



**Aldenham**  
founded 1597

# Guide to the Sixth Form 2011– 2013

**Advanced Subsidiary Courses**

**A2 (Second Year) Courses**

**The Wider Curriculum**

## The Sixth Form

**Entering the Sixth Form:** students entering the Sixth Form at Aldenham will find themselves immersed in a world within a world. Suddenly, almost overnight, pupils from our Year 11 (as well as those who have chosen Aldenham from outside) embark on new courses that are designed to prepare them for university entry and for the world of work. The jump in academic difficulty from GCSE to AS Level means that a great deal more is expected of pupils, both in depth of study and personal academic commitment beyond the classroom, studio or laboratory. Pupils grow to become students working in an institution that values them as individuals and encourages independent learning.

**The Academic Programme:** The A Level is split into Advanced Subsidiary (AS) courses taken in the Lower Sixth Year, and A2 courses taken in the Upper Sixth. AS courses are pitched somewhere between GCSE and A Level. The A2 is the same standard as the old A Level. Together, they make up the Advanced Level qualification.

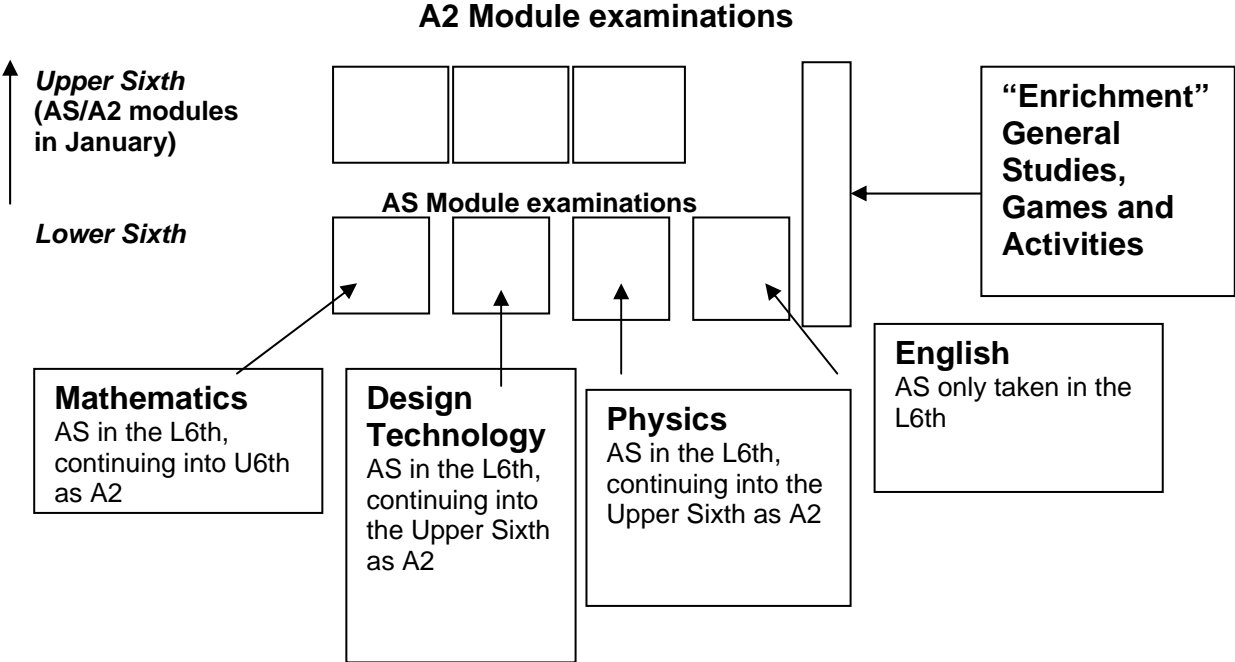
Aldenham embraced the best aspects of the reforms to affect Sixth Form education, as well as maintaining our close support and advice for pupils, particularly with UCAS and Careers guidance. Pupils are offered a wide range of AS subjects in their Lower Sixth year, with **four courses the normal pattern**. However, for some, three AS courses may be more suitable,

All qualifications receive a points allocation ('tariff') that universities use to award places for higher education. Examinations take place in January and June in both the Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth and are modular in format. This gives pupils a chance to increase their scores at a later sitting. Progress into the Upper Sixth Year will depend on performance in the Lower Sixth. . Results for AS examinations are published in August.

In the Upper Sixth, pupils will usually take **three or perhaps two courses at A2 Level**. Choices for A2 courses are made in close consultation with academic tutors and subject teachers, who will discuss grades, results from internal tests and subject progress so far. The Head of Sixth Form will also advise on courses for particular career pathways. A2 external module exams are mostly taken in the Summer term, although some subjects may enter for a module in January. Some AS resits are permitted in January, most are taken in June.

In combination with our extensive extra-curricular programme, work experience and UCAS advice, the curriculum in the Sixth Form gives our students their best opportunities for university entry.

The following diagram indicates one possible model for your son or daughter.



**University and Careers:** the great majority of pupils at Aldenham gain places at University, with some deferring entry by a year. A Level requirements for University entry vary enormously: some will accept low passes at A Level but many will ask for higher grades, particularly for the popular courses and Universities. The Careers Department at Aldenham gives experienced guidance to making University applications and in choosing the correct courses.

## **From the Director of Studies**

One of our aims at Aldenham is to offer as much breadth as possible to our pupils, avoiding many of the restrictions placed on subject combinations by other schools. This has been encouraged by the policy of the Universities and employers who want applicants to experience a broad education in their Sixth Form. As a consequence many career pathways and specialist courses have loosened their requirements for particular subject combinations from applicants.

As you consider entering the Sixth Form you will be given a form to indicate your choices for AS courses. Pupils should consult their Housemaster/ Housemistress, academic tutor, subject teachers and Heads of Subjects when making their choice. At Aldenham the Head of Sixth Form and the Director of Studies are also available if further guidance is necessary. For example, it may not be advisable for pupils to take both Music and Music Technology at AS. Similarly, universities may not wish to see applicants offering mainly qualifications in practical subjects for largely academic courses. Finally, there are still a number of University courses that require particular AS and A2 courses for entry. The popular ones of these are listed later in this booklet

Over recent years we have looked at the A Level results and tried to see if the students GCSE results were a reliable predictor of them. Whilst there was some correlation it was not strong. More important in predicting A Level success was the motivation and determination of the student. In making your choices this factor needs to be borne in mind, ultimately your success will depend on how much you are willing to give to your studies over the next two years.

***Mr D.S. Watts, Director of Studies***

## **From the Head of Sixth Form**

**The Academic Programme and Entry Requirements:** Most pupils in the Sixth Form follow a two-year course involving four AS subjects, which narrows to three specialist subjects at A2 Level in the U6th Year. A few go on to study four A Levels. Our minimum entry requirement is five GCSE grades A-C (including Mathematics and English) since this gives a pupil a realistic chance of passing AS Levels. A grade B or better at GCSE is needed in those subjects which pupils are intending to pursue in the Upper Sixth at A2 Level. Of course, it is essential for pupils to seek the specialist advice of their teachers concerning their suitability for a particular subject at A Level. If a pupil has failed to get a C grade at GCSE in English Language or Mathematics, then they will be required to take one or both during the Lower Sixth year, as subsequent University applications will depend upon passes in these subjects.

**Choosing the Correct A Level Courses:** The following information is designed to help you make an informed decision about the choices that face you. You may already have an idea of what subjects interest you. However, you should read the details of each course, as some are quite different from the experience that you may have had at GCSE level. Also, you will discover that there are new courses offered here that might suit your interests. Do not forget to talk to those who have guided you in the past, such as housemasters/ housemistress and tutors, as well as the Careers Department if you have a particular career in mind. Above all, talk to your teachers and choose subjects that you will enjoy and are good at.

***Mr R. Collins Head of Sixth Form***

## **Degree Course Requirements**

This is a general guide to the A Level subject requirements for various degree courses at Universities. There is variation amongst individual institutions and some are more flexible in their requirements. Within reason, it is usually possible to find an institution which will consider you for a particular course, whatever your combination of subjects. However, you should accept that unusual combinations of subjects could severely limit your choice of institution.

Note that the majority of courses require English Language GCSE and many require Mathematics. Teaching requires Science, too.

The following information refers to Single Honours Subjects, but there is a wide variety of interesting courses combining two or more subjects. This is therefore only a guide and two publications should be consulted for further information, these are:

1. 'University Entrance : The Official Guide'
2. 'Degree Course Offers', Brian Heap.

## **Other Higher Education Course Requirements (e.g. H.N.D.)**

No generalisations regarding these courses can be made as there is much variation among institutions and the type of courses offered, depending largely on the popularity of the course or institution. Requirements range from one grade E to two grade Cs.

## Some Possible Degree Courses

### Science Degree Courses

<u>Degree Subject</u>	<u>A Level Requirements</u>
Agriculture (& Horticulture & Forestry)	Chemistry often essential – other preferred subjects: 2 of Mathematics, Physics, Biology
Architecture	Mathematics sometimes preferred. Science and Arts A Level combinations preferred. Art may be required at some Universities – certainly evidence of drawing ability will be needed.
Biochemistry	Chemistry essential: 1 or 2 of Biology, Physics, Mathematics.
Biology	For some Universities Biology and Chemistry required; others, combination of Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics preferred.
Chemistry	Chemistry essential; other preferred subjects, Mathematics or Physics.
Computing	Mathematics required or preferred at most Universities. Some prefer 3 Sciences, but at others a combination of Arts and Sciences possible. Note that Computing is NOT essential but may be helpful.
Dentistry	Chemistry A and Biology AS essential (not Mathematics and Further Mathematics).
Engineering	Mathematics essential plus 1 or 2 Sciences, usually Physics or Chemistry.
Environmental Science	1, 2 or 3 from Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Geography.
Food Science & Technology	Chemistry required or preferred in most Universities with 1 or 2 of Mathematics, Physics, Biology.
Geology	Combination of 1 or 2 Sciences preferred, ideally Chemistry. May include Geography, but not essential.
Geography (Science)	BSc – usually Geography is required and at least one other science. (Geography as Arts subject – see page 7)
Mathematics	One Mathematics subject essential. Further Mathematics desirable.
Medicine	Chemistry essential and usually Biology. At least two Science based A levels usually needed. Highly competitive. Predicted A grades essential. Arts subjects encouraged for 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> A Levels. Biology may be required at A2 level.
Metallurgy – Material Science	Mathematics essential plus 1 or 2 of Physics, Chemistry.
Nursing, Health Courses	Some have no specific requirements; others require Chemistry and/or Biology.

Pharmacy	Chemistry preferred, plus 1 or 2 of Mathematics, Physics, Biology.
Physics	Physics and Mathematics required.
Physiotherapy Sports Science/Studies	1 or 2 Sciences; Biology often required. Some courses require 1 or 2 Sciences. All very competitive.
Veterinary Science	Chemistry essential plus 1 or 2 of Mathematics, Physics, Biology. A grades essential.
Zoology	Chemistry or Biology sometimes required. Mathematics or Physics helpful too.

### **Arts Degree Courses**

Archaeology	Most subjects acceptable; 1 or 2 Sciences (including Geography) helpful. GCSE Language often required.
Art	Art an advantage but not essential although a portfolio of work may well be required. Applications usually made after 1 year Art Foundation Course.
Classics	Latin and/or Greek may be required. Latin or Classical Civilisation are very useful
Dance	Theatre Studies or Dance required for some courses. Evidence of practical proficiency essential.
Drama	Theatre Studies may be required; English, a Modern Foreign Language or History may be helpful. High grades required.
English	English required. Highly competitive.
French	French required; second language sometimes preferred.
German	German required; second language, English or History useful.
History	History preferred but not essential. Some Universities require a language at GCSE. Latin or Classical Civilisation are very useful
Music	Music required, plus evidence of instrumental proficiency. Several Universities require one GCSE modern language.
Theology	Religious studies not essential; one or more of English, History, Geography, language, preferred

### **Degree Courses Accepting Mixed Arts/Sciences**

For these courses, any combination of subjects is acceptable unless otherwise stated.

Accountancy	Mathematics required/preferred by some Universities.
Business Studies	Business Studies not required. Mathematics sometimes required; Foreign Language or Economics useful.
Economics	Mathematics required/preferred by some Universities. History, Geography useful. A Level Economics not essential.
Education	Mathematics, English and Science GCSE passes are required qualifications for <u>all</u> intending teachers.
Geography	Geography usually required. Can be studied as a BA or BSc. Virtually any combination of A level subjects is acceptable. If studying for a BSc usually one science is a requirement
Law	English, Politics, a language, History, Economics or Mathematics
Philosophy	Arts or Sciences acceptable.
Politics	Most subjects acceptable. A Level Political Studies not essential. History, Economics, English, Geography, foreign language all supply useful background.
Psychology	Mixture of Arts and Sciences acceptable but remember that this subject is more likely to be science-based so 3 Arts subjects probably will not qualify. A few require 2 or 3 sciences – Biology, Mathematics, Physics or Chemistry. Highly competitive.
Sociology	English, Economics, History, Mathematics or a language.

# Guide to Courses 2011 – 2013

## **Advanced Subsidiary Courses**

### **A2 (Second Year, Sixth Form) Courses**

## **Fine Art**

**Examination Board: Edexcel**

**Specification No's: AS 8FA01  
A2 9FA01**

Art is a form of communication and expression: a visual language, which deals with the construction and interpretation of both personal and cultural meanings. Attainment in Art is achieved through the creative development of process, production, reflection and evaluation, leading towards skills, knowledge and understanding. AS and A Level Art build on the knowledge, skills and understanding established at GCSE.

The Art Department at Aldenham seeks to expand definitions of what it is to be an artist, the critical factors that determine artistic development, as well as the broader contribution that artists make to society, this is delivered through an Art History programme at A Level which is incorporated into the Schemes of Work and reinforced by excursions to many London Galleries (Saatchi, National and Tate). We seek to develop an all round knowledge of art as well as the main emphasis being on developing Painting, Drawing and Art Textiles at A Level. Our aim is to enrich and expand pupils' experience through a range of 4 coursework Units over the 2 year A Level study programme.

Many pupils progress onto studying Art Foundation Diplomas and degrees at university. The AS Level is made up of 2 coursework units of which one is an 8 hour Exam and the other is a term project based on a personal theme. A2 provides an additional 2 coursework Units of which one is a written 2000 word essay project based on a personal theme connected to a previous AS Unit and the other is a 12 hour exam. The basic tenor of the course is breadth of study at AS leading to depth of study at A2. A Level pupils have the exclusive use of a spacious sixth form studio which they can use throughout the school day in order to complete coursework.

***Acting Head of Department: Mr G. Tweedale***

## **Biology**

**Examination Board: OCR**

**Specification No: HO21, H421**

**AS Level:** This level is taken in the Lower Sixth Form and makes up 50% of the assessment weighting of the full A Level. It is assessed at a standard between GCSE and A Level and can be taken as a stand-alone specification or as part of the full A2 course. There are three units of assessment for AS level: **Unit F211 – Cells, Exchange & Transport; Unit F212 – Molecules, Biodiversity, Food & Health, and Unit F213 – Practical skills in Biology 1.**

**A2 Level:** The A2 units will be taken in the Upper Sixth and consists of a further three units: **Unit F214 – Communication, Homeostasis & Energy; Unit F215 – Control, Genomes & Environment, and Unit F216 – Practical skills in Biology 2**

Biology specifications will also provide opportunities to develop and generate evidence for Key Skills in Communication. Information Technology, Application of Number, Working with Others, Improving own Learning and Performance and Problem Solving.

The course places an emphasis on the application of Biology and the impact of recent developments on the needs of contemporary society. There is a Biology Field Trip in the AS year. Pupils considering Biology at University should be aware that many degree courses in Biology require A Level Chemistry. The course should also appeal to pupils not considering doing a Science degree. It is strongly advised that pupils have at least **BB** at GCSE Double Award Science to follow this course successfully.

***Head of Department: Dr P. Reid***

## **Business Studies**

**Examination Board: AQA**

**Specification No: AS 1131, A2 2131**

We are totally reliant upon businesses, and this course considers how they make a difference to our lives. The curriculum begins by looking at *Planning and Financing a Business*, and we consider the basic elements of how a business might be set up. The AS programme concludes with *Managing a Business*, where we look at some depth into the four functional areas of any organisation: Marketing, Finance, Operations and Human Resources.

A2 students go on to a third unit, *Strategies for Success*, where we analyse complex business problems and provide recommendations as to which direction a business should take next. The final unit, *The Business Environment and Managing Change*, provides an opportunity to look at the way in which businesses must respond to changes in the world around them.

As all other academic subjects involve elements of business studies it is a subject that goes well with any combination, hence its growth not just as an A Level but also as a popular subject with, and within, a wide range of disciplines at university. Having studied the subject at GCSE is neither a help nor a hindrance, but it is essential that you are interested in the business world around you.

This is a subject that you can't hide from, can't ignore or dismiss. It will affect you, control you, even rule you - shouldn't you therefore know more about it?

***Head of Department: Mr. P. Green***

## **Chemistry**

**Examination Board: OCR**

**Specification No: AS HO34, A2 HO434**

The specification, comprises three modules at AS and three at A2 levels. The third module in each case is the coursework component.

At AS level the three modules are entitled:

- Atoms, Bonds and Groups (30% of the total AS marks)
- Chains, Energy and Resources (50% of the total AS marks)
- Practical Skills (20% of the total AS marks)

The first two modules build on concepts already covered at GCSE level. The practical skills component assesses competencies in implementing, observing, measuring, analysing and evaluating.

At A2 level the three modules are entitled:

- Rings, Polymers and Analysis (30% of the total A2 marks)
- Equilibrium, Energetics and Elements (50% of the total A2 marks)
- Practical Skills (20% of the total A2 marks)

The first of these modules is concerned with organic chemistry and the analysis of unknown organic compounds using chromatography and spectroscopy techniques. The second module deals with rate of reaction, equilibria, chemical energy and transition elements.

The practical assessment tasks are set by OCR, marked by the teachers and moderated by the board. It is essential that pupils have at least BB at GCSE Double Award Science to follow this course successfully

***Head of Department: Mr. S.P. Williams***

## **Classical Civilisation**

**Examination Board: OCR**

**Specification No: AS H041, A2 H441.**

Classical Civilisation is the study of every aspect of the culture of ancient Greece and Rome. If you are interested in the history, politics, culture, art, architecture, literature and drama of our own society and have wondered how they were influenced by the world of ancient Greece and Rome, then Classical Civilisation is for you! You should enjoy reading and wish to experience new ideas and develop your skills in essay writing. A good pass grade in an equivalent subject (i.e. English or History) at GCSE is a prerequisite for AS/A Level Classical Civilisation. You will need no previous knowledge of Classical Civilisation or Latin.

The course offers the choice of a broad variety of topics, including - Greek and Roman Epic, Roman Satire, Greek Art and Architecture, Greek Historians, Roman Historians, Greek Tragedy, Greek Comedy, Archaeology and Roman Britain. All texts are read in translation and the emphasis is on getting to know the Ancient World through investigating primary materials. Pupils are given ample opportunity to develop their own ideas, along with their ability to think critically and analytically - discussion in class is frequently lively!

In the AS year two topics will be tested, through context questions and essay questions. In the A2 year a further two topics are chosen, examined in the same style.

Many pupils take on this subject without any background in Classics and enjoy the course so much that they go on to read Classics at University. Study of the Classics is an excellent grounding in the skills required for a wide variety of professions.

Modules in Ancient History are also an option as part of the AS or A2 course.

***Head of Department: Miss A. Cushing***



## **Design & Technology (D&T)**

### **Product Design in Resistant Materials Technology, Graphic Products or Textiles**

**Specification:** Resistant Materials

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**AS:** 6RM01 (60% coursework) & 6RM02 (40% written exam)

**A2:** 6RM03 (40% written exam) & 6RM04 (60% coursework)

**Specification:** Graphic Products

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**AS:** 6GR01 (60% coursework) & 6GR02 (40% written exam)

**A2:** 6GR03 (40% written exam) & 6GR04 (60% coursework)

**Specification:** Textiles

**Examination Board:** AQA

**AS:** 1561 Unit 1 (50% written exam) & Unit 2 (50% coursework)

**A2:** 2561 Unit 3 (50% written exam) & Unit 4 (50% coursework)

All courses follow on from GCSE D&T Resistant Materials, Textiles or Graphics Products. They have been designed to encourage candidates to take a broad view of Design and Technology, to develop their capacity to design and make products, and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacturing and marketing. A-level Design and Technology is relevant to a career in Design, Engineering, Manufacturing, the Fashion and Textiles industries, and many other businesses that involve these disciplines.

Coursework projects are developed through the study, and detailed analysis, of a wide range of products and firsthand experience of practical project work. Candidates follow a time plan, with deadlines and regular reviews. The theoretical content will be delivered through formal instruction and research assignments.

#### Resistant Materials and Graphic Products A/S coursework

The A/S coursework, worth 60% of the overall A/S grade, is split across three portfolios; research, design and manufacturing skills.

#### Resistant Materials and Graphic Products A2 coursework

Coursework at A2 is a single portfolio which is started in the Christmas term of the U6th year and completed in the Spring term. The product chosen should have a real commercial use, and be designed for a client, to whom they have regular access, for regular interviews and design feedback.

#### Textiles A/S and A2 Coursework

Both the A/S and A2 coursework modules are based on a single portfolio of work each year, accounting for 50% of the A-level studied. The student will choose their project, with discussion and guidance from staff, to ensure it meets requirements of the examination board.

All D&T courses will make significant demands on pupils' time, and requires a high level of commitment, but those who rise to the challenge, stand an excellent chance of achieving a top grade. A Level pupils value highly our "open door" policy, which allows them almost unlimited access to the department's facilities, help and advice from the teaching staff and our technician.

**Head of Department: Miss S Nicholl**

# Drama and Theatre Studies

Exam Board: Edexcel

Specification No: AS 8DR01

A2 9DR01

Learn new approaches and enhance your existing skills in acting, directing, and devising plays through workshops, performance, analysis and West End theatre trips. Any university course or career which requires confidence, communication and team cooperation will be pleased to see a Drama qualification on your CV. A high level of commitment is expected from students of this demanding subject, with high GCSE Drama grades and/or previous production experience being a very useful starting point. We have an impressive record of people successfully applying to the National Youth Theatre and several of our students continue with the subject at University or at an accredited Drama School.

## **Two units are taken for the AS qualification:**

### Unit 1 Exploration of drama and theatre

- Workshop exploration of two plays.  
Assessed on practical workshop and on related coursework notes.
- Evaluation of live theatre performance.

### Unit 2 Text in performance

- A practical examination of acting skills in a directed production of a play.
- Performance of a monologue or duologue.
- Externally assessed performance in both cases.

## **Two further units are taken for the A2 qualification:**

### Unit 3 Exploration of Dramatic Performance

- Making and performing a devised piece of theatre  
Assessed on practical workshops, performance and related coursework notes

### Unit 4 Theatre Text in context

- Three examination questions based on the study of two plays.  
Section A + B are based on a director's approach to a play and  
Section C is based on performance analysis and research.  
Externally assessed 2½ hour written paper

**Director of Drama: Ms J. Bannister (Contact e-mail [jzb@aldenham.com](mailto:jzb@aldenham.com) )**

## **Economics**

**Examination Board: OCR (Cambridge)**

**Specification No: AS H061, A2 H461**

"I haven't got enough!" It may be money, it may be time, it may be equipment or any one of a number of different items. Sooner or later everyone meets with the central problems with which economists grapple – scarcity and the need to make choices to use limited resources to their best effect. Put another way, Economics is about who makes what, for whom and in what quantities. These are questions which all societies have to answer because human wants are virtually unlimited but the wherewithal to satisfy those desires is limited.

The course consists of an examination of how markets in goods and services operate, both individually and in conjunction with one another. These determine how price and quantities sold are fixed so that as many people as possible are satisfied. Adam Smith, an early economist, likened this process to an invisible hand guiding the economy. Unfortunately, this mechanism does not always operate and what is called market failure occurs. This type of situation is the second area of study and following on from that we consider what role governments might legitimately play in making corrections for these problems. The AS course will conclude with a look at the working of the whole economy and its place within the international economy.

The A2 course is more applied in nature, and considers economic problems within a specific context. The unit available to students in 2011-13 is the Economics of Work and Leisure. Finally, there is a synoptic unit on the Global Economy, which draws material from the entire specification to consider the current and future direction of the world's economic system

Please note that due to the importance of numerical concepts in Economics, it is expected that students will have achieved a 'Grade B' in GCSE Mathematics before embarking on the course. An interest in contemporary events is also a pre-requisite, as much of the course involves discussion of the current economic situation.

***Head of Department: Mr. P. Green***

## **English Literature**

**Examination Board: OCR**

**Specification No: AS H071 A2 H471**

AS and A2 English is a popular subject area in the Sixth Form. The GCE AS/Advanced English Literature course should not be regarded as a higher level GCSE English Literature; it is both more satisfying and engaging and much more academically demanding. Above all, English Literature offers real enjoyment to those willing to study with enthusiasm and determination.

From September 2010 AS will consist of two main modules.

### **AS UNIT F661 Poetry and Prose 1800-1945**

**2hr Examination - 60% at AS 30% at A2 (Closed Text)**

- Poetry 1800-1945 – Critical analysis of poetry
- Prose 1800 -1945 – analytical essay on a set prose text focusing on narrative methods and effects, and linking to other readers' interpretations

The poetry section allows students to study a set selection of poems written by one poet from the period 1800 -1945.

The focus of the critical analysis of poetry will involve candidates answering **one** question on **one** poem of the poet studied.

Students should be able to analyse the effects of language, imagery and verse form structure.

They must also demonstrate an understanding of the significance of the contexts in which the poem was written and received and be able to reference other poems written by the same poet.

The prose section allows Students to study a set prose text from the period 1800 – 1945

Students should be able to demonstrate understanding of the text in relation to the view presented and explore how themes and issues are presented. They should take into account the effects of language, form and structure. Students will also be expected to demonstrate understanding of basic literary – critical concepts and approaches.

### **AS UNIT F662 Literature post 1900. Coursework, 40% at AS – 20% at A2**

- **Coursework – 3000 word maximum.**

The aim of this unit is to encourage interest and enjoyment in contemporary literary studies. In studying this unit you should be able to develop an understanding and appreciation of literary texts in the light of other reader's views and be able to link and explore relationships between texts thematically and stylistically.

The A2 course follows a similar structure with two main Modules.

### **A2 Unit F633: Drama and Poetry pre-1800 (Closed Text)**

**2hr Examination – 30% A2**

The aim of this unit is to encourage students to explore contrasts, connections and comparisons between different literary texts. In the examination students must refer to one set drama text and one set poetry text.

Section A of this paper is related to the study of a Shakespeare play. Two questions are offered on each text and students must answer **one** question on the play they have studied.

Section B of this paper requires pupils to explore contrasts, connections and comparisons between different literary texts. Students must refer to **one drama** text and **one poetry text** which taken form set texts.

**A2 Unit F664: Texts in Time – A Level - 20%**

- **Coursework – 3000 words maximum**

This unit allows learners to fully develop research skills and synthesise their knowledge and understanding in an extended individual study of literary texts across genres.

It gives candidates an appreciation of the cultural and contextual influences upon readers and writers and the ways in which texts relate to literary traditions, movements and genres

GCE AS/A Level English can prepare students for a degree course in English at university for those of above average ability who are likely to gain at least a B grade at A Level. It can also help with subjects such as Theatre Studies, History, Modern Languages, Theology and Media Studies. GCE English can lead to a variety of job opportunities. It is recommended that a student gain at least two Bs at GCSE Literature and Language to follow this course successfully.

***Head of Department Mr C.R. Jenkins***

# Geography

Examination Board: AQA

Specification No: GCE Geography (2030) 2010 onwards

A subject that is looked upon very favourably by all universities; this new specification offers a good progression from our GCSE course, but prior study of Geography is not compulsory. It balances Physical and Human Geography as it explores the complexities of the modern world. Geography is a highly dynamic subject and demands people who are keen to find out how they interact with the world in which they live. The programme of study looks at contemporary real life issues in World Geography. If you want to understand what is going on in the world today you should take this course.

## AS (Lower Sixth)

**Unit 1** – Physical & Human Environments – (70% AS -35% A Level marks)

- Rivers, floods and management
- Coastal environments
- Global population change
- Food supply issues.

In each area the students will consider their own values and attitudes to the issues being studied and support their learning of ideas through the study of specific case studies.

A two hour long examination based on structured short and extended data response questions.

**Unit 2** – Geographical Skills Paper – (30% AS - 15% A Level marks)

- Basic, investigative, ICT, graphical, cartographical and statistical skills

A one hour long examination based on structured skills and generic research/fieldwork questions. The exam will assess the ability of students to apply their knowledge and skills to unseen information/resources and with reference to actual fieldwork that they have carried out.

There is **NO** coursework at AS level, however, the department still conducts several compulsory field trips throughout the lower sixth year. In order to attain the required skills for the Unit 2 examination, all candidates will be expected to attend the North Devon Field trip during the Easter holidays.

## A2 (Upper Sixth)

**Unit 3** – Contemporary Geographical Issues – (30% of total A level marks)

- Plate tectonics and associated hazards
- Weather and climate and associated hazards
- Challenges facing ecosystems
- World cities – evolution or revolution?
- Development and globalisation
- Contemporary conflicts and challenges.

A two hour long examination based on short and extended structured data response questions, followed by one essay.

**Unit 4** – Geography Fieldwork Investigation – (20% of total A level marks)

A one hour and thirty minute long examination of structured short and extended questions based on the candidates own fieldwork investigation.

A good proportion of our recent students have gone onto read Geography at University. The dynamic and skills based nature of this subject gives Geography one of the highest graduate employment rates of any non specialist degree. Students with AS or Advanced Geography have

access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. The specification chosen gives the opportunity to develop communication skills, graphical and cartographic skills, technological skills including GIS and ICT, interpersonal skills through debate and discussion, collecting, analysing and interpreting data, and developing links between different parts of the subject. These skills are in great demand and give Geographers greater flexibility when choosing their careers.

Geography combines well with almost all other subjects. Taken with sciences like Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, Geography supports applications for almost any science based university course like medicine, engineering or psychology; taken with humanities or languages like English, French, History or Economics, Geography provides a base for courses such as Business, Law, Media , Politics and Philosophy.

***Head of Department: Mr. M. I. Yeabsley***

## **History**

**Examination Board: AQA**

**Specification No: AS HIS1H HIS2P, A2 HIS 3B**

This Modern History course follows the AQA specification. It is designed to cover some of the most important events and debates of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century as well as look at earlier, fundamental periods of change, and to link with, but not repeat, material covered at GCSE level at Aldenham. The course is also designed to give a flavour of a variety of different types of historical study. At AS level, the topics are the Causes of the Russian Revolution and the Civil Rights Movement in America. The A2 course looks at the reign of Elizabeth I, investigating this momentous fifty years which laid the foundations for modern Britain, and a study of the British Empire and decolonisation.

There are two examined units in AS and one in A2 and one piece of coursework in the A2 course. Students are tested on their ability to write short and longer essays, and to analyse historical sources. These skills will be a focus of the teaching, and will be developed from those learnt during the GCSE course.

Studying History at Aldenham will certainly help investigate the influences that shaped our modern world, and if you have studied and enjoyed the GCSE course you should certainly consider continuing with the subject. Modern History will also open up a large number of Higher Education and career options. Abilities to communicate effectively and to analyse information are highly sought after and are developed well through a study of History. In particular, careers in Politics, Economics, the Law, Journalism and the Arts would be well served by the subject.

***Head of Department: Mr P.A. Wright***

## **Information Technology**

**Examination Board: AQA**

**Specification No: AS / A2 2520**

Information Technology has become established as a major tool in all aspects of society. The new course specification for Information and Communication Technology for AS and A Level has been designed to help students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where understanding how ICT can be used in society and business and the implications of its use, will be a valuable asset. It offers more opportunities for practical work than the previous specification. Among the many benefits, this new specification is also designed to encourage candidates to work co-operatively and manage projects, develop personal learning and thinking skills; provide quality ICT based solutions to a range of problems and develop an awareness of developments in technology.

It consists of two units in AS and two units in A2. There is a one hour and thirty minutes written paper for both of the AS units. There is a two hour written paper for one of the A2 units composed of structured questions based on pre-release material provided and questions requiring extended prose answers. For the second A2 unit candidates complete coursework on practical issues involved in managing the use of ICT in organisations. This involves investigating, analysing, defining requirements, selecting and using appropriate technologies, designing solutions, methods for testing and installation, documenting and evaluating.

The exams assess not merely technical knowledge but, the ability to communicate as well as an awareness of general ICT developments. Overseas students should note that a high level of competence in using English is required.

One of the AS examination units takes place in January and the second unit examination is at the end of the Lower Sixth year. Similarly, one of the A2 examination units takes place in January and the second unit examination is at the end of the Upper Sixth year.

This course provides a useful background to many non-computer courses, equipping students with a good level of competence in and awareness of ICT, as well as university courses of computer science.

There is a natural progression from GCSE although this is not a prerequisite, it is advisable. An interest in the subject and the motivation to take the opportunity to learn is essential.

***Head of Department: Mr. D.J. Michael***

## Languages

### Modern Languages – French, German, Spanish

Examination Board: AQA (AS); Edexcel (A2)

Specification No: French AS 2650, A2 9190

German AS 2660, A2 9230

Spanish AS 2695, A2 9590

These Language courses are very exciting, in that they offer students the opportunity to talk and write about an interesting variety of topics, such as media, fashion, the world of publicity, relationships, political and societal issues.

The final examination assesses the full range of language skills: you will sit listening, speaking, reading and writing papers, as well as producing written coursework on a variety of themes of your choice. The Advanced Subsidiary forms 50% of the assessment weighting of the full Advance GCE; it is assessed at a standard between GCSE and Advanced GCE and can be taken as a stand-alone qualification or as the first half of the full A2 course.

During the course you will work with a wide variety of authentic materials including topic-based textbooks, blogs and virtual learning environments containing video clips, newspaper articles, interviews and interactive activities. The course is also enhanced by a range of authentic media and books; and literary and grammatical studies form an integral part of the course. Both teaching and examinations are conducted mainly in the target language, and we do expect candidates to subscribe wholeheartedly to this ideal, as well as being keen to undertake self-motivated study and essential development of skills such as wider reading and listening practice outside the confines of timetabled lessons, using a wide range of materials and resources. The library has a wealth of book, magazine and journal resources. It is very important that students spend a significant period of time in the country/countries of the language(s) being studied, perhaps on an exchange visit, or with relatives or friends abroad who will speak the language intensively with you. Currently, A-Level students have the opportunity to spend a week in France on an intensive work experience trip to Brittany. This has proven to be of inestimable value to students. Similar experiences could be arranged if you are studying towards A-Levels in German and Spanish. You will be encouraged to engage in pen-friendships with partner schools and to attend the Language trips run by the department. Through departmental links, you will also have the opportunity to benefit from London's language institutes. The department offers ample opportunity to practise the oral component through the use of its digital language laboratory.

The course is naturally suitable for students who wish to study one or two languages together with other arts subjects. In recent years, it has become increasingly valuable to study Languages to Advanced Level, as many universities in Britain now encourage proficiency in a foreign language when enrolling for tertiary courses in the Arts, Sciences and Economics and Business Studies. In a fiercely competitive market, foreign language skills often set students apart when it comes to university entrance. The European Union provides considerable funding to live and study abroad to complement studies of all subjects. Knowledge of a foreign language will inevitably enhance career and study prospects. Our main aim is to provide you with a wide range of practical communicative skills in both the written and the spoken language for a variety of purposes in the world of work and leisure, and, of course, for further study.

**Head of Department: Mrs A. Venter**

## **Latin**

**Examination Board: OCR**

**Specification No: AS H039, A2 H439**

Latin is an excellent subject for any linguist since it is the basis of so many modern languages and indeed English. Latin literature has influenced later European writing and culture and so provides a useful context for, and background to the study of English Literature. Many scientists and mathematicians enjoy the logical, deductive and analytical thinking which underpins the Latin language. Latin is a challenging and academic A Level course and widely recognised as such and so a good pass at GCSE is advisable for further study.

The emphasis of the course, at AS-level, is on reading, appreciating, understanding and translating Latin literature. There is an unseen translation prose examination at AS, the vocabulary for which is taken from a list issued to pupils. At A2-level, reading Latin prose and poetry remains important, however, unseen translation (prose and verse) and comprehension is given greater prominence. The choice of authors studied is wide and varies from year to year allowing texts which pupils will find enjoyable, stimulating and challenging.

Universities offer a wide range of courses for students of Latin, either on its own or combined with subjects like Greek, Modern Languages, Modern or Ancient History, English, Philosophy, Theology and Archaeology. Many employers view Latinists as being highly trained in the skills they prize – in communication, problem solving, thinking independently and analytically. Study of the classical languages is an excellent grounding in the skills required for a wide variety of careers including: Advertising, Accountancy, Insurance, Banking, the Civil Service, Journalism, Finance, Law, Computing, Management, Teaching and Television.

The Classics Department offers A Level trips to lectures and seminars in London and further afield. We try to see at least one production each year of Roman or Greek drama.

***Head of Department: Mrs A. Venter***

## **Mathematics/ Further Mathematics**

**Examination Board: Edexcel**

**Specification No: Mathematics AS 8371, A2 9371,  
Further Mathematics AS 8372, A2 9372**

We offer two courses, Pure Mathematics being the basis of each. It is recommended that you have a high grade in Mathematics at GCSE to support this work. The Specification followed is made up of several units, each assessed by an examination. To gain an A Level award, students need to successfully pass six units. To gain an AS level award, students need to successfully complete three units.

**Mathematics:** To complete an A Level in Mathematics four Pure units and two Applied units must be taken. Applied units are a Statistics and a Mechanics unit or possibly two Mechanics units for Physicists. The course is suitable for both Science and Arts pupils. The Statistics and Probability work supplements many other subjects (e.g. Biology, Geography, Business Studies) while the Pure Mathematics is particularly helpful for Physics and Chemistry. The Mechanics is not only of interest to Physicists; it applies Pure Mathematics to physical situations. Very able single Mathematics student have the option to follow an accelerated programme of study which allows them to complete a further three modules thus enabling them to gain an AS in Further Mathematics.

**Mathematics and Further Mathematics:** This represents two A Level awards and, consequently, is given twice the teaching time of a single Mathematics award. It is a course for the Mathematics specialist and is often studied alongside Physics with a view to a career in Mathematics, Physics or Engineering. In the first year, four Pure units and two Applied units are completed. In the second year, a further three units each of Pure and Applied are studied. The content of both courses is what universities call 'Mathematical Methods'. A facility in algebra and a feel for numerical work are essential. Students taking this course must select it in both option blocks.

***Head of Department: Mr. D.A. Chorley***

## **Media Studies**

**Examination Board OCR**

**AS/A level GCE**

**Specification No. AS H140 A2 H540**

Media Studies is a very popular subject area in the Sixth Form but it is important that Students are not deceived; Media Studies at AS and A2 level means grappling with complex theoretical concepts and intricate, multifaceted issues and debates.

The subject offers you the opportunity to combine a theoretical understanding of the mass media in society and methods of analysing media texts – television programmes, films, advertising, the press and websites. The development of practical skills for media productions is also vitally important. There is a balance of theory and practical work which means that students will learn about how media industries operate, students will research and investigate issues and debates in contemporary media texts.

AS Media studies is broken down into two units as outlined below.

### **G321: Foundation Portfolio - Coursework AS - 50% A Level - 25%**

Candidates produce two paired media artefacts from a series of set briefs.

### **G322 or G323: Key Media Concepts (either radio drama or television drama) 2hr exam AS - 50% A Level - 25%**

Candidates gain an understanding of textual analysis, representation, institutions and audiences.

A2 Media studies is broken into two units as outlined below.

### **G324: Advanced Portfolio in Media- Coursework A Level - 25%**

Candidates engage with contemporary media technologies to produce a media portfolio.

### **G325: Critical Perspectives in Media- 2hr exam A Level - 25%**

Candidates cover Theoretical Evaluation of Production alongside a study of contemporary media issues.

Other subjects that go well with Media Studies are, English Literature, Theatre Studies, Art and Design.

***Head of Department: Mr C.R. Jenkins***

## **Music and Music Technology**

**Examination Board: Edexcel**

**Specification No: Music AS 8MU01, A2 9MU01**

**Music Technology AS 8MT1, A2 9MT01**

The two Music courses can both be taken to A Level or AS level. For certain pupils it may be possible to do both courses. They are quite different in content and offer a wide choice of options for budding performers or those interested in the more technical aspect of music.

**Music** - the three elements of performing, composing and developing musical understanding are carried forward from GCSE. In the first year (leading towards the AS examination) students have to complete three units based on these elements. The full A level comprises of all the AS units plus unit 4 - performing, unit 5 - composition and Technical Study and unit 6 - musical understanding.

**Music Technology** - This course is divided into four units. Unit one is comprised of sequencing a performance on a computer, arranging a piece in a particular style and making a multi-track recording. Unit 2 consists of an exam based on listening and musical analysis and this completes the AS exam. For A2, unit 3 expands on the skills learnt in unit 1, but replaces the arranging task with a composition. Unit 4 is an exam testing the skills of analysing and producing.

***Head of Department: Mr. J.R. Wyatt***



## **Physics**

**Examination Board: OCR**

**Specification No: AS: H158 A2: H558**

Physics is fascinating because it helps to bring us closer to discovering such diverse issues as the insides of atoms and how the Universe works.

Physics is important because further advances in Physics will be needed if the world is to support its growing population. The development of new energy resources is just one example. It is also important because it provides the scientific framework that supports the other sciences. Physics is essential to our quality of life, making possible such things as supersonic flight, computers and digital communications. Most of the new techniques in modern medicine are due to ideas in Physics.

Physics at AS level is intellectually satisfying because we find that many apparently disconnected ideas met at GCSE, fall into a small number of elegant patterns. Indeed, theoretical physicists today hope to reduce the subject to just one pattern. It is a logical subject where vague, woolly ideas are not acceptable and must be replaced by precise thinking and accurate expression. Students make full use of their mathematics at whatever level they have studied it.

This modular course is examined over two years. The final A Level grade is awarded on the aggregate of all the modules including the two internally assessed practicals. With approximately one module covered each term, the course is to an advanced standard right from the start and will require good literacy and practical skills as well as a sound mathematical aptitude. However, the rewards are instant, in that each pupil can tell throughout the course how they are progressing towards the final total.

***Head of Department: Mr. R.A.C. Pomeroy***

# Physical Education

Examination Board: Edexcel

Specification No: AS 8PE01 and A2 9PE01

Students who are suited to this course will have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in Physical Education and Games, a willingness to explore new ideas and will be able to communicate ideas effectively. An ability to perform well in at least two sports is a definite advantage.

## Unit 1 Participation in Sport and Recreation

The unit content is divided into two sections with each section outlining the specific knowledge and understanding required by the student. The first section will develop the students' knowledge and understanding of what constitutes a healthy and active lifestyle. Students will investigate how the body responds and adapts to exercise, the components of physical and skill fitness and different methods of fitness training. The rationale behind carrying out fitness assessments and protocols associated with recognised fitness tests.

The second section encourages the student to develop their knowledge and understanding of how competitive sport has developed over time. They will learn how lifelong involvement in sport is encouraged. This unit is assessed through a 1 hour 30 minute paper. The paper will be a mixture of short answer style and extended writing Tasks.

## Unit 2 The Critical Sports Performer

The aim of the unit is to develop practical experience in a range of practical ways. They should be able to demonstrate knowledge and experience of the structure, provision and analysis of sport and physical activity. They will need to develop their performance through TWO chosen roles from a choice of three (performer leader and official.) This unit is internally assessed and will require the student to collect and produce a portfolio of evidence in the range of tasks offered. Only a committed sports player, leader or official will be able to achieve a satisfactory grade in this unit.

The AS course will normally be taught through 6 teaching periods per week. Some of the practical work will require a commitment outside of the normal timetable and will probably involve weekends.

A2 Physical Education.

## Unit 3 Preparation for Optimum Sports Performance

Students will develop a knowledge and understanding of the short term and long term physiological preparations made by elite athletes. They will consider the short and long term technical preparations required e.g. training camps, appropriate kit and equipment, different types of ergonomic aids. This unit is assessed through a two hour examination paper. The paper will be a mixture of short answer style and extended writing Tasks.

## Unit 4 The Developing Sports Performer

Students now specialise in one practical performance role and undertake three performance tasks

1. A development plan to further progress their performance as performer/ leader or official
2. Develop one of the roles in the context of international performance considering grass roots participation, elite performance and other factors.
3. The student will develop a life plan for physical activity outlining opportunities available to them in the future using a 'time line'

Students who are successful on this course will have access to a wide range of career and higher educational opportunities. Students may progress onto areas such as Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Recreation and Leisure. The multi-faceted nature of the course means that it is a highly regarded qualification, combining well with many other subjects.

**Head of Department: Mr G. Cornock**

# Psychology

Examination Board AQA

Specification No. AS A-5181 A2 A6181

The aim of the department is to introduce students to a new discipline which has synopticity with other subjects they may have chosen to study. It is, of course, a subject which has been around for hundreds of years but it has traditionally been the preserve of the universities. It is therefore the case that the subject has come down from university level rather than being invented at school level and moving up. It is a well-respected academic A-level and as of 2009 was officially recognised as a science by UCA. A Psychology A-Level would support anybody in their application to study psychology further or in an application for medicine, law and sociology. It does, in fact, develop skills transferable to any academic degree course.

“The mind is like an iceberg, it floats with one-seventh of its bulk above water.” – Sigmund Freud

## AS Level (A - 5181)

Paper 1 (90 mins) Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology and Research Methods  
Paper 2 (90 mins) Biological Psychology, Social Psychology and Individual Differences

### At AS Level this Psychology course encourages students to:

- a. study psychological theories, research, terminology, concepts, studies and methods.
- b. develop skills of analysis, interpretation and evaluation.
- c. develop an understanding of different areas of Psychology, including the core areas of Cognitive, Social, Developmental and Physiological Psychology, Individual Differences and Research Methods.
- d. design and report psychological investigations, and analyse and interpret data.
- e. develop an understanding of ethical issues in Psychology, including the ethical implications of psychological research.

## A2 Level (A - 6181)

Paper 3 (90 mins) Three essay-style questions chosen from eight topics:  
(a) Biological rhythms and sleep (b) Perception  
(c) Relationships (d) Aggression  
(e) Eating behaviour (f) Gender  
(g) Intelligence and learning (h) Cognition and development  
Paper 4 (120 mins) Psychopathology, Psychology in Action, Research Methods

### At A2 Level, in addition this course:

- a. includes the study of psychological principles, perspectives and applications.
- b. enables students to explore and understand the relationship between psychological knowledge, theories and methodology and their relationship to social, cultural, scientific and contemporary issues.
- c. enables the development of critical and evaluative skills in relation to theory, empirical studies and methods of research in Psychology.
- d. enables students develop an understanding of the major approaches in psychology (cognitive, biological, behavioural and psychodynamic).

The subject is taught in well-resourced and well-equipped classrooms, complete with the latest technology to enhance the learning experience.

“Perfect as the wing of a bird may be, it will never enable the bird to fly if unsupported by the air. Facts are the air of science. Without them a man of science can never rise.” – Ivan Pavlov

**Head of Department – Mr D Bott**

## **Religious Studies**

**Examination Board: OCR**

**Specification No: AS H172 A2 H572**

Do you want to examine controversial questions with an open mind? Are you willing to have your own views about contemporary issues, society and the existence of God challenged? Religious Studies develops skills of thinking about, listening to and understanding the view of others. Students will learn the key critical thinking skills of analysis of arguments and writing convincing and coherent essays. Students beginning the course at AS do not have to possess GCSE RS, but need a commitment to develop the practical skills of note taking, essay writing and individual presentations.

Religious Studies combines well with other subjects such as English and History and its philosophical and ethical content will be invaluable for those studying Business Studies, Psychology and the Sciences. It is a subject that employers value, as it indicates an open and inquiring mind and an ability to critically evaluate evidence. Universities and employers recognise the subject as a highly academic A Level. For students who want to broaden their subject base at AS level this may be a wise choice, particularly for those who wish to pursue a career in Law, Medicine or Business.

The AS consists of two modules: a module on Philosophy of Religion; which includes arguments for and against the existence of God, the problem of evil and suffering, and the challenge of Science and Psychology. There is also a module on Ethics which includes ethical theories spanning centuries, and ethics applied to modern challenges such as Genetic Engineering and Embryo Research. **There is no coursework.**

Students moving on to A2 will take another two modules.

***Head of Department – Mr C. Bembridge***

## **Enrichment**

In addition to AS and A2 subjects, Careers and University Entry courses offered, all Sixth Form pupils take courses designed to widen their experience and to support thinking and learning. Many of these important courses deal with the spiritual, cultural and moral development of young men and women, as well as providing variety through topics such as Economic Understanding and Citizenship. Many elements of the Personal, Social and Health Education programme addressed in the Lower School are also examined through these enrichment activities. Enrichment courses at Aldenham are not examined. All Sixth Formers at Aldenham take part in an extensive Games and Activities programme and there are many opportunities for involvement in Music and Drama.