provide you with an extensive list of ways to enhance your learning outside the classroom and are always on the lookout for events to promote or visit, with two dedicated Firefly pages to extend and enrich your classroom learning, full of recommended podcasts, books, lectures and online events. The English Department also runs a Senior Reading Group for Sixth Form students and staff which meets monthly and discusses a range of literary texts.

Careers opportunities:

You can use the skills you develop through studying English Literature in many, if not most, career areas. Remember that many employers accept applications from graduates with any degree subject, so don't restrict your thinking to the jobs listed here – graduate programmes are hugely varied and will welcome your enhanced written and spoken communications skills, ability to analyse and to express your views fluently and concisely.

Jobs directly related to an English Literature degree include:

- Editorial assistant
- Publisher
- Lexicographer
- Magazine journalist
- Newspaper journalist
- Primary school teacher
- Secondary school teacher
- Writer

Jobs where your degree would be useful include:

- Academic librarian
- Advertising account executive
- Advertising copywriter
- Arts administrator
- Information officer
- Marketing executive
- Public relations officer
- Records manager

Further study:

Some English Literature graduates choose to continue their academic studies by doing an MA or a PhD, while others choose to study more vocational postgraduate courses in areas such as teaching, journalism, librarianship or law. Such courses allow you to study in an area you wish to enter as a career. More information on funding for postgraduate study and research is available from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). As with other subjects, English Literature graduates may decide to undertake further study in areas such as marketing and management, finance, human resource management and business to enhance their knowledge of a specific career area.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Board and Specification: AQA 7993

Why choose this subject?

The Extended Project Qualification will provide you with an opportunity to extend your abilities beyond the A Level syllabus, stand out and prepare for university or your future career. Many leading universities, for example Southampton University, make reduced offers if you achieve a high grade in your EPQ. Another benefit is that you do not have to prepare for an examination but it can be used to earn you extra UCAS points. The EPQ is a qualification designed to develop your skills in independent research and project management. It will give you the freedom to be intellectually curious and complete a piece of work on a subject of your choice. If you enjoy working independently, are self-driven, can manage your time well and have a genuine interest in your topic then the EPQ is right for you.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

All of us in the EPQ department at Walthamstow Hall are passionate about the project and the many benefits that it provides. The EPQ is completed in Year 12 allowing you to focus on your other A Level subjects in Year 13 leading up to public examinations. The taught skills programme delivered in lessons will allow you to develop the necessary skills to be successful. Our small class size means that we can know you individually and refer to your particular research topic when delivering the taught element. In addition, weekly timetabled tutorials with a supervisor provide one-to-one support and guidance throughout the whole process. We are fortunate to have access, through the Library, to numerous databases which provide great support for the research element of the project. Finally, you can make a choice between producing a written report, 5000 words, or an artefact and a shorter written report, approximately 2000 words.

What you will learn (course outline):

The project consists of two elements, the taught element and independent work. The taught element will comprise 30 hours of teaching. The remaining 90 hours of your project will be spent on individual work researching, producing, recording and presenting your EPQ.

The taught element will focus on skills and include the following:

- Research skills, including the ability to search for and identify suitable sources of information in the chosen subject area.
- ICT skills that will enhance the production of the report and/or the development of the project.
- Project management skills, including time, resource and task management.
- The format and structure of accepted academic forms of research report.
- Referencing and the evaluation of sources.
- Presentation skills.

How it will be assessed:

Your coursework piece is assessed internally by your supervisor and moderated by AQA. Assessment objectives and their weightings are:

AO1: Manage:

Identify, design, plan, and carry out a project, applying a range of skills, strategies and methods to achieve objectives (20%).

AO2: Use Resources:

Research, critically select, organise and use information, and select and use a range of resources. Analyse data, apply relevantly and demonstrate understanding of any links, connections and complexities of the topic (20%).

AO3: Develop and Realise:

Select and use a range of skills, including, where appropriate, new technologies and problem-solving, to take decisions critically and achieve planned outcomes (40%).

AO4: Review:

Evaluate all aspects of the extended project, including outcomes in relation to stated objectives and own learning and performance. Select and use a range of communication skills and media to present evidenced project outcomes and conclusions in an appropriate format (20%).

Recommended entry requirements:

English I/GCSE with a result of grade 6 or higher. A genuine interest in the topic or curriculum area that you wish to pursue.

What skills will you develop?

The EPQ supports independent learning and will allow you to develop planning skills, research skills, decision-making skills and problem-solving skills. The process of completing the project will also enhance your writing, evaluation and presentation skills.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

Students are expected to complete an online study skills course with Bath University, “How to succeed in your EPQ: The Nuts and Bolts of completing your project”. This introduces them to skills that are transferable across A Level subjects and prepares them for the EPQ qualification.

Careers opportunities:

The EPQ is supported by both universities and employers due to the vital skills that it develops. It is therefore highly beneficial and relevant to all future career paths. An EPQ topic or question could be chosen to support a particular career path, for example medicine.

Geography

Board and Specification: AQA 7037

Why choose this subject?

Geography is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today, as many of the world's current problems boil down to Geography. We need the Geographers of the future to help us understand them. Geography as a subject is one that can keep you future-proofed due to its range of transferable skills. Some of these skills are in demand from organisations across a variety of sectors. Analytical and critical thinking skills are among the abilities employers are looking for in more and more roles. Global warming, sustainable food production, natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, the spread of disease, the reasons for migration and the future of energy resources are just some of the great challenges facing the next generation of Geographers.

Geography at A Level can open the doors to a university degree, either specifically in Geography or, by combining Geography with other A Levels, to gain a place on a degree programme in another subject. A Level Geography is recognised for its academic 'robustness' and the Guardian newspaper's view on Geography is that 'it's the must-have A Level' (August 2015). Most importantly, it also helps people into the world of work and many employers prize the knowledge and skills that studying Geography can provide.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

Geography at Walthamstow Hall is not just about drilling facts into you. It is more about nurturing a passion for study in order to develop an interest in the world in which you live. We feel it is important to have a spatial understanding of the world to help contextualise everything that is studied in class. You are encouraged to be independent learners and lessons are taught to equip every style of learning. The department is very well-resourced with individual textbooks allocated to every student in examination classes. To supplement this, students have access to online learning through a Kerboodle subscription. Fieldwork is very important in developing your understanding and is undertaken in each academic year. You will be taken on a 5-day residential trip to Devon in a field study centre to investigate coastal process, urban change, local ecology and microclimates; this trip will incur a cost. As well as this, you can take part in international trips, such as investigating tectonic activity and glaciation in Iceland.

What you will learn (course outline):

Your A Level Geography course will cover both the physical and human environments and the complex interaction of processes that shape our world.

The Physical paper has a compulsory Section A, Water and Carbon Cycles. This is followed by two sections, each with options chosen by the teacher. The options for Section B are either Hot Desert Environments and their Margins or Coastal Systems and Landscapes. The options for Section C are either Hazards or Ecosystems under Stress or Cold Environments.

The Human paper consists of two compulsory sections: Section A: Global Systems and Global Governance (globalisation, international trade and access to markets and the governance of the global commons - a study of Antarctica); Section B: Changing Places (involving the study of two contrasting places, one to be local, using a variety of appropriate investigative techniques). These two Sections are followed by Section C (with options chosen by the teacher): Contemporary Urban Environments, Population and the Environment or Resource security.

How it will be assessed:

The AQA linear Geography A Level is composed of three parts: Physical Geography, Human Geography and a Geographical Investigation (Non-Examination Assessment).

Both of the written examination papers are 2 hours 30 minutes in length and each are worth 96 marks and 40% of the A Level. The questions include a variety of styles: multiple choice, short answer, levels of response and extended prose.

The 3000-4000 word investigation is worth 60 marks and 20% of the A Level. It is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA. Preparation for this will be carried out at the residential field study centre. The investigation will then be written independently. The individual Geographical Investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by you relating to any part of the specification content. The field study will incur a charge

Recommended entry requirements:

In order to study Geography at A Level, we would expect a student to have achieved at least a Level 7 at GCSE and also show a passion for developing their understanding beyond their current understanding.

What skills will you develop?

You will develop your critical thinking, developing an understanding of where information has come from and what implication it has, thus allowing you to contextualise your findings. You will develop a better understanding of data analysis as you will be gathering from a range of sources which need to be analysed and evaluated. You will develop primary research skills, gathering information from a range of sources. You will start to build relationships and synoptic links between subjects from both the science and humanities areas of the curriculum.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

There will be an opportunity to visit Iceland, a landscape of volcanoes, glaciers and breath-taking scenery. You will also be able to attend thought-provoking Geography lectures on current topics given by experts. Other opportunities include taking part in inter-school events that relate to geopolitics.

Careers opportunities:

For careers in the world of business an understanding of global economics forms an important part of Geography. If you are considering a career in law, human rights or international relations, an understanding of Geography gives you the opportunity to consider relevant global issues like international migration, global development and resource scarcity.

If you are aiming at a future course in medicine or veterinary medicine, then Geography offers the breadth that universities like, as you will gain a clear understanding of how the environment affects health and survival of people, animals and ecosystems. A development of skills in critical thinking is important in many jobs as you will be able to evaluate data based on a variety of factors, e.g. criminologists have to do this when assessing evidence. Data analysis, research and IT skills, such as Geographical Information Systems are the most sought after by employers and can be used in careers in business and planning.

With its multi-disciplinary approach, Geography gives you the chance to keep your options open, as it covers both arts and science components. It gives you the opportunity to be a critical thinker, an organiser and be informed of topical issues, as well as enhancing your skills when writing essays and extended reports.

History

Board and Specification: OCR H505

Why choose this subject?

History is a truly inspiring subject. It provides you with fascinating insights into human nature and an understanding of the political and societal structures we live with today. You get to ask great questions, sift through evidence, and weigh up how far you should trust different viewpoints. These are especially important skills to have in an era of 'fake news'. It is also great preparation for university.

The study of History encourages you to be an independent and original thinker – and, crucially, we think it is great fun. You will enjoy your lessons with us!

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

The History department at Walthamstow Hall is award-winning. Our small class sizes allow us to meet one-to-one with students, so you understand exactly what is needed to make progress. We are also keen to inspire your interest in History outside of lessons. We organise trips to various lectures and events and are investigating a possible trip to Vietnam and Cambodia. We belong to several professional organisations that welcome student participation such as the Historical Association and the Sevenoaks Historical Society. We also run the Sixth Form Debating Society and Model United Nations and support students interested in the Historical Association's Great Debate. We really love the topics we get to study at A Level and are keen to ensure you both enjoy and excel at your studies.

What you will learn (course outline):

The specification is divided into 3 topics and a personal investigation covering a key range of periods in History.

Paper 1: Britain 1900-1951

Topics include: England in 1900; Constitutional crisis, causes, course and results; the issue of women's suffrage 1906–1914; problems in Ireland 1910–1914; the development of ideas of new liberalism, including the role of Lloyd George and Churchill; the debate over poverty; attitudes to war in 1914; the impact of war on the Home Front; political developments during the war: the coalition of 1915, the creation of the Lloyd George Coalition; the role of women in the war, and the extension of the franchise in 1918.

Paper 2: The Cold War in Asia 1945-1993

Topics include: Decisions at Yalta and Potsdam, US and USSR policies after the fall of China to communism, in North Korea, Japan; British policies in Malaysia; The Korean War and its impact to 1977; The Vietnam War; US bombing in Cambodia and the rise of Pol Pot, the Killing Fields, the creation of the Cambodian Kingdom, Paris Peace Settlement 1991-1993.

Paper 3: Popular Culture and the Witchcraze of the 16th and 17th Centuries

Topics include: Popular and rural culture; the role of pageants, festivals of misrule and public humiliation; the role of magic and belief in society; the economic, political, intellectual challenges to popular culture; the main reasons for the growth and decline in witch persecutions; the geography of the witch craze in Europe and North America with specific depth studies of witch hunts in Southern Germany 1590-1630, Hopkins in East Anglia 1645-1647 and the Salem witch trials 1692-1693.

A Personal Investigation on a topic of your choice

This is a single essay you research and write on a topic that interests you. We have dedicated lesson time as well as weekly one-to-one support to help you research, plan and write your essay.

How it will be assessed:

The qualification is linear. This means that you will sit all the exams at the end of the course in Year 13. There are three papers which are externally assessed and one piece of coursework which is internally assessed and externally moderated.

External exam assessment			
	What's assessed	How assessed	Weighting
Paper 1	Pitt to Peel	1 hour and 30 minutes exam 50 marks	25%
Paper 2	Cold War in Asia	1 hour and 15 minutes exam 30 marks	15%
Paper 3	Popular Culture and the Witchcraze	2 hours and 30 minutes exam 80 marks	40%
Non exam assessment			
Personal Investigation		3000-4000 word essay 40 marks	20%

Recommended entry requirements:

History at I/GCSE with a result of grade 6 or higher.

What skills will you develop?

By taking A Level History you will learn how to read more effectively and efficiently and build on your GCSE planning and organisational skills. You will develop your research skills using professional databases to collate information from a variety of sources in order to piece information together and see the big picture. You will also develop strong written communication skills by sifting through information, summarising many pages of information in a few sentences and selecting what is most important to structure an effective and persuasive argument. Throughout the course, you will evaluate the importance and reliability of different arguments and perspectives, think creatively and insightfully and manage your time effectively.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

The History Department heads up the Sixth Form Debating Society and Model United Nations. We also organise trips to lectures, museums and the National Archives.

Careers opportunities:

History is a broad subject and has a well-deserved reputation as a rigorous academic discipline; as such, it supports a range of careers. The skills students learn through the study of History are prized by most professions and easily transferable. It is also future-proofed. According to the World Economic Forum, the number of careers that need 'human' skills like analytical thinking, effective communication and leadership are growing. This means the study of History provides you with the knowledge and skills to pursue careers in the future, no matter what direction technology, global trade, and politics might take them.

History is very well-regarded by both employers and universities due to the highly prized skills you will learn such as argumentation, communication, research and how to think critically. Previous Walthamstow Hall students have progressed to law, publishing and media, economics and finance, business, politics and international relations, marketing and advertising, conservation and restoration, museum curation, science and research, archaeology, education and library services.

Languages: French, German & Spanish

Board and Specification: Edexcel 9FR0, 9GN0, 9SP0

Why choose this subject?

The study of a modern language is understood to be an interdisciplinary subject offering the same cognitive and academic advantages as other disciplines within the humanities. Students develop an advanced level knowledge and understanding of the language and the culture, as well as practical and valuable language and transferable study skills, such as communication skills, critical thinking, autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility. The courses help prepare students for higher education and enhance their employability profile.

The content for A Level in a modern language has been designed to be of relevance to students of all disciplines, whether they intend to progress to further study in the subject or not. It will provide a robust foundation for those wishing to study a modern language to degree level or equivalent.

Language learning gives an invaluable insight into how other countries and cultures present themselves to the world. When someone speaks the same language as you, you feel an instant connection.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

In the Sixth Form you will be taught in a small class in the Lang Centre, dedicated to Sixth Form teaching. This will also be the venue for your one-to-one weekly conversation lesson with a native speaker Foreign Language Assistant. Your lessons will largely be taught in the language you are studying, and, in some lessons, you will hardly hear any English. You will find that you cope with this with increasing confidence, and this enables our Kent classrooms to become small corners of the French, German and Spanish-speaking worlds.

What you will learn (course outline):

The A Level specification in modern languages builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed at I/GCSE.

Students develop knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the society and culture, past and present, of the country or countries where the language is spoken. These themes address a range of social issues and trends, as well as aspects of the political and artistic culture of the relevant countries where the language is spoken.

Themes:

- Theme 1, covered in Year 12: *Social issues and trends*
The modern education system, the modern workplace, the changing nature of the family (France), nature and the environment (Germany), tourism (Spain).
- Theme 2, covered in Year 12: *Political / intellectual / artistic culture*
The changes, developments and impact of music on popular culture, the media, heritage and festivals, customs and traditions.
- Theme 3, covered in Year 13: *Immigration and a multicultural society*
The positive impact of immigration, integration, the economy, the political situation.
- Theme 4, covered in Year 13:
French: The Occupation and Resistance
German: The reunification of Germany
Spanish: The Franco dictatorship and the transition to democracy

You will also study one or two works of literature and a film in the language you are learning. Below is a selection from the current prescribed lists of literary works and films at A Level. The lists all include contemporary and more classical titles. Teachers choose which works will be studied from the prescribed lists.

French

Texts

Albert Camus: *L'Etranger*
Joseph Joffo: *Un sac de billes*
Delphine de Vigan: *No et moi*
Mariama Bâ: *Une si longue lettre*

Films

Intouchables
La Haine
Entre les murs
Les 400 coups

German

Texts

Dürrenmatt: *Der Besuch der alten Dame*
Frisch: *Andorra*
Kafka: *Die Verwandlung*
Schlink: *Der Vorleser*

Films

Goodbye Lenin!
Das Leben der Anderen
Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei
Lola rennt

Spanish

Texts

Esquivel: *Como agua para chocolate*
Lorca: *La Casa de Bernardo Alba*
Isabel Allende: *La casa de los espíritus*
Gabriel García Márquez: *El coronel no tiene a quien le escribe*

Films

Volver
El laberinto del fauno
Todo sobre mi madre
Mar adentro

How it will be assessed:

You will take exams during the Summer Term, at the end of your two-year course.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

- Listening individually controlled by the student.
- Comprehension questions.
- Paper includes a short translation into English.

Paper 2: Writing

- A short translation from English into French/German/Spanish.
- Two essays – either one question in the foreign language on a set literary text and one question in the foreign language on a set film or two questions in the foreign language on set literary texts.

Paper 3: Speaking

- A discussion of a sub-theme from the following areas: Society – current trends, Society – current issues, Artistic culture, Aspects of political life.
- Discussion is based on a stimulus card studied immediately prior to the test.
- Followed by presentation and discussion of the student's individual research project.

Recommended entry requirements:

To study a modern foreign language, you will ideally have achieved a level 7 or above in that language.

What skills will you develop?

Language studies enrich across four skills: enhancing listening skills, developing abilities in the written word, fostering confidence in the spoken word and stretching reading skills. They open up a whole new world of foreign literature and cinema.

Language students are committed and take on challenges. Their hard work is rewarded with a skill that often stays with them throughout their lives. Commanding a language gives students a huge sense of pride in their own powers of resilience.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

Our Sixth Form linguists often share the aspiration to one day become fluent in their chosen language. As they inch closer to this, there is so much that they can do outside of the classroom. Waking up to foreign language radio, discovering podcasts, enjoying foreign TV and films, keeping up to date with the news, reading magazines and books – all of these are recommended activities at home.

We expect our Sixth Form linguists to spend time in a country of the language they are studying, as this will lead to rapid linguistic progress and an increased cultural awareness. Independently organised immersion courses that combine study, or work experience placements, with a residential experience within a family are excellent and highly rewarding. You will often make connections and form friendships that last a lifetime.

During our recent circumstances of more limited travel opportunities, many people found creative ways of learning about, and communicating with, the wider world. Online museum visits, theatre productions, talks and Zoom chats with a contact abroad, are just some of the ways we can reach out beyond the UK. Many of the innovations brought about by the pandemic may well be here to stay.

Careers opportunities:

Languages have never been so relevant in our globalised world. Industry is increasingly calling out for language students to fill top positions in trading organisations, banks and multinational companies. The government needs strong communicators and eloquent diplomats to represent the country abroad; there is also a need for people who enable manufacturers and service providers to be able to communicate with new markets and suppliers to grow business and increase sales.

Languages can lead to better paid jobs across a wide range of industries. You could become a doctor taking your research to South America, a geologist going to new markets in West Africa or a diplomat working in China. There is also a growing awareness amongst local employers in small and medium-sized enterprises that language students are often the best communicators and the most confident in meetings.

Language students show that they are committed to the core skills that we need in the modern world. You can show that you are a flexible, resilient, world-aware, engaged and eloquent person for whom challenges are seen as opportunities.

The list of jobs for which a foreign language is useful is very long and varied: advertising and media executives, business negotiators, digital marketers, fashion buyers, interpreters, journalists, lawyers, personal assistants, project managers, publishing assistants, social workers, teachers, translators, travel bloggers... this is just the tip of the iceberg!

How about doing a work experience placement abroad? You will see a rapid improvement; it will boost your confidence and it will really give the edge when you apply for university and college courses, apprenticeships and jobs.

Latin

Board and Specification: OCR H443

Why choose this subject?

If you enjoyed studying GCSE Latin then A Level Latin will appeal to you; it is very similar to GCSE Latin. You will continue to strengthen your translation skills by developing your understanding of the grammar and, at the same time, refine your literary appreciation through analysis of an even broader range of set texts which are taken from some of the finest literature.

At A Level you will meet a **language** paper. It is not too different from what you are currently doing. There are a few more grammar points to learn and a Defined Vocabulary list consisting of the words learned at GCSE plus a few more. You will be tested on your translation and comprehension skills. There is also the option to compose Latin – a very satisfying pastime, learning to write like a Roman!

There is also a **literature** paper. Again, it is not much different to what you are doing already. The skills required are the same, just different authors (Catullus, Cicero, Ovid and Petronius) and slightly more text to study.

Will Latin go with my other subjects? Yes! Latin is in the fortunate position of covering History, Language, skills you need for English Literature, Modern Languages, Scientific terminology and the logical nature of Maths *et cetera*.

Latin is also offered as an AS Level. If you are interested in this, please speak to Mr Buckingham.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

Latin is never boring and offers you the chance to be different. There is language work and grammar, literature to read and appreciate, historical and political backdrops to savour. It complements many other popular A Levels, such as English, History, Languages, Religious Studies, Politics, and Sociology.

Lessons are relaxed and fun and you will enjoy the benefits of small class teaching which use the latest technology can offer. Latin also rewards someone who is prepared to work. Results have been excellent with 100% of students achieving A*-A in 2019-2022.

What you will learn (course outline):

Language: 50% of the course assessed by unseen translations and comprehension passages.

Literature: 50% of the course involves studying the works of Cicero, Virgil, Ovid and Apuleius.

How it will be assessed:

4 written examinations. There is no coursework.

Recommended entry requirements:

Level 7 or above for Latin GCSE.

More important, however, is an enthusiasm for the subject.

What skills will you develop?

A study of Latin will help your linguistic skills, your understanding of the English language and your appreciation of literature. Your rigour, precision and eye for detail will be sharpened. It also strengthens your problem-solving skills, your ability to think precisely and to communicate clearly. It will nurture a love of literature, personalities and the past. It will provide an appreciation of the achievements and lasting legacy of a civilization which has had such a profound influence upon our own society.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

Your study of the subject is not just limited to the classroom. You will have the opportunity to watch performances of some of the plays you study, to listen to various experts talk about their specific fields in academia, to visit either Greece or Italy and experience close-up what you are learning at School.

Careers opportunities:

Some people say that if you choose a Classics degree you are opting for three or four years' pleasure to the detriment of your future career. But the truth is that a Classics student gets the best of both worlds, studying for a fascinating degree and coming out exceptionally well-qualified at the end of it. It does not get much better than that.

Potential careers include:

- Accountancy
- Teaching
- Librarianship
- Academia
- Civil Service
- Museum Work
- Archaeology
- Journalism
- Media
- Information Technology
- Military
- Management Consultancy
- Law
- Media
- Publishing
- Social Work
- Auction House Work
- Politics
- Arts Management
- Theatre and Performing Arts

Mathematics

Board and Specification: OCR A H240

Why choose this subject?

Mathematics is a popular and highly regarded subject. The A Level qualification is hugely respected amongst employers for the key skills it develops and promotes. Through problem-solving, you develop resilience and are able to think creatively and strategically. The writing of structured solutions and proving and justifying results helps you to formulate reasoned arguments. It highlights to employers that you have excellent numeracy skills and the ability to process and interpret data.

The mathematical skills you learn in A Level Maths are of great benefit in supporting other A Level subjects, especially Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Economics and Business. Moreover, for progression to many courses at university, it is important to have strong mathematical skills. Indeed, for most STEM courses (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) A Level Maths is a requirement.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

All the Maths teachers here at Walthamstow Hall are dedicated professionals and highly qualified, with a degree in either Pure Mathematics or a Maths-related discipline. We are all enthusiastic about teaching Maths, experienced and devoted to supporting you and helping you succeed. The small group sizes, generally between four and ten, mean that we can provide you with individual, tailored support during every single lesson.

What you will learn (course outline):

The content of A Level Mathematics is now fully prescribed, meaning all exam boards now offer the same content. It has been set in consultation with universities.

The syllabus is broadly divided into Pure and Applied Mathematics. In Pure Mathematics, you will study such topics as sequences, numerical methods, functions, calculus, trigonometry and geometry. In Applied Mathematics, you will study Statistics, including handling large data sets, Probability, including the binomial and normal distribution, and Mechanics, which involves the application of Newton's laws of motion.

How it will be assessed:

There will be three written papers of two hours each at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1	Pure Mathematics
Paper 2	Pure Mathematics and Statistics
Paper 3	Pure Mathematics and Mechanics

Recommended entry requirements:

There is a noticeable jump in the standard from Year 11 to the Sixth Form, especially in the command of algebra required. For this reason, we strongly recommend a grade 8 or 9 at GCSE or IGCSE. Students who have achieved a grade 7 will need to be prepared to put in further practice outside of lessons. We advise that you purchase a graphical calculator for the course. If you do this through the School in the first term, the cost will be around £85.

What skills will you develop?

Studying Mathematics will teach you to think logically and deal with highly abstract concepts. You will learn how to manipulate precise and intricate ideas whilst following complex reasoning to construct a logical argument. You will discover how to analyse data, identify patterns, form conclusions and communicate solutions to mathematical problems.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

You will attend a day involving five informative, engaging and interactive sessions led by experts in their field intended to complement your Maths A Level. You will also take part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, designed to test your problem-solving skills. We run clinics outside of lessons to support your learning and we also encourage you to reinforce your mathematical knowledge by assisting with clinics in the Lower School.

Careers opportunities:

Many career areas will require you to apply mathematics to the physical world. Whether you are dealing with engineering principles, predicting market trends, balancing accounts or predicting the weather for tomorrow, your skills as a mathematician will be invaluable after your studies. Some recent alumni of Walthamstow Hall are now on high-level apprenticeships for firms such as Deloitte, IBM and HSBC. One student has gone on to study a PhD in Number Theory and is now working for the Government at GCHQ.

Further Mathematics

Board and Specification: OCR A H245

Why choose this subject?

Studying Further Mathematics is an enjoyable, rewarding, stimulating and empowering experience. It broadens your mathematical skills and promotes deeper mathematical thinking. It provides a challenge and a chance to explore more sophisticated mathematical concepts. If you are considering studying a degree such as Engineering, Natural Sciences, Computer Science, Economics or indeed Pure Mathematics, you will benefit enormously from studying Further Mathematics.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

All teachers here are hugely experienced with the Further Maths course and are both passionate and enthusiastic about teaching it. A Further Maths class size here rarely exceeds four, so individual support is offered to you throughout the lessons.

What you will learn (course outline):

You will study the entire A Level Mathematics course in Year 12, and the entire Further Mathematics course in Year 13. Core Mathematics will involve the study of complex numbers, matrices, hyperbolic functions and differential equations. The Statistics component of the course involves various hypotheses tests, non-parametric tests and linear regression. The last section, Mechanics, includes centre of mass, circular motion, momentum and energy.

How it will be assessed:

There will be four written papers of 90 minutes each at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1	Core Mathematics A
Paper 2	Core Mathematics B
Paper 3	Further Statistics
Paper 4	Further Mechanics

This is an addition to the three two-hour papers for the standard A Level Mathematics qualification.

If, after consultation with your teachers, you decide that you do not wish to continue with the full Further Maths A Level qualification in Year 13, there is the option of an AS Further Mathematics award, which several students have taken over the past few years. This would involve half the syllabus content of the full A Level, and three written papers of 75 minutes each, in addition to the three papers for the A Level Mathematics award.

Recommended entry requirements:

We require a grade 8 or 9 at GCSE or IGCSE to study Further Mathematics.

Music

Board and Specification: Eduqas A660P(A/B)

Why choose A Level Music?

The Eduqas A level music course specification is designed to allow learners to pursue their own musical interests. You will develop skills in the three distinct but related disciplines of performing, composing and appraising, whilst having flexibility to specialise in either performing or composing. You may choose to apportion 10% of your assessment to either performing or composing as an in-depth study. The Eduqas specification is designed to offer contrast and breadth, as well as depth of study. You will engage with both classical and popular music.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

- We have two full time specialist musicians teaching in our purpose-designed department with up-to-date technology and acoustic treatment.
- We generally teach music in very small class sizes.
- We have an excellent stock of musical instruments and music scores.

What you will learn (course outline):

You will study the development of the symphony, engaging with landmark orchestral repertoire, which is important in developing knowledge and understanding of musical elements and language in context. You will use the musical language of this period to compose one piece of music to a brief. You will also choose one area of study from Pop and Rock, Musical Theatre and Jazz, and one further area of study exploring the musical language and styles from either the early twentieth century or the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

How it will be assessed:

Component 1: **Performing** - Option A = 35% Option B = 25%

- For option A the total mark for Component 1 is 108
 - Each piece performed is marked out of 36; where more than three pieces are offered, the total mark is divided by the number of pieces and multiplied by three, to achieve a final mark out of 108
 - A total performance time of 10 minutes for option A represents 100% of the assessment
- For option B the total mark for Component 1 is 72
 - Each piece performed is marked out of 36; where more than two pieces are offered, the total mark is divided by the number of pieces and multiplied by two, to achieve a final mark out of 72
 - A total performance time of 6 minutes for option B represents 100% of the assessment
- The performances will be externally assessed live by a visiting examiner
- Grade 6 or equivalent is the minimum required standard for A level Music.

Component 2: **Composing** - Option A = 25% Option B = 35%

- For option A, you submit two compositions, one of which will be in a Western Classical style and respond to a brief set by Eduqas. The second piece will be a free composition
 - Total duration of between 4 and 6 minutes, 72 marks
- For option B, learners submit three compositions, one of which will be in a Western Classical style and respond to a brief set by Eduqas. The second composition will reflect the musical characteristics of a different area of study and the third is a free composition.
 - Total duration of between 8 and 10 minutes, 108 marks
- Each composition is marked out of 36

Component 3: **Appraising** - 40%

- Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes (approximately) 100 marks
- This examination will assess knowledge and understanding of music through three areas of study.
- Compulsory study:
 - Area of study A: The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900)
- Choose one from:
 - Area of study B: Rock and Pop
 - Area of study C: Musical Theatre
 - Area of study D: Jazz.
- Choose one from:
 - Area of study E: Into the Twentieth Century
 - Area of study F: Into the Twenty-first Century.

Recommended entry requirements:

- I/GCSE Music to Grade 8, or Grade 5 ABRSM Music Theory with at least merit.
- At least Grade 5 ABRSM (or equivalent) in first study instrument. Compulsory examined performance unit in Year 13 must be at a minimum of Grade 7 standard.

What skills will you develop?

- Creativity and imagination: whether you are creating your own composition or performing somebody else's, music requires you to apply your imagination to develop new ideas.
- Composition: you will learn how to create a composition by developing, extending and manipulating musical ideas. You will develop your own compositions to a set brief. You will create your composition either on a musical instrument or with music technology.
- Technical skills: you will learn to read advanced music notation and apply technical and expressive control in performance.
- Teamwork: musicians often play together in ensembles. You will learn to play alongside other musicians, requiring sympathy and responsiveness. You will learn to take and deliver feedback from other musicians within an ensemble setting in order to improve the collective performance.
- Critical thinking: the study of music involves the application of your in-depth knowledge of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language to offer critical appraisal of compositions, genres, and styles. You will learn to identify what makes a piece of music distinctive, what tradition it fits into, and who the composer might be.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

Walthamstow Hall provides a rich and diverse programme of co-curricular music which includes choirs, orchestras, chamber ensembles, workshops, concerts and trips. The co-curricular music provision caters for each student's individual needs, and standards are very high. There are choir tours abroad every two years: Tuscany 2018, Amsterdam 2020, Venice 2022.

Careers opportunities:

Industry opportunities include performers & writers; recording; the record industry; music business; music industry touring; facility, arena and club; film music; music journalism; music education; public relations and advertising; radio and television; symphony and orchestra; church music; music health; music industry merchandising; instrument work and development; other music careers; music career finder.

Physical Education

Board and Specification: AQA 7582

Why choose this subject?

This course will allow you to develop your theoretical understanding of sport and performance, as well as using your performance-based skills in a sport of your choice. You will cover a wide range of topics that give you an insight into the sports sectors and provides you with practical skills for further education and work.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

At Walthamstow Hall it is possible to facilitate a broad range of practical activities due to the extensive facilities available to us, both onsite and in the local area. This provides excellent opportunities for you to be assessed in a wide range of sports. Due to our extensive extra-curricular programme, there are also frequent opportunities to experience your chosen sports at a competitive level, which is a course requirement. The course will also provide an opportunity for you to visit a sports science laboratory and experience a range of fitness testing at the highest level. An experienced and dedicated team of sports teachers and coaches will be on hand to guide and support you throughout the course.

What you will learn (course outline):

The course combines a theoretical understanding of Physical Education and Sport and practical skills. It is designed to encourage you to develop and apply your knowledge of anatomy, physiology, psychology and sport in society. You will be engaged with key issues and contemporary global issues relating to sport and performance.

How it will be assessed:

This qualification is linear, which means that you will sit all your exams and submit your Non-Examination Assessment at the end of the course in Year 13. The division of marks is clearly weighted in favour of the theoretical components of the course. There are two written examinations (70% weighting) and a non-examination module (30% weighting).

- 35% - One 2-hour paper will cover the following components:
 - Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology
 - Section B: Skill acquisition
 - Section C: Sport and society
- 35% - One 2-hour paper will cover the following components:
 - Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics
 - Section B: Sport psychology
 - Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport
- 30% - Internal assessment that is externally moderated
 - Students assessed as a performer in a competitive environment of one sporting activity.
 - Written analysis of performance.

Recommended entry requirements:

GCSE PE is favourable, however not essential. You should achieve at least a level 7 in GCSE Physical Education or GCSE Biology. You will need to be currently training or competing in a sporting activity of your choice.

What skills will you develop?

You will have the opportunity to develop your practical performance in a sport of your choice, as well as developing your ability to analyse performance to inform improvement. Communication and independent learning are key areas that you will also develop throughout the course, as well as research skills during the coursework-based assignment.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

Walthamstow Hall offers a broad and enriching sports programme to all Sixth Form students. This includes; before school, lunchtime and after school training sessions in a wide range of sports and activities. Fixtures at local, County, Regional and National level are offered in all major sports. Sixth Form students also have free access to the fitness suite during the school day, so no need to be paying gym membership fees! Sixth Form students are also the driving force behind our Interhouse Sports Competitions, which involve the whole School; these include bench ball, tug of war, winter games and summer games.

Careers opportunities:

Physical Education A Level opens many career pathways and enables you to enter the sports and leisure industry. It is often required for higher education study of physiotherapy, teaching, sports psychology, sports therapy and sports science. It is useful for careers in sports leadership, sports coaching, conditioning coaching, performance analysis, fitness professional and leisure centre management.

Physics

Board and Specification: AQA 7408

Why choose this subject?

What are the fundamental building blocks of matter, and what holds them together? How can we describe mathematically the motion of objects? How can you construct an electrical strain gauge to measure very small movements in buildings? What patterns are there in the motion of oscillators? What did Einstein mean by the formula " $E = mc^2$ "? What do electrical, gravitational and magnetic fields have in common? What rocket science is needed to get to the Moon?

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

Physics students at Walthamstow Hall will enjoy appropriately small class sizes, close attention from two teachers and ample equipment and resources for the course and associated practicals. Where appropriate, every lesson will contain a practical element to demonstrate the real-world nature of Physics, even making use of a special dark room for experiments with light. Students go on enriching trips which enhance and go beyond what is taught in the classroom.

What you will learn (course outline):

Year 12:

Particle Physics
Waves and Optics
Current Electricity
Mechanics
Materials
Quantum Physics
Thermal Physics
Circular Motion

Year 13:

Electric Fields
Magnetic Fields
Capacitance
Radioactivity
Nuclear Energy
Ideal Gases
Periodic Motion
Gravitational Fields

The department has, for many years, chosen the Astrophysics option for study during the Spring Term of Year 13. This topic has always proved popular amongst pupils and students when taught in Key Stages 3 and 4 and remains so at A Level.

How it will be assessed:

The course is examined at the end of Year 13 with 3 examinations. Paper 1 will assess content covered predominantly in Year 12 and Paper 2 the content predominantly in Year 13. There is no coursework. Practical skills are assessed in Paper 3, which will ask questions predominantly about the 12 'Required Practicals' that will be undertaken throughout the course. There is a separate 'Practical Endorsement' qualification that is awarded to students at the completion of the Required Practicals.

Paper 1 - Written exam: 2 hours - 85 marks - 34% of A Level.

Paper 2 - Written exam: 2 hours - 85 marks - 34% of A Level.

Paper 3 - Section A Compulsory section: Practical skills and data analysis.

Section B: Students enter for one of 5 option topics (Astrophysics at our School).

Written exam: 2 hours - 80 marks - 32% of A Level.

Recommended entry requirements:

The A Level Physics course takes content learnt at IGCSE level and investigates further with a more quantitative approach, also delving further into 'why', not just 'how'. To be successful in Physics in the

Sixth Form it is recommended to have gained at least a grade 8 in I/GCSE Combined Science or grade 8 in I/GCSE Separate Science Physics, and also at least a grade 8 in I/GCSE Mathematics.

What skills will you develop?

Physics teaches you to think logically and to experiment systematically, characteristics highly valued by both universities and employers. The syllabus that we follow involves using practical apparatus regularly, designing experiments, and applying mathematical or logical ideas to understand the results. Above all, Physics is a challenging and exciting subject, which prepares you for a huge range of professional careers.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

Students are invited to help and lead the Wally Engineers club, where they can assist younger students as well as having input on the direction of the club. Year 12 students enjoy trips to Physics in Action as well as Quantum Mechanics lectures at Imperial College. Sixth Formers enjoy a larger, biennial trip, with past visits to CERN and the Diamond Synchrotron in Oxfordshire. Students also compete in the British Physics Olympiad, run by Oxford University.

Careers opportunities:

Many students studying Physics in the Sixth Form in the past have gone on from Walthamstow Hall to study scientific subjects at university, such as physics, engineering, natural sciences, cybernetics, chemistry, medicine and dentistry. Other university subjects have recently included mathematics, psychology, actuarial science and business management.

There is a very large number of careers that Physics can lead to. Here is just a small selection:

- Aerospace Engineer
- Civil Engineer
- Cyberneticist
- Astronomer
- Lighting Technician
- Acoustic Engineer
- Meteorologist
- Geophysicist
- Radiographer
- Electrical Engineer
- Prosthetics
- TV Studio Engineer

Politics

Board and Specification: Edexcel 9PLO

Why choose this subject?

Politics is a popular Sixth Form choice at Walthamstow Hall and the Edexcel A Level course offers students the opportunity to get a really broad range of political knowledge. You will investigate how people and politics interact and will reflect on the demands of a modern and truly evolving political environment in the UK and USA. You will learn and develop your own opinions about how effective political parties are in British democracy, how far the media controls the political debate, why people vote as they do, to what extent your civil rights are protected by the Supreme Court, what makes a successful Prime Minister and if Parliament has too much or too little power. These are precisely the issues that are debated day in and day out across the country. By the end of the course, you will certainly feel more than able to add your voice to the discussion!

Politics combines well with many other subjects such as History, Economics, Business, Languages, Sociology and English. It is also extremely exciting!

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

The Politics department at Walthamstow Hall is amongst the top in the country in value-added to a student. This means that you will be stretched to achieve your very best. Our generally small class sizes allow us to meet one-to-one with students, so you have a really confident understanding of what to do to make progress in the subject. We also believe that participating in British democracy is absolutely essential for young people today and so we are keen to inspire and engage your interest beyond the classroom. We organise trips to various lectures and events and we belong to several professional organisations that welcome student participation like the Political Studies Association. We also run the Sixth Form Debating Society and Model United Nations and support students who are interested in running for a seat on the Kent Youth Council. We are deeply committed to the subject and keen to inspire more young people to participate in government and politics.

What you will learn (course outline):

The course content is divided into three general areas:

UK Government and Politics:

Topics include: how democracy functions in the UK and how citizens participate, the advantages and disadvantages of different electoral systems, how voters behave and how the media affects politics; the UK Constitution, the role of Parliament, the Prime Minister and the Judiciary as well as how they affect each other; the protection of civil liberties and civil rights, the relationship with the EU.

US Government and Politics:

Topics include: how democracy functions in the US and how citizens participate; the role of Congress, the President and the Supreme Court; the protection of civil liberties and civil rights in the US; how does US government and politics compare to the UK?

Political Ideologies and Ideas:

Topics include: conservatism, liberalism and socialism; feminism.

How it will be assessed:

The qualification is linear; you will sit all the exams at the end of the course in Year 13.

You will sit three papers:

Paper 1: UK Politics and Ideologies: 2 hours, worth 33%

Paper 2: UK Government and Political ideas: 2 hours, worth 33%

Paper 3: US Government and Comparative Politics: 2 hours, worth 33%

Occasionally, a student may wish to study Politics for one year only and may wish to take an AS Level at the end of Year 12. Discussion with, and approval from, the Head of Department is required.

Recommended entry requirements:

English I/GCSE with a result of grade 6 or higher. An interest in political affairs is encouraged.

What skills will you develop?

Politics looks at how a society is governed and how it relates to other countries. You will explore diverse issues of policy, international relations and human rights. You will learn how to read more effectively and efficiently and build on your planning and organisational skills. You will also develop strong written communication skills by sifting through information, summarising many pages of information in a few sentences and selecting what is most important to structure an effective and persuasive argument. Throughout the course you will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different arguments and perspectives, think creatively and insightfully and manage your time effectively.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

The Politics Department heads up the Sixth Form Debating Society and Model United Nations. We also support students who wish to run for a seat on the Kent County Youth Council. We organise trips to Parliament and academic lectures.

Careers opportunities:

Politics is a broad subject that supports a range of careers. It is also essential knowledge for all UK citizens. The skills students learn through the study of Politics are prized by most professions and easily transferable. It is also future-proofed. According to the World Economic Forum, the number of careers that need 'human' skills like analytical thinking, effective communication and leadership are growing. This means the study of Politics provides you with the knowledge and skills to pursue careers in the future, no matter what direction technology, global trade, and politics might take them.

Our students have gone on to intern at the Foreign Office and The Times, to work at the House of Lords and Sevenoaks Council and with several political parties and international charity and human rights organisations.

More specific career paths include law, publishing and media, economics and finance, business, politics and international relations, marketing and advertising, sociology, psychology, data science and analytics, government social research officer, the Civil Service, human rights and charity work.

Psychology

Board and Specification: AQA 7182

Why choose this subject?

Psychology is a relatively new and growing scientific field which investigates human behaviour and the factors that influence it and will be of interest to anyone who wants a better understanding of their own behaviour and that of others. It is a fascinating subject in its own right but also gives useful insights into a wide range of other subjects, from Art and English, to Politics and the Humanities, through to the Natural Sciences.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

Class sizes are small and allow individuals to develop higher level skills of analysis and evaluation. Each student has the time to voice their opinions on bigger questions that are studied in the course, such as whether we really have any control over our behaviour from an evidence-based perspective. The specification is divided into topics, each covering key concepts of Psychology.

What you will learn (course outline):

You will look at a range of topics including attachment, social influence, schizophrenia, memory, forensic psychology and biopsychology. Within each topic you will learn key research and theories which often offer competing explanations (for example, considering genetic versus environmental theories). You will also discuss several key issues and debates which run throughout the subject, such as determinism, reductionism, gender and cultural bias. You will study the range of research methods psychologists use and evaluate them in terms of whether they constitute good science or not. You will be encouraged to demonstrate your understanding of research methodology by conducting your own independent research studies.

How it will be assessed:

The Psychology A Level qualification is linear. This means that you will sit all the exams at the end of the course.

There are three equally weighted examination papers (Introductory Topics; Psychology in Context; Issues and Options in Psychology) each of two hours duration. The questions in each paper range from multiple choice through short answers up to full essays. Knowledge and understanding of research methods and scientific procedures can be tested in any paper, and up to 10% of marks may be linked to questions involving numeracy.

A Level		
Paper 1 - Introductory Topics in Psychology	Paper 2 - Psychology in Context	Paper 3 - Issues and Options in Psychology
What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social influence• Memory• Attachment• Psychopathology	What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approaches in Psychology• Biopsychology• Research methods• Issues and debates in Psychology	What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All compulsory content• Optional content
Assessed written exam: 2 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 96 marks in total• 33.3% of A-level	Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam: 2 hours• 96 marks in total• 33.3% of A-level	Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam: 2 hours• 96 marks in total• 33.3% of A-level

Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks • Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks • Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks • Section D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks 	Questions <p>Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks • Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 48 marks 	Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks • Section B: one topic from option 1, 9–11 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks • Section C: one topic from option 2, 12–14 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks • Section D: one topic from option 3, 15–17 above, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, 24 marks
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Recommended entry requirements:

1/GCSE Grade 7 in GCSE Single Science or 7-7 in Combined Science Double Award Science. At least a Grade 7 in 1/GCSE Mathematics and in IGCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature,

What skills will you develop?

When studying A Level Psychology, you will use theories, models and ideas to develop scientific explanations, pose questions, define problems, present arguments and ideas. Studying Psychology helps to develop higher level skills of analysis and evaluation.

You will have the opportunity to work as a team, develop research skills and communicate information and ideas in appropriate ways using appropriate terminology.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

Assisting with Psychology Society and inspiring our younger pupils to have an interest in this subject.

Careers opportunities: A Psychology A Level can inform many future careers, including Clinical Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Evolutionary Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Health Psychology, Neuropsychology and Occupational Psychology.

Religious Studies

Board and Specification: OCR Religious Studies H573

Why choose this subject?

The OCR Religious Studies A Level combines three excellent strands to help students develop their Philosophical and Ethical expertise. Philosophy means the love or pursuit of wisdom and forms the basis of all academic enquiry. Even our word 'academic' comes from the school of Philosophy that has become one of the most influential centres of human learning in history: Plato's 'Academy' in Athens.

In Religious Studies we unpick the big questions that underpin all other human study:

- Can Science provide a complete explanation of what makes you 'you'?
- Does our life have a purpose? If so, what is it and how do we know?
- What's the best way to make difficult ethical decisions? Is ethics just a matter of opinion? Where does our sense of morality come from?
- Can our senses tell us all we need to know about the world? What do we mean when we claim to 'know' something anyway?
- What makes a good argument? Can we really prove anything is true? Is the truth 'out there', or do we make our own truth?
- Is there any evidence for the existence of a God? If there were, would you accept it?

In a changing world, students that have developed these key thinking skills will be best equipped for the future.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

Walthamstow Hall offers small class sizes in a well-equipped university style setting. Students will have the opportunity to develop their analytical and evaluative writing skills as well as the opportunity to go and see key philosophical thinkers. Many fields from Politics, Law and PR value the ability for students to think for themselves and Religious Studies and Philosophy offers the opportunity to develop this ability.

What you will learn (course outline):

Philosophy of Religion: Arguments of the existence or non-existence of God. Plato and Aristotle and the nature of the soul, mind and body. Issues of philosophical language and religion. The usefulness of religious experience. God and the Problem of Evil.

Ethics: Ethical language and thought. Normative ethical theories. Debates surrounding the significance of the conscience. These will all be applied to modern ethical dilemmas.

Development in religious thought: Sources of wisdom and authority, historical and social developments in theology and religious thought, key themes between religions and society.

How it will be assessed:

There will be three 2-hour papers and no coursework.

Recommended entry requirements:

It is recommended that students have above a grade 7 in I/GCSE English and Religious Studies.

What skills will you develop?

Whatever impact you want to make on our society, you will benefit yourself and others from having engaged with the fundamental questions of what it is to be human in a fascinating but troubled world. You could become part of the rich tradition of high-level debates and discussions that have shaped and continue to affect every part of our world today.

Also, whatever other subjects you end up studying in Sixth Form, Philosophy and Religious Studies will inevitably complement them and help you to place everything you are learning in its context of academic enquiry.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

There are opportunities to assist with the Key Stage 3 Philosophy Club allowing you to develop their Socratic questioning. Further, we organise Philosophy Trips to various conferences to enrich your learning.

Career Opportunities

A number of the most popular and prestigious degree programmes at universities include studying an element of Philosophy (e.g. Medicine, Law, PPE, Economics, Business, Management, some Science courses, Classics, History, English, Modern Languages etc.), so you will be giving yourself an advantage if you have already established a grounding in different religious and philosophical ideas.

Furthermore, in an ever-competitive job market and higher education scene, studying some Philosophy and Religious Studies will give you the opportunity to develop the academic rigour, high-level thinking skills, independence and creativity that will enable you to stand out to admissions tutors and prospective employers. Philosophy and Religious Studies is very highly respected as an academic subject, particularly if you have studied it at A level, because of the range of complex skills and fundamental knowledge that you will have developed.

Sociology

Board and Specification: CAIE 9699

Why choose this subject?

Sociology is the study of human society. It offers you the opportunity to explore the processes that shape human social behaviour and develop an understanding of the complexity and diversity of human societies and their relationship with the past. The subject should stimulate an understanding and awareness of contemporary social, cultural and political issues and demonstrate the importance of studying these issues in a reasoned and analytical way.

The subject is suited to students who have an interest in contemporary social issues and have an open and enquiring mind, those who are interested in exploring different explanations for human social behaviour and developing their own critical understanding and awareness of society.

Why study it at Walthamstow Hall?

The subject is taught in relatively small groups. Formal lessons are combined with more informal tutorials, and you are actively encouraged to debate and discuss the material. Opportunities are also available for you to receive individual tuition if and when required. The nature of the subject means that you will study a wide range of contemporary topics and issues which you should be able to relate to your own personal experience.

What you will learn (course outline):

Year 12:

- Unit 1 (Socialisation, Identity & Methods): You will study the role of socialisation and culture in the creation of class, gender, ethnic and age identities. You will also study the research methods used by sociologists to study society and the concepts used to evaluate the credibility of sociological findings.
- Unit 2 (The Family): You will study the changing role of the family in society, explanations for contemporary trends in family life and family diversity.

Year 13:

- Unit 3 (Education): You will study the changing role of education in society, education policies and explanations for class, gender, and ethnic differences in attainment.
- Unit 4 (Globalisation, Media and Religion): You will study the changing role of the media in society, the effect of the media on social behaviour and how the media represents class, gender, ethnic and age groups. You will also study the changing role of religion in society, secularisation trends, and class, gender, ethnic and age differences in religiosity.

How it will be assessed:

Paper 1 (Socialisation, Identity and Methods): you will answer three compulsory questions and one essay question from a choice of two (1½ hours) (60 marks) (25% of A Level).

Paper 2 (The Family): you will answer three compulsory questions and one essay question from a choice of two (1½ hours) (60 marks) (25% of A Level)

Paper 3 (Education): you will answer three compulsory questions and a compulsory essay question (1¼ hours) (50 marks) (20% of A Level).

Paper 4 (Globalisation, Media and Religion): you will answer two essay questions from a choice of four (1¾ hours) (70 marks) (30% of A Level).

Recommended entry requirements:

You are not expected to have studied Sociology previously. However, Sociology is an academic subject that is heavily based on written text. Therefore, it is recommended that you will have attained at least a Grade 6 or above in I/GCSE English and Maths. You will also need to have an open and enquiring mind and be prepared to share your opinions in class discussions as well as have them challenged respectfully by others. Good organisation skills and engagement – including an interest in reading around the syllabus – are also pre-requisites.

What skills will you develop?

In addition to developing your ‘knowledge and understanding’ of society and social behaviour, you will be encouraged to develop your ability to ‘interpret and apply’ and ‘analyse and evaluate’ material in a range of contexts. These higher order thinking skills are highly valued in academia and by a wide range of employers. You will also learn how to present your arguments in a logical and coherent manner. Independent learning is actively promoted throughout the course.

You will also be encouraged to develop a sociological consciousness or imagination; an ability to reflect upon the implications and significance of social behaviour as an objective ‘outsider-within’ rather than in terms of your own subjective experiences.

Extracurricular and Super-curricular opportunities:

School based learning has been supplemented in the past with attendance at student conferences and at an annual political and cultural festival in central London. Other trips have included a visit to Sevenoaks Magistrates Court as part of a unit of work on Crime and Deviance. You will also have the opportunity to attend evening lectures at the L.S.E.

Careers opportunities:

The University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) list over 100 educational institutions, including Oxford and Cambridge, that together offer over 1000 pure and combined Sociology courses. Sociology also forms part of many other programmes of study including business, medical training, geography, environmental science, and the sports & health sciences.

The skills developed through the study of Sociology will provide you with a wide range of educational and career opportunities. The British Sociological Association (BSA) has identified potential areas of employment and the main areas in which Sociology students have been successful.

These include:

• Management	• Criminal justice	• Civil service	• Social research
• Public relations	• Advertising	• Local government	• Health care
• Journalism	• Teaching	• Voluntary sector	• Social work

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

The School has an active Careers department, led by our highly qualified Careers Coordinator. The well-resourced Careers Centre contains information on a large selection of careers and courses and university prospectuses. Resources are also available on Firefly, the School's Virtual Learning Platform, and Unifrog, an online Higher Education selection and application management resource.

The programme of CEIAG supports choices at each stage of your career at our School and includes sessions as part of the PSHEE programme and Q lessons. These cover all aspects of careers guidance, including decision-making, self-awareness, using labour market information, student finance and managing money and the Horizons Lecture Series. Guidance and advice are available from our Careers Coordinator. The Head of Sixth Form, Form Tutors, subject staff and the Director of Studies are also available to discuss choices as needed.

Careers Advice is also provided to you if you wish to pursue alternatives to university.

Year 11

During the Autumn Term, you will have a careers lesson during PSHEE and a personal interview to assist in choosing A Level subjects with our Careers Coordinator. You will also be encouraged to attend Sixth Form taster lessons and, along with your parents, the Specialist Applications Evening.

Year 12

You and your parents are encouraged to attend the Sixth Form Familiarisation Evening and the Specialist Applications Evening. Throughout the year you will participate in higher education workshops, gap year sessions, alternatives to university, CV building and leadership skills training during Q.

In the Spring Term Q lessons, you will be guided on how to find and apply for work experience and to complete your CV.

In the Summer Term, you will have an individual careers discussion to consider your post-18 options and choices. Additionally, careers discussions can be booked at any other time during the year to support your future planning.

Through the Voyage Programme, there are opportunities for work experience and volunteering, such as Bar Mock Trial, Enterprise Club, Model UN or Gold Duke of Edinburgh to name a few. Alternatively, in the holiday following the summer term, you are encouraged to complete work experience in an area of your interest.

During the summer term, you are encouraged to attend university open days and workshops. Tutors provide you with additional support for UCAS application preparation.

Year 13

Towards the end of Year 12 and the start of Year 13, support is provided on finalising Personal Statements and completing applications for entry to university or college courses. Careers advice is also provided for you should you wish to pursue alternatives to university. Year 13 students are given training on interview techniques.

Individual careers/higher education interviews can be booked at any time during the year and you will be supported with all applications; employment, apprenticeship or higher/further education.

Some Guidance on Combinations of Subjects

You might choose subjects from within one area of study or across two or three depending on your talents, inclination and chosen career path. A mixture of subjects from different areas would also be considered a good foundation for higher education or a future career. Students considering applications to US colleges should consider choosing subjects from different areas.

Complementary Mathematics

One period of will be timetabled each week for Year 12 students who choose Business, Economics, Geography or Sciences in the Sixth Form but who do not choose to take Mathematics A Level. This is important given the increased mathematical content in many Sixth Form courses.

Science

Many science degree courses and careers insist on at least two science subjects. The vast majority of **Medicine** courses require Chemistry and Biology, a few require Chemistry or Biology and another science or Mathematics. The vast majority of **Veterinary Science** course require Chemistry and Biology, a few require Chemistry or Biology and another science or Mathematics.

Subject Requirements for University Courses

Choose subjects which interest you and in which you are likely to do well. Check that the combination chosen is appropriate for higher education courses, apprenticeships and future careers. If you do not yet have a future career pathway in mind, keep your subject choices as broad as possible.

This table is a general guide and only illustrative. Refer to the UCAS website or the Russell Group publication, 'Informed Choices'. Many courses also ask for specific GCSE subjects and minimum grades, which you will need to check.

Course	Required A Level subject/s for University	Useful subjects
Actuarial Science	Mathematics	Further Mathematics
Accounting		Business, Economics, Mathematics
American Studies		English, History
Anthropology		EPQ (with Anthropology-related project)
Architecture	Fine Art or Three-Dimensional Design	Mathematics, Physics
Arts	Fine Art or Textile Design or Three-Dimensional Design	
Art and Design Foundation Diploma	Fine Art or Textile Design or Three-Dimensional Design	
Business/Management		Business, Economics, Mathematics
Biochemistry	Chemistry and one other Science	Biology, Mathematics, Physics
Biological Science	Biology and/or Chemistry and another Science/Mathematics	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
Chemistry	Chemistry (some require Mathematics)	Mathematics, Biology, Physics
Classics	Latin or Ancient Greek	Classical Civilisation, English, History, Modern Foreign Language
Computer Science	Mathematics (some require Further Maths or another Science)	Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics
Dentistry	Chemistry and Biology	Mathematics, Physics
Drama		Drama and Theatre, English
Economics	Mathematics	Economics, Further Mathematics, History
Education – Primary – Secondary	– GCSE Mathematics, English & Science and A Levels – GCSE Mathematics & English and A Level in your chosen subject/s	Sociology, Psychology
English	English Literature	History, Latin, Modern Foreign Language
Environmental Science	One or two Science subjects for many courses	Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics

Course	Required A Level subject/s for University	Useful subjects
Engineering – General – Aerospace / Aeronautical – Biomedical – Chemical – Civil/Building Services – Design/Product – Electrical/Electronic – Energy – Mechanical	Mathematics and Physics – Mathematics and Physics – Chemistry and Mathematics – Chemistry and Mathematics – Mathematics and Physics – Mathematics and Physics – Mathematics and Physics – Mathematics and Physics – Mathematics and Physics	Chemistry, Further Maths – Further Mathematics – Biology, Further Mathematics – Further Mathematics – Art, Further Mathematics – Art, Further Mathematics – Further Mathematics – Chemistry – Further Mathematics
Food Technology	One from Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Mathematics or Physics And another Science	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Physical Education, Geography
Geology	Two from Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Mathematics or Physics	Biology, Chemistry, Geography Mathematics, Physics
Geography	Geography	Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
History	History	Economics, English, Politics, Philosophy, Sociology
Law		English, History, Politics, Classics, Latin
Mathematics	Mathematics	Further Mathematics, Physics
Medicine	Chemistry and Biology; Some Chemistry or Biology and another Science	Biology, Mathematics, Physics, Sociology
Modern Foreign Languages	French or Spanish or German	English, History, Latin, Politics
Music	Music and Grade 7/8 for your main instrument	
Nursing	Biology	Chemistry, Sociology, Religious Studies, Physics
Philosophy		Classical Civilisation, Mathematics, Religious Studies
Politics		Classical Civilisation, English, History
Physiotherapy	Biology	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physical Education, Physics
Psychology		Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, EPQ (with Psychology-related project)
Physics	Physics and Mathematics	Further Mathematics
Performing Arts		
Sociology		Sociology, Geography
Sports Science	One science or Physical Education for many courses	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physical Education, Sociology
Veterinary Science	Chemistry, Biology and either Physics or Mathematics	Mathematics, Physics, EPQ (with Vet-related project)
Veterinary Nursing	Biology or Chemistry	Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Making Your Choices – the Process

Choices are required by **9am on Friday 3rd February 2023**. You will be asked to submit your choices using an online form – details will be given in January.

Remember to take the following into account when choosing your subjects:

- Choose subjects which you think you will enjoy and be interested in.
- Do not rely on raw mock examination percentages; some subjects require higher marks than others for the same grade. If in doubt, ask your teacher for guidance about grades.
- Check with your teacher and/or the Head of Department that they would expect you to prosper in their subject in the Sixth Form. Bear in mind the major “step up” in all subjects in the Sixth Form and that gaining a particular grade at I/GCSE certainly does **not** imply you will gain a corresponding grade for your Sixth Form studies.
- Some departments recommend high grades at I/GCSE if you are to enjoy their subject(s) and be successful.
- Find out whether the subject is “different” in the Sixth Form; do not assume it will be “more of the same”.
- Listen carefully to careers advice given by our Careers Coordinator.

Option Blocks

When all students' choices have been received by the February deadline, the Year 12 subjects will be arranged into blocks. All subjects in the same block are taught at the same time and so you cannot study two subjects within the same block. Note, however, that, according to demand, a few subjects may appear in more than one block, so there will be more than one set for these (typical examples are Biology, Chemistry, English and Maths).

We do our very best to accommodate each of your choices. We will consult with you if we are experiencing difficulties in achieving this during the Spring Term.

Once the blocks have been fixed, changes in your choices may still be possible subject to set sizes and also whether your proposed new combination of subjects fits the blocks. A good example regarding set size is Textiles where there is a limit to the number of students we can accommodate safely in the Textiles room.

Changing subjects in the September of Year 12 might also be possible if your new combination of subjects fits the blocks. Such changes must be discussed with the Head of Sixth Form who will liaise with relevant Heads of Department and with the Director of Studies for timetabling purposes.

Specialist Applications

From Year 10 you can explore whether you would like to apply to Oxbridge, overseas universities, Art School and/or a Music Conservatoire, because this may affect which subjects you select.

During the Autumn Term, you and your parents are encouraged to attend the Specialist Applications Evening where you can find out about applications to Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary, creative careers and apprenticeships.

In Year 12, if you are considering Oxbridge or overseas applications, you will be interviewed by the Head of Sixth Form and our Oxbridge and Overseas Coordinator, to help you decide if this is the correct choice for you and to discuss the implications of this choice.

Oxbridge

Oxford and Cambridge are aspirational universities for students and we will support your aspirations.

Why apply to Oxbridge?

- Excellent facilities.
- World-renowned experts to teach you.
- Interesting courses, for example, Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE).
- Flexible courses at Cambridge, for example, Natural Sciences.
- Oxbridge degrees make your applications to graduate-level jobs stand out.
- Long-term career benefits.

Significant factors in gaining an offer are:

- GCSE grades – at least 6 Grade 8 or above.
- Year 12 grades – very strong grades in internal exams.
- Personal statement – you need to demonstrate your independent thought, motivation and passion for your subject.
- Interview – your ability to engage with your interviewers about your chosen subject area.
- School reference.

Further interviews with our Oxbridge and Overseas Coordinator will involve selecting a course of study, deciding on whether to choose a particular college or to make an open application, and (in partnership with subject staff) what preparation work you could usefully undertake during the latter half of Year 12 and the summer holidays.

In the Autumn Term of Year 13, you are given further help with preparing for the tests or examinations that form a significant part of the Oxbridge selection process. The Oxbridge and Overseas Coordinator and the Head of Sixth Form will also liaise with alumnae and other contacts to organise realistic mock interviews for every student applying to Oxford or Cambridge so that these reflect the special rigour of an Oxbridge interview.

Overseas Applications

Why apply to Overseas universities?

- The experience of living in another country.
- In the US, flexible courses, meaning you do not decide on a major until your final year.
- Some of the world's best universities are in the US.
- Some overseas universities such as European institutions may represent excellent value for money in the light of UK tuition fees.

You will need to decide, with help from our Oxbridge and Overseas Coordinator and making use of such websites as College Board for the US, which institutions you would like to apply to and to research what is required in terms of application paperwork and academic results.

In the Autumn Term of Year 13, if you wish to apply to US institutions you will need to take the SAT or ACT tests, and the School can suggest preparation work for this.

The paperwork needs to be sent off to all relevant institutions by the end of January, including all the financial information required.

You can visit the US Colleges Day in London in the Autumn Term and other overseas university fairs. The School cultivates links with the Fulbright Commission, a mine of useful advice and information on the process of applying to American universities.

Our membership of the Independent Schools Careers Organisation (ISCO) provides us with dedicated specialist advice including applications to US and other overseas Higher Education institutions.

If you have any questions about the application process, please talk to our Oxbridge and Overseas Coordinator.

Medical/Dentistry/Veterinary Applications

Entry to university vocational courses such as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary is very competitive. We offer Sixth Form students opportunities for voluntary work which can be particularly helpful in supporting these applications. Our Medic Coordinator provides advice and guidance on the application process, as well as practice interviews and interview preparation.

Creative Careers and Music Conservatoires

UCAS Conservatoires is a separate section of UCAS. You will apply with a reference from School and a supporting reference from a professional in your field, for example your music teacher. You will again have support from your teachers in completing these applications. For many Creative routes, such as Art, Design or Architecture you will be asked to submit an electronic portfolio and attend an interview. This is a great way to showcase your practical pieces.