Prospectus

2026 Entry

Colchester County High School for Girls

A Centre of Excellence for Learning and Thinking

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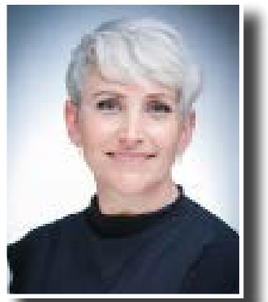

Mrs Sinead Hughes
Head of Sixth Form

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Assistant to the
Head of Sixth Form

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"CCHSG is an Exceptional School"
Ofsted 2024

Welcome

"It is my great privilege as the Executive Principal of CCHSG to warmly welcome you to our unique and inspiring community."

CCHSG Sixth Form has an excellent academic reputation, and we are extremely ambitious for our students. The school was founded in 1909 to provide high quality education for girls and continues to combine both tradition and innovation to fulfil that aim in the 21st Century. As our most recent Ofsted inspection stated, the standards of teaching and learning at CCHSG are outstanding. We expect Sixth Form students to work hard and take increasing responsibility for their learning.

We are proud that, as Ofsted inspectors identified, "there is a culture of determination to succeed not only academically but also to be good people who will make a difference both in school and in the wider world". We provide an exceptional opportunity for students to develop their talents, enjoy themselves and flourish as individuals. The wide-ranging extracurricular activities include drama, music, arts and sports and the curriculum is enriched with many co-curricular opportunities. Our enthusiastic teachers work incredibly hard to support our Sixth Form students and are always willing to give up a great deal of their time outside the classroom.

The wellbeing of our students is at the centre of all that we do. We are proud of our pastoral system; our supportive, caring tutors and pastoral assistants will listen to any concerns. The safe and secure environment fosters self-belief and encourages our students to develop leadership skills, preparing them to be well rounded, active and capable citizens.

Our students benefit from a stunning Sixth Form centre, providing them with a high-quality professional working and social environment. There is easy access to our superb new Library and Sixth Form students have their own lecture theatre, ICT suite, common room and refectory area.

Thank you for your interest in Colchester County High School for Girls. We hope that if you decide to continue your studies here, you will be happy and successful in every possible way.

Gillian Marshall

Mrs Gillian Marshall MSc NPQH
Executive Principal & CEO Alpha Trust

2026/27 Minimum Entry Criteria

Applications for entry to Year 12 will be made via an online system on our website. Admissions open in early November the previous year. The minimum entry requirement is 4 GCSEs at Grade 7 or above and 2 GCSEs at Grade 6 including English Language and Mathematics at a minimum of Grade 6. Students will be required to achieve at least a Grade 7 in each GCSE subject they wish to study at A Level.

Students wishing to take A Level Music will also require Associated Board Grade 5 Music Theory and Associated Board Grade 5 Music Practical in addition to the GCSE grade requirements outlined above.

For A Level subjects not studied at GCSE, each subject has a specified GCSE entry qualification:

- For Classical Civilisation, Economics or Religious Education a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature
- For Psychology a Grade 7 in GCSE English Language or English Literature and Grade 6 in Mathematics
- For Further Mathematics a Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics
- For PE a Grade 7 in GCSE Biology. The practical assessment in A Level PE is not part of the taught course. It is therefore expected that students are competing at a high level in an AQA recognised sport (see AQA website) outside school
- For Computer Science, an equivalent Level 2 IT or Computer Science qualification
- If Economics, Psychology, Religious Education, Computer Science or PE, have been studied at GCSE then the entry requirement will be a Grade 7 in the subject to be taken at A Level

For our full Sixth Form admissions policy see www.cchsg.com

As members of the CCHSG Student Leadership Team, we would like to warmly welcome you to our Sixth Form.

CCHSG makes the transition from GCSEs to A Levels a smooth and simple one. There is constant support from teachers to help us surpass our academic expectations. We take great pride in our commitment to excellence in both our academic and personal interests. Our Sixth Form creates an environment for us to thrive in all aspects of our lives. We are provided with many opportunities outside the classroom, such as Young Enterprise, DofE expeditions, sporting events, musical performances and drama shows and productions. With a wide variety of clubs and societies also on offer, there is something for everyone no matter where your interests lie.

The strength of our community spirit can be felt by all students. As around a third of our Sixth Form students join us each year in Year 12 from other secondary schools, there are plenty of opportunities to mix with new people and form lifelong friendships.

We are given the guidance and encouragement we need to help us choose our next steps, as well as the skills to get us there. Our time at CCHSG has helped us develop as young people and realise our potential not only academically but in many other areas of experience.

We wish you every success in your examinations and hope to see you at CCHSG.

The Student Leadership Team

Student Leadership

Head Student Team

Year 12 students can apply for a position on the Student Leadership Team. The team work closely with members of the school's Senior Leadership Team and support with Sixth Form and whole school activities. They represent the school in the local community and the Sixth Form within the school community.

Sixth Form Students as Prefects

The primary aim of the Form Prefect is to promote the ethos of the School and the Sixth Form whilst supporting and assisting the Form Tutor of a Year 7-10 Form Group. Form Prefects work with the Form Tutor to co-ordinate an appropriate range of relevant Form activities such as charity fundraising events, assemblies, topical discussions and quizzes. Form Prefects can also offer peer support and advice on academic and social issues.

Sixth Form Students as Subject Prefects

Subject Prefects work with the departments to co-ordinate a range of activities such as assisting with the academic support of students in the specific subject area, offering advice on learning strategies and revision methods and supporting the teacher by working with younger students in subject lessons.

Student Voice

Student Voice is an elected body who work for the good of all students at CCHSG. The group works alongside senior staff to represent students' views and provide the student perspective in discussions on aspects of school policy. Student Voice also fulfils a vital role in the community and social life of the school by, for example, formulating and promoting the school's anti-bullying policy and supporting healthy eating in the canteen.

The Sixth Form offers a range of opportunities for students to develop the organisational, interpersonal and leadership skills that will help equip them for life and the world of work. We foster a positive attitude of caring for the community in which we live and work, and all students are actively encouraged to take on leadership roles.

Academic Support

Dynamic teaching inspires students to become independent, resilient and successful learners. We are committed to empowering the students in our classrooms and always endeavour to deliver innovative, varied and emotionally intelligent lessons.

Our learning environment is constantly growing and adapting, embracing new technology and endeavouring to offer the best possible educational opportunities. CCHSG believes in stretching and challenging students' thinking and reasoning skills across all curriculum areas.

"The quality of education provided by the school is outstanding

As a result the outcomes for pupils are some of the highest in the country"

Ofsted 2024

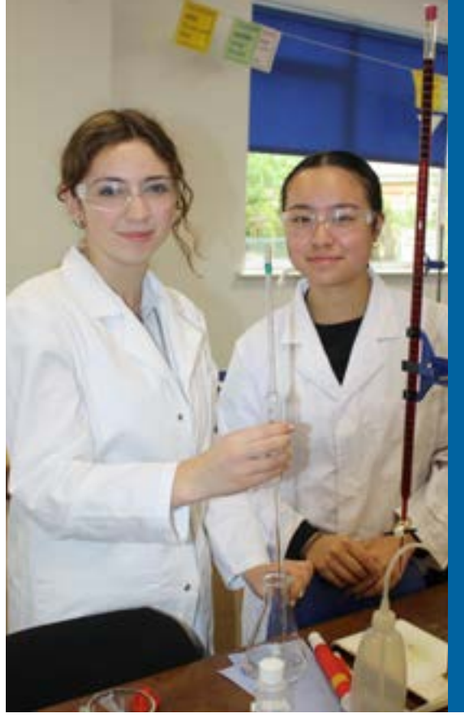
"We enjoy innovation and creativity in our learning, alongside staff who help us to develop skills beyond the exam curriculum" **Alana**

Our students are truly active learners. They have the freedom to explore knowledge and gain understanding, to question, challenge and discover. They think independently and creatively, finding new solutions to problems, and applying their learning to the real world. We actively encourage debate and discussion so that our students think critically and are able to communicate their ideas and defend their arguments with confidence and clarity. Our classrooms are energetic, innovative places full of activity and interaction; generating excitement about learning.

Exam Success

"Our teachers are highly qualified, giving us the best learning experience and resources"

Megan



We are delighted that for a number of years the school has been recognised as one of the top performing schools in the county not only for attainment but also for student progress. This is particularly significant as our students join us already achieving at a high level.

The last set of figures available from the Department for Education, based on GCSE results August 2024, gave CCHSG a Progress 8 figure of +0.99 and an Attainment 8 figure of 80.8. Progress 8 is a measure of the progress that students make from arrival in Year 7 until GCSE results, based on the student's best 8 GCSE grades, including English and Maths. If a student makes the progress expected, the school's Progress 8 score is 0.0. Our Progress 8 score of +0.99 means that students on average achieved almost a whole GCSE grade higher than they would have been expected to achieve. This provides strong evidence of the value added by the school to the overall academic progress of our students.

Appropriate, timely feedback and individual support are key to ensuring that students build on their achievements and fulfil their potential. We use Alps (A Level Performance Systems) which is a nationally recognised system established over twenty years ago. Alps performance analysis measures progress against national, aspirational benchmarks. The system provides minimum target grades based on a student's average GCSE score and the benchmark used is the 75th percentile of A Level candidates.

In 2025 our Sixth Form students achieved another outstanding set of results:

23% of all grades were **A***

58% of all grades were **A*or A**

Our EPQ results were also excellent:

50% of all grades were **A***

92% of all grades were **A*or A**

Personalised Learning Programme

The Sixth Form provides a wide range of enrichment activities alongside the taught curriculum, allowing students to follow a highly personalised learning programme tailored to their individual strengths and interests.

There are approximately 130 students per Year Group. Students comment on the close-knit nature of the environment where they feel welcome, are known personally and are treated as adults. They also like the relatively informal atmosphere, the positive relationships with staff and the friendly environment within a school setting.

Students will generally be taught by one or two members of staff for each subject area. All our staff have degrees or higher degrees in their academic disciplines. Many have gained additional insight into the examination system through external marking experience with the major examination boards. Staff seek to engage and stretch students, enhancing the learning experience with trips, visits and other additional activities.

> **"I joined CCHSG Sixth Form from a different school and felt exceptionally supported. The environment is so welcoming I easily settled in"** **Ella**

Staff seek to engage and stretch students, enhancing the learning experience with trips, visits and other additional activities. Visiting speakers are frequently organised for lunchtime presentations, or during relevant lessons. In recent years students have had the opportunity to hear from speakers such as statesman The Rt Hon. Lord William Waldegrave, broadcaster and paralympic athlete Steve Brown, actor Owen Teale, entrepreneur Chisola Chitambala, writer Radhika Sanghani, Margarita Torres Diaz, a female engineer working on the Mercades Benz F1 programme and Dr Michael Smith, founder of the Schools' Aerospace Careers Programme, among others.

Every student is guided through their two years of study by their Form Tutor who has daily contact via registrations, tutorials, one-to-one interviews and other formal meetings. Form Tutors monitor each student's progress, offering support and guidance as required.

The Form Tutor also guides students through the process of university, apprenticeship, gap year or employment applications and is an integral part of the PSHCE, careers counselling and mock interview programmes.

The Head of Sixth Form and the Assistant to the Head of Sixth Form meet regularly with the Year Group and are available to discuss any individual issues of concern and to offer advice on academic and pastoral matters. The Sixth Form also has a Pastoral Assistant who is available to provide additional pastoral support. As this is a non-teaching role, this member of staff is often accessible when others may be teaching.

> **"There is always help if you need it as our Sixth Form nurtures wellbeing and pastoral care is a priority"** **Erin**

The Sixth Form Day

Bell at 08.43

08.45 Registration and Form Time or Assembly

09.05 Movement Time

09.10 Period 1

10.10 Break

Bell at 10.27

10.30 Period 2

11.30 Movement Time

11.35 Period 3

12.35 Lunch
Priority for Year 12/13 and lunchtime activity participants until 12.45

Bell at 13.23

13.30 Period 4
(includes registration)

14.30 Movement Time

14.35 Period 5

Bell at 15.35

Examples of Recent Guest Speakers

Lord Waldergrave, former cabinet minister, reflected on his 14-year ministerial career. He spoke about resilience, diplomacy, and public service. His account of contributing to the Oslo Accords and working with President Arafat offered students a powerful perspective on international diplomacy and the pursuit of peace in times of crisis.

Margarita Torres Diaz, works as an engineer at the Mercedes headquarters on the F1 technology campus, at Silverstone. She was able to share her experiences and offer students invaluable advice. She also discussed the range of pathways into the engineering, including 18+ apprenticeships, placement years and postgraduate schemes.

Chisola Chitambala
Former candidate on BBC's *The Apprentice,* Chisola shared her inspiring journey from A levels to launching her own successful business.

Steve Brown, former paralympic rugby captain and television presenter, has always been passionate about helping teams and individuals reach their full potential. Steve delivered an inspiring talk, followed by workshops on resilience and personal growth.

Dr. Michael Smith, Chair of the Schools Aerospace Careers Programme, offered students career and labour market information alongside insights into the latest technologies in the STEM and aerospace industries.

Sixth Form Facilities

Students in the Sixth Form have the use of their own superbly equipped facilities. The provision has been designed, following consultation with students and staff, to meet the needs of aspirational young adults, ensuring that they have the very best facilities to support their studies. The high quality professional environment incorporates a lecture theatre, a large computer suite, a refectory and a large common room. Sixth Form students also have a separate atrium entrance, with a wellbeing area, giving the Sixth Form Centre a distinctive identity. Students use their entry cards to access the Sixth Form area each morning from 8.00.

> **“Pupils are part of a respectful, kind and hardworking community”**
>
> **Ofsted 2024**

Lecture Theatre

The lecture theatre, with its tiered seating can accommodate over 150 students and is fully equipped with the latest audio visual equipment. This provides a venue for a variety of visiting speakers, presentations and Year Group assemblies.

The Sixth Form Resources Room

This is an area for quiet study providing access to computers which is reserved for the sole use of the Sixth Form. In addition to the computers in the Sixth Form Resources Area there are computers available for Sixth Form use at break and lunchtimes in the main school.

Common Room

The large, welcoming common room is available for the exclusive use of the Sixth Form throughout the day. It provides spaces for informal group and individual study as well as social areas.

Fitness Suite & Swimming Pool

Sixth Form students have access to our new fitness suite. This facility provides exercise machines, free weights and fitness equipment, offering opportunities to improve cardiovascular health, strength, and overall fitness. Our large swimming pool provides excellent opportunities for both exercise and relaxation.

Library

Sixth Form students also benefit from the outstanding facilities in the extensive school library, which adjoins the Sixth Form and provides a convenient silent working area.

Dining Facilities

The Sixth Form Refectory is a social area where there are facilities for making hot drinks and snacks.
In this area students have use of microwaves and a fridge.

Sixth Form students have exclusive use of the Dining Hall patio area and in warmer weather there is an additional pleasant, furnished patio area exclusively for Sixth Form use. Students are also free to use the Common Room at lunchtimes.

Lunch Times – School Meal Service

School lunches are very popular with both students and staff and far more varied than traditional “school dinners”. All the food is prepared and cooked on site and the weekly menus are publicised in advance via the Student and Parent Bulletins and on the school website. The wide-ranging options include paninis, curries, stir fries, pasta dishes, pizza, a salad bar, baked potatoes, roast lunches and the occasional chip! There are also a wide range of drinks, healthy snacks, fruit and desserts. Vegetarian and Halal options are available. Prices are competitive and represent good value. Students also have the option to bring packed lunch from home if they wish.

Sixth Form Facilities

An exceptional range of extracurricular and co-curricular activities are available in the Sixth Form. Students are also encouraged to organise their own clubs to reflect their particular interests and to run clubs for younger students:

English Oxbridge Reading Club
Engineering Society
MedSoc
VetSoc
Debating Society
Psychology Society
Young Enterprise
BioSoc
DentSoc
Creative Writing Club
Eco-Committee
African Caribbean Society
Drama Club and productions
DofE
Charity Fundraising
Feminist Society
Oxbridge Programme
History Society
European Youth Parliament
South Asian Society

Music

Concert Orchestra
The Bluebirds Choir
The Nightingales Choir
Bella Voces
Advanced String Group
Intermediate String Group
Clarinet Group
Flute Group

Sports

Football
Netball
Yoga
Table Tennis
Padel Tennis
Badminton
Swimming

“Pupils have access to a rich and diverse range of activities both within and outside the curriculum to enable them to develop their character.”

Ofsted 2024

UK Young Enterprise at CCHSG

Young Enterprise is a national education charity that encourages young people to get involved in business from an early age. The programme allows 15-19 year olds to set up and run their own company for a year, create and market their product, and gain invaluable experience of the business world, while competing in the Young Enterprise competition. The scheme is run for Year 12 students at CCHSG and we have had a great deal of success in the Young Enterprise competition to date, including runners up in Europe and reaching National Finals.

Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme

The school has a very well established DofE programme and is officially accredited to run the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, with over 120 students taking part each year. Completion rates are excellent, with an average 95% completion of the Bronze Award. The participants volunteer with many local and national charities, undertake a range of physical activities, gain new experiences and master a new skill, or hone their abilities in an existing one. At each level they also undertake overnight camping expeditions, which get progressively more challenging as they move from Bronze to Gold.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

European Youth Parliament Regional & National Finalists

The European Youth Parliament (EYP) supports the development of young people into politically aware and responsible citizens by involving them in European political thinking and promoting intercultural understanding. The EYP encourages independent thinking and facilitates the learning of crucial social and professional skills. A team of nine students is chosen each year to participate in the East Anglia Regional Forum at the University of Cambridge. CCHSG have often been selected to represent the region at the National Session and teams have also represented the UK at the International Forum.

Extended Project Qualification

We also offer the opportunity for students to undertake the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This course is equivalent to about half an A Level study programme. It involves an independent research project, which enables students to demonstrate their capacity to study beyond the confines of the A Level syllabus. *See the subject outlines section of the prospectus for a full description of the course.*

Art and Design

Whether you have an inborn talent, natural creativity or simply a desire to make things and learn how to do this better, this is your subject. Art and Design meets the needs of students who wish to take up a wide range of careers - practical or academic. Take a look around you and you will see that Art and Design surrounds us. Studying Art helps us to build a deeper understanding of the world we live in. Art provides a means by which we can understand our past and its relationship to our present, because the act of making art is one of humanities most ubiquitous activities.

There are many industries that could not exist without people trained in Art and Design. The A Level course educates the looking and seeing functions of the mind. It will train you to mentally analyse, physically express and communicate what you see.

Five reasons to study Art:

1. Arts make self-starters and develop emotional intelligence.
2. Arts are stretching and build strong organisational skills.
3. Art students are highly sought after by employers.
4. Arts develop the broader dimensions of the human being - mind, body and soul.
5. Arts reach students in a different manner to traditional subjects and can release other pressures.

What do you study?

The course involves students in both practical and theoretical investigations and the use of a broad range of media is encouraged including: painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, sculpture and digital media. Students are encouraged to think deeply and creatively using experimental expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and judgments. This course develops intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive powers and provides an understanding of the relationships between Art and Design and the contexts in which they operate. Students will regularly work in the local environment and visit artists and exhibitions.

Beyond A Level

Many students are preparing for a career in Art and go on to prestigious Art Colleges and Foundation Courses but many others combine Art with A Levels in English Literature, Humanities or even Sciences. Students can pursue courses and careers in a wide range of sectors including advertising, architecture, art history, animation, interior design, product design, fashion design, public art, silversmithing, ceramics, graphic design, textile design, surface design, photography and engineering. The creative industries have moved into first place to be the fastest growing economic sector in the UK. Art A Level can provide a gateway into a structured commercial career.
The natural progression route is to the one-year Foundation Course in Art and Design, but many of our students are accepted at leading Universities onto BA Degree Courses.

Examinations

Examination board: OCR
Specification code: H601
The early release paper is issued on 1 February in the year of the examination and provides students with preparatory time before their timed task.

Assessment Overview

01: Personal Investigation
60% of the total A Level marks
02: Externally Set Task
40% of the total A Level marks

Student comments: ***"A highly enjoyable course that enables you to express yourself in your own specific way."***

"I have been able to explore a wide range of ideas and processes, which I feel has furthered my own style."

Biology

Biology is an exciting, rapidly advancing area of science that forms the basis of many important issues in today's society and will take us into unknown areas in the future. Frequently in the news there are headlines concerning Biology such as stem cell therapies, cloning, genetic engineering, DNA evidence at crime scenes, zoonotic infections, biodiversity, infectious disease outbreaks and vaccinations. All these and more, are topics considered during the A Level course.

What do you study?

The course encompasses the whole biological spectrum from cell structure to molecular biology, with topics such as biochemistry, genetics, excretion, endocrine and nervous systems, health and disease and many more. The new specification is challenging, thought provoking and up-to-date. Practical skills in the specification are assessed in written papers, based on a set of core practicals specified by the examination board, which will be undertaken as part of each module studied. You will also undertake many more practical tasks beyond the core to supplement the theory in our well equipped laboratories, including modern molecular biology practical work.

There is a four day residential Ecology field trip to a field centre based at Osmington Bay in Dorset. Here students are taught by Ecology specialists and undertake Ecology practical activities in the fabulous surrounding area, such as sampling invertebrates in rivers and assessing pollution, sand dune formation and succession, conservation management, transects and identifying plant species and their adaptations.

Beyond A Level

Biology is a very important A Level STEM subject highly regarded by universities as it develops a wide range of skills, such as analysing, evaluating, independent research and thought. It is acceptable for many courses in higher education leading to degrees in Biological Sciences, Biochemistry, Molecular Genetics, Psychology, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and many other subjects. It is a preferred subject for many including Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine courses and students without Biology find themselves at a disadvantage in the early stages of these university courses. There are many Biological Science degree courses available, which are not only stimulating in their own right but provide entry to other careers including law, marketing, accountancy, the Civil Service and Industry. Above all the Biology Department is keen to produce successful biologists with a love of the subject that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Examinations

Exam board: OCR Specification code: H420
Modules covered are:

1. Development of practical skills in biology
2. Foundation in Biology (cells and biological molecules)
3. Exchange and transport in animals and plants
4. Biodiversity, evolution and disease
5. Homeostasis, the nervous system, plant response, photosynthesis and respiration
6. Genetics, ecosystems and biotechnology

Paper 1 (2 hours 15 minutes) – Module 1, 2, 3 and 5 (37% of total A level marks)
Paper 2 (2 hours 15 minutes) – Module 1, 2, 4 and 6 (37% of total A level marks)
Paper 3 (1 hours 30 minutes) – Module 1 to 6 (26% of total A level marks)
Practical endorsement – non exam assessment

Extension activities

Students also have the opportunity to attend extension classes and enter national competitions, including the British Biology Olympiad. Many students choose to subscribe to Biological Sciences Review magazine and all have the opportunity to be a Biology mentor to younger students.

Student comments: ***"Being taught advanced practical work at CCHSG gave me an advantage in lab work in my degree - now I have been accepted for an industrial placement year."***

"There are many opportunities to get involved in current science, from trips to the Babraham Institute and the Royal Society to talks from leading scientists."

Chemistry

Chemistry is important. Chemists design new drugs which save lives. They develop the materials from which every product is made. They help farmers produce enough food to feed the world's increasing population. They are playing a key role in finding ways to minimise global warming.

Chemists have played a major role in improving life expectancy and quality of life. Chemists are at the forefront of scientific research, medicine and industry. Chemistry is a great basis for almost any career. A Level Chemistry is a popular choice at CCHSG, with 70-80 students studying the qualification each year.

What do you study?

Inorganic Chemistry is the study of the periodic table. It is similar to GCSE but also looks at how and why things happen. Physical Chemistry explains the properties of substances and how far and fast reactions go. Organic Chemistry is the study of carbon compounds and links with Biology. We place a big emphasis on practical work such as analysing aspirin, making dyes and indicators, making TCP, extracting orange oil and making fruity esters. As a result students develop a wide range of practical skills. Mathematical skills are developed during activities such as data analysis and interpretation (moles calculations) pH calculations and rates experiments. Sustainability and environmental implications are considered throughout and the role of the chemist in developing sustainable processes is addressed.

Beyond A Level

A Level Chemistry provides a starting point for the study of Chemistry, Pharmacy, Biology, Biochemistry, Agriculture Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Environmental Science, Food Science, Materials Science and Chemical Engineering. It is often considered valuable for Physics, Geology, Psychology, Forensic Science and Physiotherapy. Much of industry is based on chemistry, so chemists are employed not only in research and development but also in management, marketing, production and personnel. The problem solving and numerical skills in chemistry make it a good starting point for many other careers such as journalism, advertising, finance, banking and accountancy.

Examinations

Examination board: OCR
Specification code: H432

The modules covered are Foundations in Chemistry, Periodic Table and Energy, Core Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, Transition Elements, and Organic Chemistry and Analysis. Practical skills are developed on a weekly basis throughout the two years allowing our students to become highly competent practical chemists.

Paper 1 – Periodic Table, Elements, Physical Chemistry
2 hours 15 minutes - 37% of the total A Level marks
Paper 2 – Synthesis and Analytical Techniques
2 hours 15 minutes - 37% of the total A Level marks
Paper 3 – Unified Chemistry
1 hours 30 minutes - 26% of the total A Level marks

Extension Activities

Students have the opportunity to attend extension lessons and take part in competitions such as the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and the Chemistry Olympiad. Each year we take a team of chemists to compete in the RSC Analysts Competition, and send a delegation to the Royal Society of Chemistry's "Chemistry at Work" exhibition. All students have the chance to make excellent use of their knowledge by becoming Chemistry mentors to younger students.

Student comments: ***"I have to say the way CCHSG teaches Chemistry has really changed my way of thinking and I have truly enjoyed the lessons"***

"There is so much that this school does which you just don't realise. Chemistry here (Cambridge) has been really easy as we did a lot at A Level which the majority of other students here didn't do…."

Classical Civilisation

Classical Civilisation is a truly broad multidisciplinary subject, involving elements of English, History, Art, Philosophy etc. The purpose of the course is to introduce candidates to a time and culture which is so different, and yet so similar to our own, and in so doing develop an awareness of the progress and nature of humans and their interaction within an organised society. No prior knowledge or GCSE is required.

What do you study?

There are three areas of study:

1. The World of the Hero.
   Study of epic Greek and Latin literature.
2. Culture and the Arts.
   An opportunity to consider the visual material and the culture of Greece and Rome.
3. Beliefs and Ideas.
   This component will involve the study of an area of classical thought e.g. the religions, political ideas and beliefs of the Greeks and Romans.

Beyond A Level

Classical Civilisation is particularly useful for those interested in History, English, Art and Archaeology and the course provides a suitable foundation for the study of Classics in higher education. Students acquire and develop a range of skills such as analysis, interpretation, critical thinking and the ability to produce evaluative writing. These skills prepare them well for a wide range of courses in higher education and beyond.

Examinations

Examination board: OCR
Specification code: H408

Paper 1 – The World of the Hero: The works of Homer and Virgil: 2 hour 20 minutes - (40%)

Paper 2 – Greek Art: Greek vases, freestanding and architectural sculpture; 1 hour 45 minutes - (30%)

Paper 3 - Greek Religion; 1 hour 45 minutes - (30%)

Extension Activities :

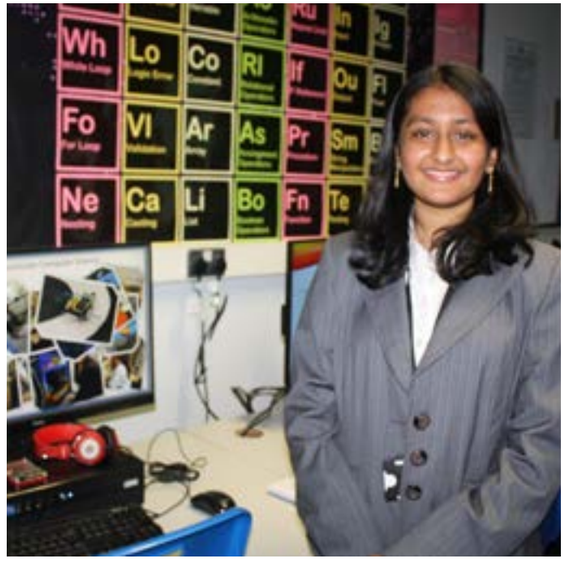
Students of Classical subjects (Latin or Classical Civilisation) have the opportunity to take a leading role in the weekly Classics Society. Students also participate in the mentoring of younger students. Each year, the Classics department runs a trip to the British Museum where students have the opportunity to see the artefacts they study brought to life. The department also regularly highlights essay competitions for students to enter if they wish.

Student comments: ***"I thrived on the creativity of the subject"***

"It is really interesting to see how the skills of ancient civilisations developed and where ideas originated from"

"It is like English Literature and History rolled into one!"

Computer Science



At CCHSG we believe in preparing our students to become lifelong learners and strive to equip them with the skills to compete in the workplace of today and the workplace of the future. Studying Computer Science at A Level presents a huge number of options for higher education and employment.

The course is challenging yet enjoyable and is unique in both content and delivery. A Level Computer Science is an exciting option for any student who has a genuine interest in technology and for those who wish to futureproof their career options. Choosing a course that specifically provides you with the opportunity to continually grow and develop computing skills could prove to be a very wise move for the future.

What do you study?

Students study an engaging combination of computational thinking skills and computer system design concepts. We expect our students to become skilled programmers learning the fundamentals of programming in various languages. In addition to the theoretical science of computation, students will study the practical application of the science in learning how computer systems work and how we get them to work for us. In learning a systematic approach to problem solving and developing functional programming skills, students will be expected to tackle a practical computing project that builds on many of the skills delivered during the course.

Beyond A Level

The skills and concepts taught in this course will be helpful in many areas of higher education and employment. They will be indirectly applicable to a variety of professions such as medicine, law, engineering and design but the course is designed to be directly applicable to higher education courses and employment sectors that involve the use of ICT and computing. There are few career pathways that do not involve the use of computers and technology at some stage and technology continues to advance rapidly. This industry is currently very undersubscribed especially amongst females so there are excellent employment prospects.

Examinations

Examination board: OCR Specification code: H446

Paper 1 – Computer Systems
2 hours 30 minutes On-screen Examination
40% of the total A Level marks
Paper 2 – Algorithms and Programming
2 hours 30 minutes Written Examination
40% of the total A Level marks

Non-examined Assessment
Practical Computing Project, 70 marks, 20% of the total A Level marks

Extension Activities

There are many opportunities to support and extend learning beyond the A Level curriculum. Students are expected to take an active leadership role as a Digital Leader. This might involve organizing departmental events and mentoring as part of our vertical mentoring program. A Level students support the vibrant and successful extracurricular programme by participating in upper-school computing club and helping in lower-school computing club. Students also help to organise events and competitions in Retro-gaming, Robotics and AI club. We encourage our A Level students to take part in competitions like the Bebras UK, The Oxford University Computing Challenge and various other making and programming challenges. There are trips and visits being planned that will support and enrich the curriculum. The department has well established links with university Computer Science departments such as Essex University and Queen Mary, University of London.

Student comments: ***"I have found the staff here to be helpful, knowledgeable and enthusiastic when it comes to the A Level Programming Project."***

"I find the Computer Science theory really interesting and we learn in an interactive and engaging environment."

Economics

Recent global events—from financial crises to shifts in trade and energy markets—have pushed Economics into the spotlight, sparking a surge in student interest across the UK. In fact, Economics is now one of the fastest-growing A Level subjects nationally. Economics is relevant to everyone. It helps students make sense of the world around them by exploring how economies function, how markets are structured, and why individuals and organisations make the decisions they do. Whether you're buying a coffee, applying for a student loan, or thinking about your future career, Economics plays a role.

What Do You Study?

Studying Economics gives you the tools to understand key global issues and trends. Topics include major concepts such as inflation, economic growth, inequality, unemployment, and recessions. The subject answers real-world questions like why is the exchange rate different at the end of your holiday compared to the start? Why does the Bank of England raise or lower interest rates? What causes a rise in the cost of living? How can government policies reduce poverty or respond to climate change? Economics enables you to look beyond headlines and understand the forces shaping the world we live in.

Beyond A Level

For students considering a future in business, finance, or even starting their own enterprise, A Level Economics is an excellent foundation. Economics is a highly relevant and practical subject that encourages students to apply theoretical concepts to real-world scenarios. The subject provides valuable insight into political and economic decision-making and complements other subjects such as Geography. Even for students who choose not to pursue Economics beyond A Level, the subject provides the tools to better understand current affairs, especially when watching the news or analysing government policy.

Examinations

Examination Board: AQA. Specification Code: 7136

The A Level course is structured around two main areas: Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. Assessment is through three written examination papers at the end of the course. There is no coursework component.

Paper 1 – Microeconomics
2-hour exam – 33.3% of the A Level
Paper 2 – Macroeconomics
2-hour exam – 33.3% of the A Level
Paper 3 – Economic Principles and Issues
A synoptic 2-hour exam covering both Micro and Macro topics – 33.3% of the A Level

No prior study of Economics is required, making it accessible to all students. In the first year, there is a focus on UK economic policy, and in the second year, topics also include the global economy.

Extension Activities

Students can enhance their learning through the Economics Society and by attending lunchtime lectures from guest speakers in the field. There are opportunities to enter national competitions, such as the Young Economist of the Year and the Royal Economic Society Essay Competition. The school also provides access to *The Financial Times* through a subscription programme, helping students stay informed on economic issues. Additionally, students can take part in initiatives like the Young Enterprise Programme, where they gain hands-on experience by running their own company.

Student comment: ***"Economics has given me a much better insight into how the world works. The subject is so relevant. The topics we studied are issues you see in the news every day."***

English Language

The English language is a fascinating subject to study. It is constantly changing, often spoken entirely differently from one person to the next and now faces the massive impact of new technologies.

Maybe you listen with particular interest when you come across an accent that is different from your own, or you might have a young child in your family learning to talk before your very eyes, or perhaps you are intrigued by the way new words seem to appear on a weekly basis or even by the unique histories of older words. Each of these, and many more besides, are the business of the linguist and that is what you will become if you study English Language at A Level.

What do you study?

You will study a range of texts, both spoken and written. These tend not to be literary texts but could range from an advertisement to a comedy sketch. You will explore the way language is used in society, particularly looking at how technology, occupation and gender influence language use. The course requires students to undertake an independent investigation of language and complete a piece of original writing with a commentary.

Beyond A Level

What does the future hold for a linguist? English Language is a subject well regarded by higher education institutions, and because you are studying your own language, it easily complements any education course you might follow.

English related courses range from Creative Writing to Speech Therapy and your A Level studies will share ground with subjects such as Psychology and Law and of course English Literature.

Examinations

Examination board: AQA
Specification code: 7702

Paper 1
Language, the Individual and Society (exploration of language variation in two texts; children's language development)
2 hours 30 minutes
40% of the total A Level marks

Paper 2
Language Diversity and Change (a choice of discursive essay questions on language diversity and change; textual analysis; directed writing task on language discourses)
2 hours 30 minutes
40% of the total A Level marks

During the coures, students also produce two pieces of coursework: a Language Investigation and a piece of Original Writing with a Commentary. This non-examination assessment comprises 20% of the total A Level.

Extension Activities

The English Department also offer extracurricular clubs and courses to support students in broadening their literary experience. These have included: Oxbridge Reading Club and Banned Book Club. We also offer extensive support and guidance to those students applying to read English at degree level, including Oxbridge entry.

Sixth Form students also form the editorial team for the CCHSG student newspaper "The Kilt" which is published half termly.

Student comments: ***"English Language offers a lot of freedom. It encourages independence through research and self-study and is extremely enjoyable"***

"I enjoyed finding out about how men and women use language differently in conversations. I became much more aware of how advertising seeks to influence us in subtle ways."

English Literature

"*Reading a book is like re-writing it for yourself. You bring to anything you read all your experience of the world. You bring your history and you read it in your own terms.*" Angela Carter

The first requirement for studying English Literature at A Level is that you love reading and enjoy discussing and analysing what you have read. Texts range from Chaucer and Shakespeare to Ibsen's *A Doll's House* to Alan Bennett's *The History Boys*.

What do you study?

You will have the opportunity to study at least eight texts that cover the genres of prose, poetry and drama. You will explore the historical and social background of the texts as well as honing your techniques of literary analysis. The study of Literature is a study into the human psyche, human experience and social influences over the years.

Any text is the product of its time: a study of it will teach a student to read in context and to understand the influences over the author. The ability to read any content with a deeper appreciation and investigation is an essential skill that will only increase in importance as the platform for sharing news and views, that will be published, grows.

The course requires students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the following:

- the ways in which texts are interpreted by different readers, including over time
- ways in which texts relate to one another and to literary traditions movements and genres
- the significance of cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers

Beyond A Level

The analytical and communication abilities that studying English Literature develops are transferable skills for any degree course. Studying English Literature at university opens many doors. The ability to read, reflect and critique and then synthesise your conclusions clearly, is essential to many kinds of work – as is the ability to construct and defend an argument.

Examinations

Examination board: OCR
Specification code: H472

Paper 1
Section A – Shakespeare – *Hamlet*
Section B – Comparative question – Chaucer's *The Merchant's Prologue and Tale* with Ibsen's *A Doll's House*
2 hours 30 minutes - 40% of the total A Level marks

Paper 2
Comparative and contextual study – Women in Literature – 2 core texts are *Sense and Sensibility* and *Mrs Dalloway*.
2 hours 30 minutes - 40% of the total A Level marks

During year two, you will also produce a coursework portfolio consisting of two pieces of coursework: a close textual analysis and a comparative essay. This non-examination assessment comprises 20% of the total A Level marks.

Extension Activities

The English department offer extracurricular courses to support students in broadening their literary experience. These have included: Oxbridge Reading Club and Banned Book Club. We also offer extensive support and guidance to those students applying to read English at degree level, including Oxbridge entry.

Student comments: ***"A Level made me fall in love with English."***

"I really enjoyed being introduced to new authors, periods and styles that I didn't know much about, some of which have become favourites…there was a real sense of passion and interest that always made the sessions something I looked forward to."

Extended Project Qualification

What is the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)?

The EPQ is a standalone qualification designed to extend and develop a students' skills in independent research and project management. It can be the perfect way to extend and develop your knowledge and understanding beyond the material being covered in class and also provides a way to explore and evidence your passion for a topic.

An EPQ is equivalent to about half the size of an A Level study programme and counts as 28 UCAS points if an A* is achieved. It is graded on a six point scale of A* to E.

What do students have to do?

Students are expected to:

- Choose an area of interest
- Draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval by the centre
- Plan, research and carry out the project
- Produce a 5000 word research-based written report OR an artefact with a 1000 word written report
- Deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience
- Complete an AQA prescribed Production Log and Assessment Record to provide evidence of all stages of project development and production

What are the benefits?

The course enables students to be independent and extend their planning, research, critical thinking, presentation, synthesis and evaluation skills. Students have autonomy in the choice and design of an extended piece of work. The knowledge and skills gained provide valuable additional evidence for higher education applications, UCAS personal statements and at interview. Students who complete the EPQ are better prepared for tackling similar projects such as dissertations at university.

EPQ Supervisors

Each student will be allocated a Supervisor once they have identified their chosen topic.

Examinations

Examination board: AQA
Specification code: 7993
For more information see:
http://www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications/projects/extended-project.php

Some examples of previous CCHSG student EPQ titles are:

- To what extent has film and TV accurately portrayed female spies from the 20th Century to the Present Day?
- To what extent do Voltaire and Beckett resolve the challenges of an uncertain world in 'Waiting for Godot' and 'Candide'?
- Should vaccinations be mandatory for school aged children in the UK?
- To what extent can the continuation of investment in space travel in America be justified?
- To what extent did religion act as a catalyst for conflict in Germany from 1939-1945?'
- To what extent does species reintroduction have positive effects on the population living in the area, the physical landscape and the surrounding ecology?

Who can undertake a project?

Students will be required to complete an application and complete an online research course in preparation for the project. There are a limited number of spaces therefore the strongest applications will be successful.

Student comments: ***"I am pleased that I decided to do the Extended Project because it has been useful and interesting."***

"I really have enjoyed the project even though it wasn't easy to find information. I was really happy I could do something personal instead of working on specific themes for my exams."

French

Studying French gives you access to an enormous range of career options. As languages are no longer compulsory at GCSE, there are fewer students studying them at A Level. Therefore linguists who have studied French to A Level and beyond will be much sought after by future employers. Learning a modern language opens your mind to other cultures and A Level French will enable you to broaden your job prospects on all five continents. Many UK employers are prepared to offer higher salaries to people who can speak other languages.

What do you study?

The main aim of the course is to develop the use of the language and an informed understanding of the culture and people of France, and other francophone countries. Oral communication in French is seen as being of tremendous importance and 1:1 conversation with the French Assistant is available every week.

Topics covered will include the family, the multi-cultural society, French contemporary music and cinema, and aspects of political life in the French-speaking world, as well as two cultural topics which will be the work of a French film director and a work of French literature.

Beyond A Level

A Level provides the basic entrance requirements for university language courses. Although a French degree is an end in itself, French A Level can open up a whole range of career options including: banking, marketing, journalism or business management. French forms an integral part of many more courses than ever before, for example: French with Politics, Law with French, European Business Management, Engineering with French and Computer Studies with French.

Examinations

Examination board: AQA
Specification code: 7652

Paper 1
Listening, Reading and Writing:
This paper includes translation from English into French and French into English
2 hours 30 minutes - 50% of the total A Level marks

Paper 2
Writing:
Two essays in French on either two works of literature or one work of literature and one film
2 hours - 20% of the total A Level marks

Paper 3
Speaking:
Discussion of a sub-theme plus presentation and discussion of an individual research project
About 20 minutes plus 5 minutes preparation time - 30% of the total A Level marks

Extension Activities

A Level French students are encouraged to take an active role in the activities of the Languages Department across the school. This supports students to develop their confidence in speaking skills as well as teamwork. Annual activities include the Language, Culture and Diversity Week and the Evening of Languages.

Student comment: ***"It is amazing how quickly you progress due to the extra speaking practice and small classes. Learning about contemporary subjects such as the environment and immigration makes it really interesting."***

Taking French has enabled me to apply for a university course where I can study in Paris in the third year."

Further Mathematics

Further Mathematics is designed for students with an enthusiasm for mathematics, many of whom will go on to degrees in Mathematics, Engineering, the Sciences or Economics. The qualification is both deeper and broader than A Level Mathematics.

A Level Further Mathematics builds from GCSE level and A Level Mathematics. As well as building on the algebra and calculus introduced in A Level Mathematics, the A Level Further Mathematics core content introduces complex numbers and matrices, fundamental mathematical ideas with wide applications in mathematics, engineering, physical sciences and computing.

The non-core content includes different options that can enable students to specialise in areas of mathematics that are particularly relevant to their interests and future aspirations. A Level Further Mathematics prepares students for further study and employment in highly mathematical disciplines that require knowledge and understanding of sophisticated mathematical ideas and techniques.

Students taking Further Mathematics overwhelmingly find it to be an enjoyable, rewarding, stimulating and empowering experience. For someone who enjoys mathematics it provides a challenge and a chance to explore new and/or more sophisticated mathematical concepts. It enables students to distinguish themselves as able mathematicians in the university and employment market and it makes the transition to a mathematics related university course easier.

What do you study?

50% core (all Pure Mathematics: e.g. proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra/functions, further calculus and vectors, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations.)

50% optional, which can include:

- Further Pure Mathematics
- Further Mechanics (builds on A Level mechanics)
- Further Statistics (builds on A Level statistics)
- Decision Mathematics (e.g. algorithms, graph theory, critical path analysis, linear programming)

Examinations

Examination board: Edexcel
Specification code: 9FM0 and 9MAO

For 9MAO
Paper 1 - Core Pure Mathematics
1 hour 40 minutes - 50% of the total AS level marks
Paper 2 - Further Maths options
1 hour 40 minutes - 50% of the total AS level marks

For 9FMO
Paper 1 – Core Pure Mathematics
1 hour 30 minutes - 25% of the total A Level marks
Paper 2 – Core Pure Mathematics
1 hour 30 minutes - 25% of the total A Level marks
Paper 3 – Further Mathematics Option 1
1 hour 30 minutes - 25% of the total A Level marks
Paper 4 – Further Mathematics Option 2
1 hour 30 minutes - 25% of the total A Level marks

Option 1 at CCHSG is Decision Mathematics and Option 2 at CCHSG is Further Mechanics

Beyond A Level

As well as giving you the necessary preparation for a degree in Mathematics or for mathematically related degrees such as Engineering, Computing, Physics and Chemistry, Further Mathematics considerably enhances your reasoning ability, and it is possible to study completely unrelated courses.

Student comments: ***"I found doing Further Mathematics A Level extremely beneficial when studying Physics at university, which requires you to have a strong knowledge and understanding of mathematics."***

"You have to be willing to accept that it is a challenging subject. I found that the teachers explained the material well and were able to help me with any problems I had."

Geography

Michael Palin said, "*Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future*." If you study A Level Geography, you will certainly be better prepared to understand the issues currently affecting our planet such as climate change, and sea level rise geopolitics, resource security and hazard management. In addition to knowing about our planet and its people, those who choose to study A Level Geography will learn life skills including an ability to research, think critically and communicate effectively their thoughts through writing and other means. You will also learn the importance of team work and independent enquiry. This course will particularly appeal to those students who:

- have an interest in and concern for the environment
- are interested in current affairs
- enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences
- enjoy finding out their own answers – not just being taught
- want to broaden their A Level studies to cover both 'sciences' and 'humanities' and want to keep their options open

Beyond A Level

Geography A Level is an appropriate qualification for a wide range of higher education or career choices. As a diverse discipline, it can lead to a variety of career options in areas ranging from business location systems analysts or conservation work to hazard management.

Independent Geographical Investigation

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content. Approximately 4,000 words - 20% of the total A Level marks, marked by teachers, moderated by AQA. Field trips support the non examined assessment and taught content of the A Level Geography course.

Examinations

Examination board: AQA
Specification code: 7037

A Level Geography consists of the following components:

Physical Geography
Section A: Water and carbon cycles
Section B: Systems and landscapes
Section C: Hazards
2 hours 30 minutes - 40% of the total A Level marks

Human Geography
Section A: Global systems and global governance
Section B: Changing places
Section C: Contemporary urban environments
2 hours 30 minutes - 40% of the total A Level marks

Extension Activities

Students have the opportunity to attend extension lessons and masterclasses. Students are also encouraged to take part in competitions such as the Royal Geographical Society essay competition and the Geographical Association photographic completion. GeogSoc runs at lunchtimes and focuses on geographical debate, current global issues as well as leading the EcoSchools project. Many students choose to subscribe to *Geography Review* magazine and all students have the chance to make excellent use of their knowledge by becoming Geography mentors to younger students.

Student comments: ***"The Field trip was amazing and made up my mind about studying Geography at University."***

"I didn't realise just how much Geography overlapped with my other A Level subjects. Studying Geography at A Level has been awesome and I now look at the World in a different way."

German

Studying German to A Level gives you an enormous range of career options. The world is literally your oyster! As there are fewer students studying languages at GCSE, linguists who have studied German to A Level will be in short supply.

Learning a modern language opens your mind to other cultures and A Level German will open up opportunities worldwide. Many UK employers are prepared to offer higher salaries to people who can speak an additional language - and it can even be fun!

What do you study?

The aim of the course is to develop the use of the language and acquire a sympathetic and informed understanding of the culture and people of Germany. Communicating effectively in spoken German as well as writing is essential and the course includes a 30 minute conversation lesson per week with the German Assistant. Possibilities of travel to Germany are open during the course of study enabling students to practise speaking German and develop their knowledge of German society.

Topics covered will include family, multi-cultural society, youth culture, the digital world and aspects of political life in the German-speaking world, as well as two cultural topics which will be the work of a German film director and a work of German literature.

Beyond A Level

A Level provides the basic entrance requirement to university language courses. Although a German degree is an end in itself, German A Level can open up a whole range of career options including: law, banking, marketing, journalism or business management. German forms a part of many more courses than ever before. You could say German goes with everything!

Examinations

Examination board: AQA
Specification code: 7662
All modules will be taken in May/June of Year 13.

Paper 1 Listening, Reading and Writing
This paper includes translation from English into German and German into English
2 hours 30 minutes - 50% of the total A Level marks

Paper 2 Writing
2 essays in German on either two works of literature or one work of literature and one film
2 hours - 20% of the total A Level marks

Paper 3 Speaking
Discussion of a sub-theme plus presentation and discussion of an individual research project
About 20 minutes plus 5 minutes preparation time - 30% of the total A Level marks

Extension Activities

A Level German students are encouraged to take an active role in the activities of the Languages Department across the school and to follow their own interests in German outside the curriculum. A range of German literature texts and films is available for students to enjoy in their own time. They also have the chance to consolidate and share their knowledge by becoming German mentors to younger students.

Student comments: ***"It's not just about learning the language but also about the culture and history of Germany, which is interesting."***

"Studying German at A Level enables you to improve your essay writing skills. German also compliments most subjects; it is logical like maths and science, but the essays help with English and History."

History

History is not just a fascinating study in itself, it is a valuable way to increase our understanding of the world in which we live. Learning how things came to be as they are enhances our appreciation of the political, economic, social and cultural organisation of our own and other countries. It teaches us who we are and gives insights into the principles and values on which this is based. It explains age old conflicts, demonstrates the power of ideas and gives us the big picture of how change has proved possible in the past and may be possible in the future. History students gain valuable skills of organisation and analysis. Their critical abilities are sharpened and they learn to write stylishly and to argue effectively.

What do you study?

History students at CCHSG study a stimulating combination of early modern and modern historical themes, which significantly enrich their appreciation of the world today. The components chosen will develop students understanding of political conflict and instability whilst considering the role played by individuals groups and nations. Students will develop a sophisticated understanding of significant historical developments and associated historical interpretations by completing a breadth study in “The Tudors: England 1485-1603”. They will refine their levels of analysis and ability to interpret primary sources through the depth study of major changes and developments in “International Relations and Global Conflicts, c1890-1941”. Alongside these components students will complete a historical investigation from a topic area. They will evaluate the historiographical interpretations of a key area of debate about the past and experience the research methods of an academic historian.

Beyond A Level

The wide range of skills developed by History students are highly valued and create opportunities for many careers. The critical analysis of evidence and the ability to argue are an excellent preparation for business, administration and politics. The skills of the historian are particularly suited to studying Law. History can be used directly in teaching, museum and heritage work and the tourist industry. It is a popular theme in film and television. Several past students work as historians in the media, researching information, costume and period effects, or in journalism. History enables the budding journalist to write well and equips them with a wealth of good examples.

Examinations

Examination board: AQA
Specification code: 7042
70421c The Tudors: England 1485-1603
2 hour 30 minutes written paper - (40%)

70422k International Relations and Global Conflict, c1890-1941
2 hour 30 minutes written paper - (40%)
Historical Investigation - 3,500-4,500 words - (20%)

Extension Activities

Students have the opportunity to attend extension lessons to develop their essay writing and source analysis skills as well as participating in the History and Politics Society. Students are encouraged to attend annual A Level conferences to hear the debates of historians. Students can apply to take part in the “Lessons from Auschwitz” course and become a Holocaust Ambassador. In addition, students have the chance to make excellent use of their knowledge by becoming History mentors to younger students. Students also have a student membership to the Historical Association and have access to a wide range of wider reading around their topics of study.

Student comments: ***“Studying History at CCHSG has been such an enjoyable and rewarding experience. It has enabled me to develop skills when forming arguments, which will be beneficial when I read Law next year.”***

“I love taking History at A Level because it helps me develop my critical thinking and analytical skills, and provides a deeper understanding of the present.“

Latin

Latin is the first truly broad interdisciplinary subject. The purpose of the course is to provide an understanding of some of the elements of Classical civilisation, literature and language which have had a great influence on our own society. In addition we aim to fire imagination and to deepen and develop experience by considering a wide range of issues such as aesthetic, ethical, linguistic, political, religious and social questions. The course provides a complete experience in itself and also provides a sound basis for further study.

What do you study?

The course continues to develop the knowledge of language and the skills gained at GCSE Level, but concentrates progressively on authentic Latin texts. You will read extracts from the works of several Latin authors, both poetry and prose. As well as using the texts as a vehicle to improve your knowledge of the language, emphasis will also be placed on the enjoyment of the texts as works of literature per se. You will also be expected to develop an understanding of the social and historical background against which the authors lived and wrote.

Beyond A Level

Latin is particularly useful for those interested in Modern Foreign Languages, English and History and is an asset for anyone intending to pursue a career in law or medicine. There are many careers and courses for which no particular A Levels are required and in these cases Latin is as relevant as any other subject.

Latin graduates find employment at least as easily as other Arts graduates. Popular career options range from accountancy and banking to computer software design and advertising.

Examinations

Examination board: OCR
Specification code: H443

Paper 1 - Unseen Translation
1 hour 45 minute paper - (33%)

Paper 2 - Prose Composition
1 hour 15 minute paper - (17%)

Paper 3 - Prose Literature
2 hour paper - (25%).

Paper 4 - Verse Literature.
2 hour paper - (25%)

Extension activities

Students of Classical subjects (Latin or Classical Civilisation) have the opportunity to take a leading role in the weekly Classics Society. Students also participate in the mentoring of younger students. Each year, the Classics department runs a trip to the British Museum where students have the opportunity to see the artefacts they study brought to life. The department also regularly highlights essay competitions for students to enter if they wish.

Student comments: ***“Latin was my favourite subject all through A Level. I looked forward to every lesson and loved learning both the language and the history behind the literature.”***

“The fun and interactive lessons, coupled with the varied structure and tasters of different classical literature made the course the best A Level I took.”

Mathematics

A Level Mathematics builds from GCSE Mathematics and provides the opportunity to develop powers of reasoning, mathematical skills, thinking skills and imagination with regard to problem solving. Students are introduced to calculus and its applications.

The course emphasises how mathematical ideas are interconnected and how Mathematics can be applied to model situations mathematically using algebra and other representations, to help make sense of data, to understand the physical world and to solve problems in a variety of contexts, including social sciences and business.

Mathematics is a very popular subject and a large proportion of the Sixth Form at CCHSG study it each year.

What do you study?

The course comprises:

- Pure Mathematics (calculus, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, sequences and series, algebra and functions, exponentials and logs, numerical methods, vectors, proof)
- Mechanics (quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws, moments)
- Statistics (sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, hypothesis testing)

Beyond A Level

Mathematics is a highly respected academic subject, which is welcomed by employers and universities alike. As well as leading to degrees in Mathematics and mathematically related subjects such as Engineering and Physics, it provides excellent preparation for degrees such as Biology and Chemistry, Social Science degrees such as Economics and Psychology, and also Medical degrees.

Moreover, many of our students who have studied Mathematics A Level have gone on to follow a wide range of Arts degrees including History and English. The course prepares students for further study and employment in a wide range of disciplines involving the use of mathematics: biology, chemistry, physics, economics, psychology, and engineering.

Examinations

Examination board: Edexcel
Specification code: 9MA0

Paper 1 – Pure Mathematics
2 hour paper. One third of the total A Level marks

Paper 2 – Pure Mathematics
2 hour paper. One third of the total A Level marks

Paper 3 – Statistics and Mechanics
2 hour paper. One third of the total A Level marks

Extension activities

Students take part in the Senior Team Maths Challenge (STMC) which is jointly organised by the UK Mathematics Trust and the Further Mathematics Support Programme. This promotes the development of problem solving, communication and teamwork skills. There are also opportunities for students to use of their knowledge by becoming Mathematics mentors to younger students or supporting with the Mathematics Surgery drop in sessions at lunchtimes.

Student comments: ***"The work we do challenges the mind and makes what you have done previously seem easy. You understand more fully what you have learned already and why it is needed."***

"Work is marked thoroughly so that I can see what level I am at and how I can improve. Teachers go out of their way to help in free time."

Music

Music A Level is a diverse subject, rich in both academic and practical work. It is a hugely enjoyable course and involves working closely with others.

What do you study?

You will enhance your current performance skills (solo and/or ensemble) and develop composition skills. You will also build upon your listening and analytical skills through the study of three set works and a diverse range of wider listening repertoire. The aim of this course is to enrich and stimulate students' musical appreciation in all three areas of study. For those wishing to take Music further, it develops your skills in each area to prepare you for a Music-related degree.

What experience should you have?

You must be able to read music and you should have Grade 5 Theory. You should be at least Grade 5 or equivalent on your main instrument.

You must be able to work with other people and be prepared to contribute time and effort to music making in school. You will be expected to join a Music Department ensemble and encourage other students in music making across the school.

Beyond A Level

It is an obvious choice if you wish to pursue any type of musical career, in performing, composing, criticism or music administration. Music A Level is highly regarded as it involves academic work, a huge amount of self-discipline, IT skills and working with others.

Aims of the course:

- To develop performing skills to demonstrate an understanding of musical elements, style, sense of continuity, interpretation and expression
- To develop composing skills to demonstrate the manipulation of musical ideas and the use of musical devices and conventions
- To broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity

- To develop as effective, independent learners and as critical, reflective thinkers with enquiring minds

Examinations

Examination board: EDUQAS
Specification code: A660QS

Component 1 - Performing
Option A (35%) Recital 10-12 minutes
Option B (25%) Recital 6-8 minutes

Component 2 - Composing
Option A (25%) 4-6 minutes 1 free, 1 set brief
Option B (35%) 8-10 minutes 2 free, 1 set brief

Component 3 - Appraising (40%)
A written paper consisting of 2 hours of listening and appraising music

You will study 3 Areas of Study:
AoSA - The Western Classical Tradition: The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900
AoSC - Musical Theatre
AoSE - Into the Twentieth Century

Extension activities

Students have access to the wide range of groups and ensemble within the Music Department and are also encouraged to participate in concerts and school productions throughout the year.

Student comments: ***"Music A Level develops an appreciation of a wide range of styles of music that I hadn't been exposed to before".***

"It enriches your development as a musician, whilst at the same time being academically challenging and rewarding".

Physical Education

Sport and exercise is a rapidly expanding global industry and levels of public fitness and participation in physical activity are issues on the political agenda. For this reason, sport and exercise scientists are in increasing demand, particularly given the drive of professional athletes to maximise their potential.

This is an ideal course for students who have an interest in both practical performance and the theoretical aspects of sport. It covers factors that affect both participation and optimal performance in physical activity and sport and enhances students' understanding of the factors that affect their own performance and that of others.

What do you study?

- Applied anatomy and physiology (e.g. cardiovascular, respiratory, neuromuscular and musculo-skeletal systems and analysis of movement in physical activities)
- Skill acquisition (e.g. skill classification and continuums, theories of learning and performance, memory models, information processing)
- Sport and society (e.g. pre-industrial, industrial and post-industrial, post World War II, the impact of sport on society and society on sport)
- Exercise physiology (e.g. diet and nutrition, training methods, injury prevention & rehabilitation)
- Biomechanical movement (e.g. biomechanical principles, levers, linear motion, angular motion, projectile motion, fluid mechanics
- Sport psychology (e.g. attitudes, arousal, anxiety, aggression, motivation, social facilitation, group dynamics,goal setting, leadership, stress management)
- Sport and society and the role of technology in physical activity and sport (e.g. development of elite performers, ethics, violence in sport, drugs, sport and the law, commercialisation)

What experience should you have?

GCSE PE is desirable but not essential. The practical assessment in A Level PE is not part of the taught course. It is therefore expected that students are competing at a high level in an AQA recognised sport (see AQA website) outside school.

Beyond A Level

A Level Physical Education is accepted at all universities and gives access to higher education and sport related employment opportunities including sports nutrition, sports psychology, sports journalism and the leisure industry including personal training.

Examinations

Examination board: AQA
Specification code: 7582

Paper 1 – Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport
Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology
Section B: Skill acquisition
Section C: Sport and society
2 hour paper - (35%)

Paper 2 – Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity
Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics
Section B: Sport psychology
Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport
2 hour paper - (35%)

Non-exam assessment – Practical performance in physical activity and sport:
Students are assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity. Plus: written/verbal analysis of performance. Internal assessment, external moderation - (30%).

Student comments: ***"A Level Physical Education provides an excellent foundation for candidates in coaching, sports development, sports journalism, the leisure industry, recreational management, the health and fitness industry and professional sport."***

"The qualification is accepted at all universities and gives access to higher education and sport related employment opportunities."

Physics

Physics is crucial in helping us understand the world around us, the world inside us and the world beyond. By studying Physics you are empowering yourself with the knowledge and skills to give you a more informed understanding of the world - and a valuable qualification to add to your curriculum vitae.

What do you study?

Physics A Level covers a wide range of topics including mechanics, electricity, waves and the often strange world of quantum physics. It goes on to include electromagnetism, astrophysics and cosmological theories, medical imaging and a study of the fundamental particles which make up all the matter in the universe.

Physics is the most fundamental science which underlies all other sciences and as such is a natural complement to other science subjects. It also goes well with Mathematics.

Beyond A Level

Physics and the skills acquired when completing Physics A Level are widely applicable to many degrees and careers.

Physics is a useful subject for many degree courses including Physics, Astrophysics, Medicinal Physics, Engineering (Civil, Electrical, Chemical, Medical and others), Chemistry, Natural Sciences, Geography, Geophysics, Material Science, Biophysics, Medicine, Radiography, Ophthalmology, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry and Mathematics.

Physics is also a subject that is appreciated in many career areas including accountancy, finance, communications, information systems, computing, electronics, architecture, climatology and oceanography.

Examinations

Examination board: OCR
Specification code: H556

The modules covered include Mechanics, Electricity, Waves, Astrophysics, Nuclear and Particle Physics, Fields, Medical Physics and Quantum Physics with the theory taught alongside practical skills.

Examination questions have a balance of mathematical calculations and written explanations.

Paper 1 – Modelling Physics
2 hours 15 minutes - 37% of the total A Level marks

Paper 2 – Exploring Physics
2 hours 15 minutes - 37% of the total A Level marks

Paper 3 – Unified Physics
1 hours 30 minutes - 26% of the total A Level marks

Practical skills are assessed through designated experiments covered over the 2 years.

Extension activities

Students also have the opportunity to attend extension classes and enter national competitions including the British Physics Olympiad. There are also organised visits to attend the Cambridge University Sixth Form Lectures. Our residential trip to CERN offers students the opportunity to see particle physics in action. Many students choose to subscribe to *Physics Review* magazine and all students have the opportunity to become Physics mentors to younger students.

Student comments: ***"The Physics Department here has given me a love of Physics and has inspired me to go on to study Mechanical Engineering at university."***

"I was initially unsure about taking Physics, but I can honestly say that after 2 years of A Level it has become my favourite subject and I am so glad I took it."

Psychology

Psychology is a fascinating subject and is classed as a science. To some extent we are all naïve psychologists as we try to interpret and understand the behaviour of those around us.

Psychologists further our understanding by generating theories and hypotheses and using scientific methods to test and draw conclusions about human and non-human animal behaviour. The study of Psychology provides the student with transferable skills which can be utilised within many careers including medicine, dentistry, law, forensics, social work, teaching, advertising and business management. It is extremely useful in any career which involves people, or understanding people.

What do you study?

A broad range of topics are studied across the two year course. The A Level consists of three units with each unit being examined by one paper.

Paper 1:
Introductory Topics in Psychology
This unit includes Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, and Psychopathology.

Paper 2:
Psychology in Context
In this unit students will study Psychological Approaches, Biopsychology, Research Methods and Issues and Debates.

Paper 3:
Issues in Psychology
This unit focuses on real world applications of Psychology, through topics such as Gender, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology.

Beyond A Level

Psychologists are involved in many areas of research. Some conduct applied research seeking to answer actual problems. These can range from finding ways to reduce stress to advising on the design of complicated equipment. Pure research focuses on areas which may not have an immediate and obvious application. Psychologists are employed in a range of fields including teaching and education, social work, the probation service, clinical and counselling areas, hospitals, industry and commence. The study of Psychology provides the student with transferable skills which can be utilised within many non-psychology careers including market research, advertising, careers guidance, retail management and personnel. It is extremely useful in any career which involves people, or understanding people, and is a popular choice at degree level.

Examinations

Examination board: AQA
Specification code: 7182

Assessment will be a 2 hour examination for each of the three papers taught. The papers will consist of a mixture of questions including stimulus-response, multiple choice, short answer, extended response questions and some data calculations where calculators need to be used.

Extension activities

Students have the opportunity to join the Psychology Society which provides a forum for debate and discussion. Are you interested in why we behave the way we do? Why are we obedient? What makes us aggressive? Is OCD caused by the brain? These and many other issues are covered in PsychSoc. Students have also attended the annual London Psychology Conference.

Student comments: ***"Psychology is a subject that I knew little about but I now consider it my favourite subject. Although a challenge, the interesting and relatable topics create a subject that could not fail to be enjoyed".***

"The topics studied in A Level Psychology at CCHSG are hugely thought provoking and have given me a great insight into what influences human behaviour."

RS: Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

In Religion, Philosophy and Ethics, we provide students with an opportunity to understand and reflect on both religious and secular beliefs and values that people hold in the world today. The A Level offers a creative and informative way for students to understand and evaluate complex ideas in a wide range of areas concerning belief in God, the nature of God, lifestyle choices and ethics.

What do you study?

The course will be divided equally between Philosophy of Religion, and Religion and Ethics, and Developments in Religious Thought. We consider the big issues such as whether God exists, why people are becoming atheists, whether feminism and religion can be compatible, and Freud and Marx's views on religion.

We also consider psychological and sociological approaches to religion. By the end of the programme students will have the logical and critical skills to evaluate complex theories and construct arguments about them. If you enjoy discussing the existence of God, how we can decide what is right and wrong and whether we will still have religion in the future, you would enjoy the Religion, Philosophy and Ethics course.

Beyond A Level

The evaluative skills and ability to construct a strong argument developed in Religion, Philosophy and Ethics A Level is highly regarded by top universities and is a good transferrable skill for students interested in careers such as law, medicine, journalism, politics, broadcasting, education, and many of the caring professions. For many students, the value of this course has been in the personal discovery and development it fosters.

Examinations

Examination board OCR
Specification code: H573

Philosophy of Religion
2 hour written paper - (33.3%)
Students will study: Ancient philosophical influences; the nature of the soul, mind and body; arguments about the existence or non-existence of God; the nature and impact of religious experience; the challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil; ideas about the nature of God; issues in religious language.

Religion and Ethics
2 hour written paper - (33.3%)
Students will study: Ethical theories; ethical issues such as business ethics; euthanasia and sexual ethics; ethical language and thought; debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience

Developments in Religious Thought
2 hour written paper - (33.3%)
Students will study: Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary; historically and in the contemporary world; sources of religious wisdom and authority; practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition; significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought; key themes related to the relationship between religion and society in the context of Christianity.

Extension Activities

Students will have the opportunity to become Religious Studies mentors for younger pupils, participate in the Sixth Form led Philosophy Society, and attend RS Clinic - an enriching space where we revisit and deepen our understanding of the RS course content. A range of films centred around philosophical and ethical issues are available for students to enjoy in their own time. They also have access to a range of wider reading and articles around their topics of study through Philosophy Now. They will also have access to various competitions including Cambridge University's Philosophy Essay Prize.

Student comments: ***"Philosophy and Ethics develops your ability to analyse theories and arguments, as well as teaching you to think outside the box and explore new ideas."***

"It's not until you study Philosophy and Ethics for yourself that you can properly understand human nature, and start to comprehend the bigger questions of life."

"We actively celebrate diversity through events such as cultural days, Languages Week and our African Caribbean and South Asian Societies"
Sion

Careers Programme

Our careers programme is designed to provide students with the guidance to equip them to make well informed and aspirational decisions about progression beyond the Sixth Form. With a wide range of options available, be it higher education, apprenticeships, employment or a Gap Year, (volunteering or getting a job abroad), the PSHCE programme, Careers Team, Subject Teachers and Form Tutors ensure that students are supported in pursuing their individual interests and ambitions.

Students hear from visiting speakers, engage with employers and have meaningful encounters with the world of work, as they learn about different career and employment options. Wider Sixth Form activities aim to develop leadership skills and to build on implicit and explicit skills to prepare students for the workplace. Students in Year 12 have the opportunity for a bespoke and meaningful workplace experience which supports them in understanding their strengths and in making well informed progression choices. The school employs an independent careers advisor who is available for individual student support. As part of the careers programme students are also supported with interview techniques and CV writing.

The provision for careers education at CCHSG has been accredited a national quality award, The Quality in Careers Standard.

The Quality in Careers Standard

SEND Provision

Provision for Students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)

CCHSG is an inclusive school, dedicated to ensuring that every student receives the individual support and care required to achieve their social and educational best. The staff and Governors are strongly committed to both inclusion and equal opportunities and will always look at what reasonable adjustments can be made in order to facilitate access for students with special educational needs, irrespective of race, class, ethnicity or social status. Our full SEND Policy is available on our website www.cchsg.com.

Equal Opportunities

The school is committed to the principle and practice of equal opportunities, diversity and inclusion in the curriculum and in our school community. We endeavour to ensure that all activities in the school are accessible by every student irrespective of ethnic origin, race, nationality, religion, physical disability, social class or economic background.

This is a community in which we celebrate diversity and are respectful of different faiths, cultures and beliefs. The CCHSG curriculum also promotes social, spiritual, moral and cultural opportunities supporting both the mental and physical development of each student. Our full Equal Opportunities Policy is available on our website www.cchsg.com.

Careers Programme

> **"There's also a strong alumni network to help us with our career progression. In our sixth form, you will always be a part of the CCHSG family"**
> **Kaavya**

We have a comprehensive programme of support to help students through the process of choosing a course and making an application to university. Past students also provide an excellent source of advice and insight into particular courses and institutions.

Year 12

During Year 12 students are encouraged to investigate courses through work experience and/or reading around the subject. Talks are given by Admissions Tutors and subject specific talks are provided by external speakers.

Forward Thinking Day:
Advice about choosing a university and writing a Personal Statement.

PSHCE Talks:
Talks, often delivered by guest speakers, cover the range of options available at post 18, applying to higher education in general and applying to Oxbridge. Talks also address wellbeing themes.

Higher Education Evening:
Students and their parents are invited to attend an evening which provides an overview of the UCAS application process and how to prepare for an application. Admissions Tutors will also be invited to share their expertise.

UCAS preparation:
Online registration with UCAS takes place and support is provided with completing the application and writing responses to the Personal Statement questions. Preparation for admissions tests such as ELAT (English), MLAT (Modern Foreign Languages), NSAT (Natural Sciences), LNAT (Law) and UCAT (Medicine & Veterinary Science) takes place within PSHCE.

Year 13

UCAS application and interviews:
Tutors work with students to review their progress. UCAS applications can be submitted from early September. The UCAS deadline for Oxbridge, Veterinary Science and Dentistry is 15 October. All remaining courses will have a deadline in early January. Once UCAS forms have been submitted students are invited to apply for higher education funding.

Preparation, interviews and offers:
During the PSHCE programme students have the opportunity to experience mock interviews. Advice is also provided about writing covering letters and living on a budget. University visits and experiences are encouraged.

Accepting offers:
Advice is given on making first and second choices.

Examinations and Results:
Guidance is provided about the procedure for results day, when staff will also be available for support as required.

Oxbridge at CCHSG

Year 12

During Year 12 there will be opportunities to talk to Admissions Tutors when they visit CCHSG. Students can contact our past students to gain an insight into particular courses and colleges. There are also talks on applying to Oxbridge, covering how the application process works and how to choose a college. Students also have the opportunity to seek advice from recent Oxford and Cambridge graduates, covering a variety of subject areas.

Support is provided with writing a Personal Statement and with preparation for Admissions Tests. Students applying for Organ or Choral Scholarships will need to complete the Oxbridge application form in Year 12, before the end of the summer term. Students are encouraged to attend Open Days for individual colleges at Cambridge and Oxford. These provide the opportunity to hear talks by Admissions Tutors and lectures given by a variety of departments.

Year 13

Students are supported through the final stages of making the application. CCHSG staff continue provide expert advice and guidance throughout the process of Oxbridge interviews and offers.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships combine work, training, and study, letting you 'earn while you learn'. There are a wide range of apprenticeships for over 1,500 job roles – giving students the opportunity to enter careers in anything from engineering and boat building, to veterinary nursing and accountancy. An apprenticeship usually takes one to three years to complete and is usually made up of three parts – all completed on the job, online, or in a classroom. Depending on your skills and qualifications, there are different levels available after A level study:

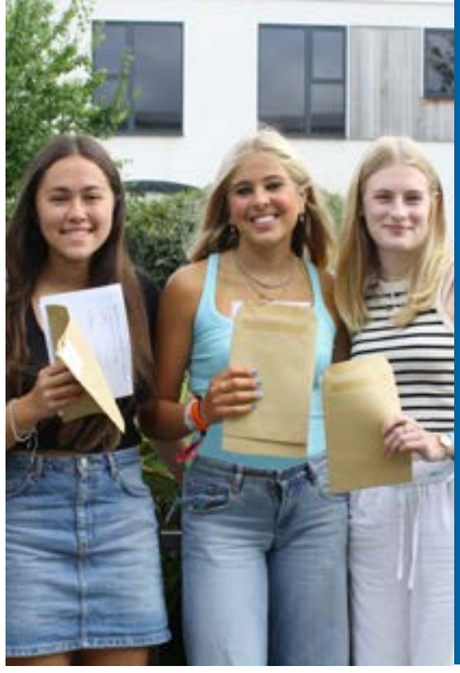
- Higher/technical (Levels 4 to 7) — can lead to NVQ Level 4 and above, or a foundation degree.
- Degree/graduate-level (Levels 5 to 7) enable apprentices to achieve a full bachelor's or master's degree as part of their apprenticeship.

The application process for many of the higher level apprenticeships is very competitive.

https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships-in-the-uk
https:// www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch

Entering Employment

Personalised support and guidance is provided for students wishing to enter employment. Individual appointments are available with our independant careers advisor.



Work Experience

Work experience boosts confidence, builds skills, and connects learning to life. In Year 12 students have the opportunity for a bespoke and meaningful workplace experience. The Business Education Partnership (UK) Ltd work closely with students to ensure that they can access the best possible opportunities.

Oxbridge & Russell Group Progression

In 2025

100% of students holding Oxbridge offers were successful in meeting the entrance requirements and started their courses in September 2025.

Many students submit successful applications to Oxbridge and others are offered places at the UKs top ranked universities on highly competitive courses. A large number of students apply for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science as well as a range of other courses, depending on their interests and academic ability. CCHSG provides individualised support for student progression to ensure that students have the opportunity to pursue a variety of pathways according to their interests and abilities.

On average:

95% of our students progress on to Higher Education

Over 60% gain places at Russell Group Universities

100% progress on to university, a work experience gap year, apprenticeship or employment in a field of their choice, for example:

- University for the Creative Arts to read Fashion Design
- RADA to study Technical Theatre
- Art Foundation Courses
- Apprenticeship in Chartered Accounting with Deloitte
- Internship at Bank of England
- Music Conservatoire
- Apprenticeship as Data Analyst with Disney Corporation
- University of London to read Journalism
- Apprenticeship with energy supplier E.ON

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WISDOM GIVETH LIFE

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