

Adcote School for Girls

Sixth Form Booklet





SUCCESS IS NO ACCIDENT.
It is hard work, perseverance,
learning, studying, sacrifice
and most of all, love of what
you are doing.

CMI
WOMEN.

Developing and enabling brilliant
women to reach their full potential
and unlock the potential of
the organisation.

Support female managers and
develop their careers to bring gender
diversity and associated benefits to the workplace.

THE SIXTH FORM EXPERIENCE AT ADCOTE

Adcote Sixth Form is a dynamic and purposeful community, which offers a unique and fulfilling experience, to enable our students to grow as individuals. In addition to our Year 11 pupils staying on to our Sixth Form, we also welcome a number of girls from other schools. Our outstanding academic results at A Level, our Oxbridge success and entry to other top Universities accounts for our recent popularity.

Our Sixth Form offers first class teaching in a wide range of subjects, in a caring and supportive environment. The average class size in the Sixth Form is around eight students. By studying the subjects that students have chosen, the girls will broaden their experience and enjoy exclusive Sixth Form privileges. Adcote Sixth Form students leave us as confident, poised young women, who are ready to take their place in society.

We encourage our students to apply for positions of responsibility. Holding a position of responsibility within the school really helps to prepare students for the world beyond school and University. These roles are in addition to acting as role models and guides to the younger girls.

Work-related learning is important to us here and we are proud to say that we are the only all-girls school in England to offer the Chartered Management Institute Level 3 Award in Leadership and Management to all our students in Year 12. This course has been enormously popular with our girls as it gives them a real and assessed experience of procedures and matters they will commonly face when they eventually begin their careers. Many universities have encouraged their undergraduates to pursue this course but our students arrive at university with the skills already secured.

The CMI have been very supportive of our pioneering work in this area and we are thrilled to have received two nominations for national excellence for our work.

Our Sixth Form ensures that each student is able to develop her talents and potential throughout the two years. The wide range of extra-curricular activities available to all our Sixth Formers enables them to fulfil their potential as individuals and enriches their experience. You will find our Sixth Form a friendly, vibrant and supportive environment. The Sixth Form experience at Adcote School is a structured, academic programme and this booklet is principally concerned with explaining that structure and the contents of each of the subjects on offer. Central to studying at Sixth Form is the need for the development of productive habits of study and all girls are encouraged to take increasing responsibility for their own work ethic.

Almost all of our pupils choose to move on to University and we are justly proud of the tremendous expertise that the School possesses in helping students gain places at the most prestigious Universities in the UK and beyond.





Of course, Sixth Form life is not all about study. The pupils gain much from the responsibilities and leadership opportunities offered by the prefect system and the positions of responsibility available within the School.

Those with the most leadership potential are offered the opportunity to lead prefect teams, formally represent the school at various functions and to take an active part in the workings of the school council. All Sixth Formers abide by a dress code based on smart office wear.

Being a student at Adcote means having the very best support to help turn hopes into possibilities and to make those possibilities become reality. There is a very strong sense of community at Adcote where students and staff get to know each other very well.

The Sixth Form at Adcote is a natural progression for our Year 11 students who wish to continue their studies at advanced level in a familiar, caring environment where they feel known, valued and well supported. Also, an ever increasing number of students from other schools are joining us in Year 12.

Students can be sure of working with others who share a commitment to make the most of every opportunity and to achieve the very best examination results.

We offer a range of courses at A Level that are a match for most colleges, but with group sizes that tend to be much smaller so that our students benefit from a higher level of personal support and guidance.

AN OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC RECORD

With University places becoming ever more competitive, we are proud of our success in recent years; our Sixth Formers have gained some highly sought after courses, at some of the top universities in the country. With particular care given to applications we can report that the vast majority of students gained places at their first choice university.

Our Staff recognise that applying for university can be a daunting experience and we guide our students through the application process on an individual basis.

The Sixth Form at Adcote has grown in size in recent years and has been very successful academically, with girls moving on to top ranking universities. We believe our own Sixth Form to be the right place for our pupils to achieve their true potential – a view that is shared by an increasing number of families who are choosing to stay with us for these crucial two years of senior education.

The Sixth Form at Adcote have consistently performed well above the national average in public examinations and is ranked very highly nationally.



70.3%
A-Level results A* - C

86%
A Level Grades A* - B

41.1%
Girls received straight A*/A Grades

“We’re delighted to be celebrating another year of good results for our girls. Many of them have exceeded expectations and are leaving us as happy confident and well-rounded young women who are well placed to thrive at the University of their choice.”

Diane Browne – Headmistress





DESTINATIONS MAP

1. University of Aberdeen
2. Glasgow University
3. University of Edinburgh
4. Durham University
5. University of Central Lancashire
6. University of Hull
7. University of Salford
8. University of Liverpool
9. The University of Manchester
10. The University of Sheffield
11. Nottingham University
12. Loughborough University
13. Aston University
14. Leicester University
15. Warwick University
16. **UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**
17. **OXFORD UNIVERSITY**
18. Cardiff University
19. University of Bath
20. University of Buckingham
21. LONDON UNIVERSITIES:
UCL
London School of Fashion
Imperial College London
London City University
King's College London
London Royal Holloway
22. University of Exeter
23. University of Southampton
24. University of Brighton

WORKING TOGETHER

When you enter the Sixth Form you will be assigned to a form group with other Year 12 students. You will join your form group for morning registration and for group activities in form time.

You will also be given a Personal Tutor, responsible for close support of a small number of students. You will meet your Tutor regularly on a one-to-one basis to review progress and plan your way forward. Your Personal Tutor can also offer advice on careers, further and higher education, applications for university or employment and educational and personal issues. They will be the first point of contact for any concerns that you, your parents or your teachers might have about the progress of your studies. Copies of your regular progress reviews are sent home so that parents can see how you are doing, what improvements might be needed and what additional support you might need.

Parents' Evenings, held part of the way through each year, provide an opportunity for in depth discussion with Personal Tutors and with subject teachers. Guidance and counselling is a particular strength of Adcote Sixth Form. We make it our business to be available to you and your parents whenever you need our help and to give you high quality personalised support to assist you to achieve your ambitions.

DRESS AND BEHAVIOUR CODE

Adcote Sixth Form provides an adult learning environment with a clear focus on learning and personal study. All students are expected to present and conduct themselves in a way that shows responsibility and respect for others. To reflect this focus Sixth Formers should wear a smart business suit in dark colours- Navy, Black or Charcoal Grey, with a skirt at or below the knee. A tailored dress is also permissible. A standard, smart plain blouse should be worn with the suit. By taking pride in their appearance, Sixth Formers thus take the lead in setting an example to younger students.





BOARDING

Students can choose to become boarders. The boarding accommodation for Sixth Formers is situated in the Sixth Form Centre, Aston Hall, and allows each girl to have a single or double study bedroom. Each room is individually decorated and everyone is encouraged to personalise their rooms with their choice of posters and personal belongings.

Here at Adcote, the staff encourage girls to become responsible, independent and hard working young adults. However, "all work and no play ..."! Sixth Formers are encouraged to participate in the variety of extra curricular activities that are on offer during the week and at the weekends. There are regular visits into Shrewsbury for shopping, visits to the theatre, careers lectures, and the cinema – in fact the list is endless. With the flexibility that is on offer here at Adcote, we are not only providing the best in academic education but we are also encouraging each girl in our care to become self sufficient and fully equipped to face the challenge of life in the 21st century, whether that be at university or in the world of work.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available to reward excellence and talent and are awarded based on the results of scholarship examinations. Scholarships can be enhanced after means testing with a bursar.

Please talk to our Admissions team for information.

LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form is an important time, as further education is dependent on your AS and A2 results. At Adcote there are very small classes in the Sixth Form, which enables the teachers to work closely with the pupils and to be aware of the progress they are making. All the Staff are friendly and it is their priority to ensure that every pupil fulfils their true potential.

One of the main roles of a Sixth Former is to take on responsibility within the School through Prefect positions. We believe this has helped students to become more confident and independent. There is a strong link between students and Staff and this enhances the efficient running of the School. The responsibilities given help us to gain self-respect and develop personal skills.

STUDY

As a Sixth Form student you will be expected to take more responsibility for organising your personal study than you did earlier in your school career. This is an important way of preparing yourself for university or further study at a higher level. You will be taking fewer classes in smaller groups and you will have personal study periods when you will work independently in the Aston Sixth Form Centre or individual learning rooms. Study periods should never be regarded as free time for relaxing. In addition to set pieces of work there is always reading, research and reviewing to be done. As a general rule it is expected that for every hour of study that you do in class, you will need to do a further hour either in study periods or at home. Aston Sixth Form Centre is a dedicated space provided to assist students in managing their free time effectively.

CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS

Sixth Form work requires of a student that she should follow her specialist subjects in depth. It is important, therefore, that a student should have not only the ability for, but also an interest in the subject which she chooses.

It is important that the Sixth Form course selected should be appropriate for any career you may be considering. It may also be that the study of one subject in depth will assist the study of another, for example in the case of Physics and Mathematics.

Students study a broad range of subjects at A Level. The precise mix will, of course, differ in each case, and staff will be very willing to advise students on the merits of a particular combination.

Subjects that can be offered at A Level include:

Art, Craft & Design	Art & Design: Textiles	Biology
Business	Chemistry	Economics
English Literature	Further Mathematics	Geography
History	Mathematics	Physics
Psychology	Music	Spanish
	Physical Education	

We also offer:

CMI Level 3 in Management and Team Leadership	Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts
Extended Project Qualification	IELTS Academic Test

PSHE (personal, social & health education) and PE all form part of the compulsory curriculum at Adcote. All Sixth Formers attend PE, where there are up to two compulsory lessons of games-based activity each week. However, for the keen sportswoman there are opportunities to opt into many other sporting activities, as well as playing for the school teams.

Careers provision is included in the Sixth Form PSHE and tutorial programme and is supplemented by external lectures. Applications to Universities and Colleges are made in the autumn term of the Upper Sixth form. Remember that whatever the choice of career the two important factors in an application will be: Examination results and the School's reference.

Through personal interviews we are usually able to tailor options to match a student's own interests as an individual. This level of personalised education is a special feature of Adcote School, found in few Sixth Form Colleges.

Please note that, while we make every effort to ensure accuracy and to provide the full range of courses on offer, we reserve the right to change or cancel courses at any time depending on take up and the availability of resources.





ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

In the Lower Sixth we usually advise studying up to three subjects to full A Level (A2). Of course these are only guidelines and Adcote strongly believes in adopting the best combination and number of subjects for each individual student.

Courses at A Level normally require you to have at least GCSE grades 9 - 4 or equivalent. For entry to Adcote Sixth Form we like students to have a range of GCSE qualifications, including English and Mathematics, with an average of grade 5 or better. Most students starting A level courses will have grade B or above in their chosen subjects, or in related subjects if they have not taken that subject at GCSE.

CONTACT US

Details of the courses currently on offer at Adcote follow on the next page. Please note that, while we make every effort to ensure accuracy and to provide the full range of courses on offer, we reserve the right to change or cancel courses at any time depending on take up and the availability of resources.

For further information or to arrange a visit please contact:

Head of Sixth Form, Caz Besterman: cbesterman@adcoteschool.co.uk

School Office: 01939 260 202

Admissions: admissions@adcoteschool.co.uk





ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

Taking A Level Art means that you are joining a popular course which has a track record of outstanding results. You will have the opportunity to experiment and develop your artistic abilities, learn new practical skills and processes, and work on an ambitious scale.

The Art A level is made up of two components or ‘units’:

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work

Unit 2: Externally Set Examination (Preparatory period + 15 hours)

This two-year course should appeal to students wanting to extend their expertise in the visual Arts from GCSE level. The course will be tailored to suit each candidate according to former experience. Familiarisation of basic skills and shared projects will help everyone to tackle the challenges of new work programmes which will include gallery visits and specialist workshops.

Painting, drawing, sculpture and printmaking are just a few of the areas that can be explored through programmes designed to offer opportunities to develop imaginative personal expression. Themed topics will allow studies to grow using the experience of analytical thought and problem solving. Reference to other styles, genres and context should be recorded and evaluated through a sketchbook.

Unit 1: This project takes the form of a personal investigation; investigating the title for this project is designed by the student to reflect their areas of interests and strengths, this is guided by the teacher. This is a practical unit, which usually takes the form of a sketchbook with written elements (between 1,000 and 3,000 words) in which students are expected to develop their research on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished piece /pieces.

Unit 2: The 15-hour controlled portfolio. There is a preparatory period following the examination start date where you will be expected to produce developmental ideas before a final realisation within the fifteen-hour examination time.

Students will follow AQA Assessment objectives:

Develop ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding.

- Refine their ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate materials, techniques and resources.
- Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions in visual forms.
- Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding, realising intentions, and making connections between other visual elements.

Assessment:

Your teacher will initially assess all your coursework, and you will receive written feedback as to your progress, your strengths and areas where you need to put in more effort. At the end of the course there will be an exhibition and your work will be externally moderated.

There are over 70 Art related subjects. They all relate directly to the creative industry which is the second largest industry in Britain and growing.

Example Careers & Courses in Fine Art: Architecture, Textiles, Photography, Fashion, Graphics, Education, Film, Fashion marketing, Advertising, Television, Admin/Curation, Art restoration, Illustration, Product design, Ceramics, Art history, Stage design, Art therapy.

ART AND DESIGN: TEXTILES A LEVEL AQA

This A Level course introduces the students to a variety of creative experiences by exploring a range of textile media and techniques. Students are required to work in one or more areas of textiles. These include fashion design and textile/ costume design, digital textiles, constructed textiles or art textiles, installed textiles, printed or dyed fabrics, domestic textiles, wallpaper and interior design and /or fashion. By the end of the course students will be able to demonstrate skills gained and use them to produce exciting and skilled pieces of textile design/artwork. New and exciting textile techniques and processes will be explored. Trips and workshop opportunities will be arranged to underpin and stimulate project themes.

Course details:

Component 1: Personal Investigation. A portfolio of work supported by 1000-3000 words (60%)

Component 2: Externally Set assignment. A body of work with a final piece produced in 15 hours supervised time (Practical Exam) (40%)

Students have the freedom to explore their own lines of inquiry, experiment with different materials and processes to create innovative and exciting pieces of textiles work.

BIOLOGY A LEVEL, AQA

Biology A Level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. Biology literally means the study of life and if that's not important, what is? Being such a broad topic, you're bound to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

Possible degree options

According to bestcourse4me.com, the top seven degree courses taken by students who have an A Level in Biology are:

- Biology
- Psychology
- Sport and exercise science
- Medicine
- Anatomy
- Physiology and Pathology Pharmacology
- Toxicology and Pharmacy Chemistry

Possible career options

Studying A level Biology at university gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including:

- Doctor
- Clinical molecular geneticist
- Nature conservation officer
- Pharmacologist
- Research scientist
- Vet
- Secondary school teacher
- Marine biologist
- Dentist

Practicals

Biology, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- using microscopes to see cell division
- dissection of animal or plant systems
- aseptic technique to study microbial growth
- investigating activity within cells
- investigating animal behaviours
- investigating distributions of species in the environment

Exams

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practicals will be assessed against a range of standards. When you have demonstrated all these skills you will be awarded the Practical Endorsement qualification. There are three exams at the end of the two years for A Level, all of which are two hours long; the final paper includes an essay. At least 15% of the marks for A Level Biology are based on what you learned in your practical's (specification code 7402).

Entry requirements

A Level Biology builds on the work done in GCSE Science and Maths, so you'll need good GCSE results from both, ideally grades 7-9. 10 % of the marks for A Level Biology assess your mathematical skills and understanding. Written communication is also important and you'll need to be a strong writer.

BUSINESS A LEVEL EDEXCEL

The specification focuses on different types of organisations in various business sectors and environments. We examine how businesses function domestically and globally. All types of business ownership are studied to understand how scale and size of organisations affect decisions they make.

Students will have the opportunity to:

- Explore current issues in business and to investigate problems which are of current interest and importance in the domestic and international context of the UK economy.
- Make justifiable decisions and offer solutions to such problems using both quantitative and qualitative methods, taking into account opportunity and cost.
- Be aware of the threats, constraints and opportunities arising from trading in a global economy.
- Develop an understanding of the need for businesses to adopt a moral/ethical stance in their decision-making and a responsible attitude towards the physical environment.

What will I learn?

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business is structured into four themes and consists of three externally examined papers. Students are introduced to business in Themes 1 and 2 through building knowledge of core business concepts and applying them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work. Breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, with applications to a wider range of contexts and more complex business information, are developed in Themes 3 and 4, requiring students to take a more strategic view of business opportunities and issues. Students are encouraged to use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of business, to understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives and to challenge assumptions.

Paper 1 examines theme 1 and 4

Paper 2 theme 3 and 4

Paper 3 focuses on pre released stimulus released in November before the summer examination but covers all 4 themes.

How can I use it?

This specification provides a suitable foundation for the study of Business or a related area through a range of higher education courses, e.g. degree courses in Business and Economics, Business Administration and Business Management. The majority of professions and careers will require an appreciation of business techniques and management expertise making Business A level a valuable qualification for any chosen career path.

ECONOMICS A LEVEL EDEXCEL

Thinking about studying Economics?

These students did...

“Studying Economics has enabled me to gain an inside knowledge about the global world market and dynamic economy.”

“Studying Economics has enabled me to again an insight into the economy as a whole and how globalisation has impacted on all countries, especially Kenya because if this county became more global, their poverty would be eradicated completely.”

“Economics is current; it’s about real world issues that matter.”

“Studying Economics explores the world around us and allows interaction between economies of different levels; enabling students to feel like they are contributing to society.”

“Interesting, refreshing and eye-opening.”

What will I learn?

A Level Economics is structured around four themes assessed by three external exams. Students begin by considering how core microeconomic and macroeconomic concepts (demand and supply, resource scarcity, etc.) are applied in everyday life. Using these concepts, you will investigate the causes and effects of inflation, unemployment, globalisation, poverty, etc. along with the negative ways that economic activity can impact on the environment (and the ways in which these can be lessened). Breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding of more complex concepts and models are developed in year 13. In both years, students develop an awareness of current economic events and government policies.

Learning involves games, quizzes, etc. to help build basic subject knowledge plus in-class assessments, real-life case studies, private research and discussions to develop a deeper understanding and strong exam technique. Private study of at least four hours per week is expected, this increasing in year 13.

How can I use it?

A Level Economics is used by students progressing to undergraduate studies such as international relations, finance, history, politics, philosophy, social anthropology, as well as economics itself.

Economics students can follow a wide range of careers in accounting, banking, industry, law, civil service, etc.

CHEMISTRY A LEVEL

AQA

A Level Chemistry attempts to answer the big question 'what is the world made of?' and it's the search for this answer that makes this subject so fascinating. From investigating how one substance can be changed drastically into another, to researching a new wonder drug to save millions of lives, the opportunities that chemistry provides are endless.

Possible degree options

According to [bestcourse4me.com](https://www.bestcourse4me.com), the top five degree courses taken by students who have an A Level in Chemistry are:

- Chemistry
- Biology
- Pre-clinical medicine
- Mathematics
- Pharmacology

Possible career options

Studying an A Level Chemistry related degree at university gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including:

- Analytical chemist
- Chemical engineer
- Clinical biochemist
- Pharmacologist
- Doctor, Nurse, Midwife
- Research scientist (physical sciences)
- Toxicologist
- Chartered certified accountant
- Environmental consultant
- Higher education lecturer
- Patent attorney
- Science writer
- Secondary school teacher

- Physiotherapist and Sports Science
- Nursing and Midwifery

Practicals

Chemistry, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- measuring energy changes in chemical reactions
- tests for identifying different types of compound
- different methods for measuring rates of reaction
- studying electrochemical cells
- preparation of organic solids and liquids

Exams

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practicals will be assessed against a range of standards. When you have demonstrated all these skills you will be awarded the Practical Endorsement qualification. There are three exams at the end of the two years for A Level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A Level Chemistry are based on what you learned in your practicals.

Entry requirements

A Level Chemistry builds on the work done in GCSE Science and Maths, so you'll need good GCSE results from both, ideally grades 7-9. 20% of the marks for A Level Chemistry assess your mathematical skills and understanding. Written communication is also important and you'll need to be a strong writer.

ENGLISH LITERATURE A LEVEL

AQA

Aspects of Comedy

All texts contain a love interest for the protagonist and marriage is a focal point. In all cases society itself (as represented in the texts), and the behaviour of men and women in it, are ridiculed.

We examine:

- the significance of human folly, trickery and gullibility
- the inclusion of clowns, exaggeration, stereotypes, pompous attitudes and posturing
- the use of disguise, escapes and discovery, elements of the supernatural
- the structural patterning of the text as it moves from disorder to order, incorporating rule and misrule, how competition between characters is set up and resolved, how opposites are contrasted and reconciled, leading to comic resolutions
- the use of complex plotting and sub-plots
- the way that language is used to heighten the comedy, particularly wit and linguistic play
- the way that comedy draws attention to itself
- ultimately how the comedy affects the audience, inviting laughter at the ridiculous behaviour of human beings and a sense of joy that positive resolutions are possible

Texts studied:

Twelfth Night – Shakespeare

The Importance of Being Earnest – Oscar Wilde

Selection of Poetry – AQA Poetry Anthology

Elements of crime writing:

All set texts focus on transgressions against established order and the specific breaking of either national, social, religious or moral laws.

We investigate:

- the type of the crime text itself, whether it is detective fiction, a post-modern novel, a revenge tragedy, an account of a life lost to crime
- the settings that are created as backdrops for criminal action and for the pursuit of the perpetrators of crime: both places and times will be significant here
- the nature of the crimes and the criminals, the criminals' motives and actions

- the inclusion of violence, murder, theft, betrayal
- the detection of the criminal and the investigation that leads to his or her capture or punishment
- ultimately, how crime stories affect audiences and readers, creating suspense, repugnance, excitement and relief

Texts Studied

Oliver Twist – Charles Dickens

Atonement – Ian McEwan

AQA Poetry Anthology

Theory and independence – Non Exam Assessment

This component is designed to allow students to read widely, to choose their own texts (if appropriate) and to apply to different theoretical and critical methods can be applied to the subject:

- Narrative theory
- Feminist theory
- Marxist theory
- Eco-critical theory
- Post-colonial theory
- Literary value and the canon

GEOGRAPHY A LEVEL

AQA 7037

A Level Geography is all about getting a better understanding of how the world we live in works. It's a great general subject to take, giving you a background to key issues of today related to the environment and sustainability, poverty, the economic state of the world, the relationship between politics and current social and economic challenges. Whatever you do in the future this understanding will be useful. Society, economy and the environment need more people with a robust and critical understanding of how the world works – so that we can change it whatever we do!

Taken further it can lead to careers with a geographical background such as planning, environmental management, renewable energy, teaching, business, the caring professions, law and retailing. It is one of the few subjects that can be taken as a science or arts subject at University.

Physical geography

Section A: Water and carbon cycles

Section B: Coastal systems and landscapes

Section C: either Hazards or Ecosystems under stress

Human geography

Section A: Global systems and global governance

Section B: Changing places

Section C: Population and the environment

Fieldwork

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. 3,000–4,000 words.

HISTORY A LEVEL

OCR

History is very popular and highly regarded subject, going well with a wide range of other subjects, enabling students to add breadth to their Sixth Form studies.

What will I study and how will I be assessed?

We follow the OCR History A (H505) Specification. The following units will be studied:

Unit 1: British Period Study and Enquiry

Y113: Britain 1930 – 1997

Assessed through a 1 hour and 30 minute paper and is worth 25% of the total A Level.

Unit 2: Non-British Period Study

Y21: Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany 1919 – 1963

Assessed through a 1 hour paper and is worth 15% of the total A Level.

Unit 3: Thematic Study and Historical Interpretations

Y312: Popular Culture and Witchcraze of the 16th and 17th centuries

Assessed through a 2 hour and 30 minute paper which is worth 40% of the total A Level.

Unit 4: Topic Based Essay

Y100: Topic based essay

A 3000-4000 word essay on a topic of your own choice (some restrictions apply). It is worth 20% of the total A Level. This is started towards the end of Year 12 and then completed and handed in during the Spring Term prior to the examinations.

All units are examined at the end of the two-year course.

Why study History?

It is an extremely interesting course enabling you to develop your knowledge on a wide range of topics. The skills developed in A Level History can be transferred to other subjects such as English Literature, Psychology and Sociology. History is an excellent subject to study for A Level to keep your options open when choosing a degree and is beneficial to a wide range of careers.

MATHEMATICS A LEVEL

OCR H240

Can I do this course?

Mathematics is full of beauty and elegance. Mathematical patterns are everywhere from the seeds in a sunflower to the spots on a dog. In Advanced Mathematics you will begin to learn the powerful techniques that allow you to model and understand a wide variety of natural and man-made processes. The Pure Mathematics strands will build on your GCSE work to develop the necessary foundation skills, and the Applied Mathematics strands look at a wide variety of applications. In addition to enjoying maths and wanting to do the subject, you will be expected to have achieved at least a grade 7 in your GCSE, at Higher Level.

What will I learn?

Pure maths will build on your work at GCSE and bring more depth to your understanding of algebra and trigonometry, as well as introducing the exciting new topic of calculus.

Mechanics looks at physical problems such as “Why does a spinning top sometimes flip over?” and “How can snooker players pot a ball off the cushion?” Complex problems are turned into simple ones with modelling techniques and all your pure maths has a chance to come to life.

Statistics is all about making sense of lots of numbers and drawing conclusions from surveys and experiments. You can improve your skill at card games by studying probability and then lie about your success rate with statistics.

Who needs maths anyway?

With an A Level in mathematics, the world is your oyster. Degree courses in science, engineering and economics will require maths. Computing, architecture, geography, psychology, sociology and medicine will all use maths to a greater or lesser extent. Universities and employers see maths as a strong A Level to have, and of course, could studying anything else be this much fun?

Course Structure - OCR Mathematics A – H240

3 x 2 hour papers

Paper 1 – Pure Mathematics

Paper 2 – Pure Mathematics and Statistics

Paper 3 – Pure Mathematics and Mechanics

Calculator

There is now a requirement to use a calculator that has the following capabilities:

1. An iterative function e.g. ANS key
2. The ability to compute summary statistics and access probabilities from the binomial and normal distribution.

Suggested calculator is CASIO fx-991EX

MUSIC

A Level Music is an academic A Level aimed at girls who have studied music at GCSE and want to develop their skills and understanding further. They should have a performance standard of at least Grade 4/5 at the beginning of the Lower Sixth course. The course is supported by regular opportunities to perform in ensembles and as a soloist and participate in concerts.

The AQA specification is divided into three sections: Appraising Music (40%), Performance (35%) and Composing (25%)

Areas of Study

The areas of study provide an appropriate focus for students to appraise, develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language. The areas of study can also provide a rich source of material for students to work with when developing performance and composition skills. There are three main areas:

1. Western classical tradition 1650-1910 (compulsory)
2. Music for theatre
3. Art music since 1910

Set works include Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, Baroque solo concerti and songs from Musical Theatre such as Oklahoma and One Day More.

Performance

Students perform a selection of pieces. The recordings are then sent off for moderation. A duration of 10 – 12 minutes of performance in total is required. This component is worth 35% of the marks and is externally assessed by examiners.

Composing

This component consists of composition to a brief and free composition. A minimum of four and a half minutes of music in total is required. The component is worth 25% of the marks and is externally marked.

Where can it take you?

Music A Level is one of the Arts subjects rated highly by universities as it combines academic, practical and creative elements and gives students a range of transferable skills. Many music A Level students go on to successful careers in other fields such as business, finance and journalism.

Taken further, careers in music itself include becoming a teacher, professional musician, sound engineer, recordist, musicologist, critic, librarian, composer, acting/ stage musicals, music therapist, arts co-ordinator and event management.

MATHEMATICS: FURTHER A LEVEL

OCR H245

Who is it for?

OCR's A Level in Further Mathematic is designed for students who wish to study beyond an A Level in Mathematics, and provides a solid foundation for progression into further study particularly in mathematics, engineering, computer science, the sciences and economics. If you wish to study Further Mathematics then you will have achieved at least grade 7, preferably grade 8 or 9 at GCSE Mathematics.

What will I learn?

The subject content consists of a mandatory Pure Core and four optional areas: Statistics, Mechanics, Discrete Mathematics and Additional Pure Mathematics.

In Pure Core learners will extend and deepen their knowledge of proof, algebra, functions, calculus, vectors and differential equations studied in A Level Mathematics. They will also broaden their knowledge into other areas of pure mathematics that underpin the further study of mathematics and other numerate subjects with complex numbers, matrices, polar coordinates and hyperbolic functions.

In Statistics learners will explore the theory which underlies the statistics content in A Level Mathematics, as well as extending their tool box of statistical concepts and techniques. This area covers combinatorics, probability distributions for discrete and continuous random variables, hypothesis tests and confidence intervals for a population mean, chi-squared tests, nonparametric tests, correlation and regression.

In Mechanics learners extend their knowledge of particles, kinematics and forces from A Level Mathematics, using their extended pure mathematical knowledge to explore more complex physical systems. The area covers dimensional analysis, work, energy, power, impulse, momentum, centres of mass, circular motion and variable force.

Discrete Mathematics is the part of mathematics dedicated to the study of discrete objects. Learners will study both pure mathematical structures and techniques and their application to solving real-world problems of existence, construction, enumeration and optimisation. Areas studied include counting, graphs and networks, algorithms, critical path analysis, linear programming and game theory.

In Additional Pure Mathematics learners will broaden and deepen their knowledge of pure mathematics, studying both discrete and continuous topics which form the foundation of undergraduate study in mathematics and mathematical disciplines. This area covers recurrence relations, number theory, group theory, the vector product, eigenvalues and eigenvectors, surfaces and partial differentiation.

Course Structure - OCR Mathematics A – H245

4 x 1.5 hour papers

Compulsory units are Pure Core 1 and Pure Core 2.

Then two units chosen from Statistics, Mechanics, Discrete Mathematics and Additional Mathematics.

Calculator

In addition to the requirements for Mathematics the calculator used must be able to perform calculations with matrices up to at least order 3×3 .

Suggested calculator is CASIO fx-991EX

PEARSON BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL FOUNDATION DIPLOMA IN PERFORMING ARTS PRACTICE (603/4668/1)

This is a vocational course, designed for learners who want to specialise in Performing Arts as their career path, or those who want to explore Performance and Theatre in order to gain a greater understanding of the sector whilst developing skills in Acting, Singing and Dancing. The programme is taken over two academic years. It is recommended that learners have a grade 4/grade C or above in Maths and English GCSEs and have some previous performance experience. The course is equivalent to 1.5 A-Levels.

- There are two modules with 4 associated units spread over the two years
- There are performance opportunities in house and outside of school where possible
- There is a written element to each unit supporting the performance work
- The focus is on realistic challenges that relate to the UK Performing Arts landscape
- The course explores a wide range of theatre genres and styles, developing practitioner knowledge as well as a comprehensive performance skill-set
- The course is an ideal preparation for preparing to enter the creative industry

Assessment:

The course is assessed internally and is externally moderated. There are no exams but comprehensive evidence portfolios are required for each module.

BTEC L3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN SPORT PEARSON (601/7218/6)

This qualification is designed to support progression to higher education. More specifically, the course will provide a broad basis of study for the sport sector.

The BTEC qualification is the equivalent to one A Level, but it allows a Unit 1 – Anatomy & Physiology.

- Unit 1 is externally assessed via a 1.5 hour examination
- Unit 2 – Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being

Unit 2 involves a task completed under supervised conditions. In Part A, learners will be given a case study one week before a supervised assessment period in order to carry out preparation. Part B involves a supervised assessment period of 2.5 hours.

- Unit 3 – Professional Development in the Sports Industry – assignment assessment.

One further unit is required from the following optional units:

- Unit 4 – Sports Leadership
- Unit 5 – Application of Fitness Testing
- Unit 6 – Sports Psychology
- Unit 7 – Practical Sports Performance

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

- It is not a requirement that you should have studied Physical Education at GCSE level in order to study BTEC L3 in Sport.
- Several topics covered in the course are developments of work covered at GCSE level but others are new. What is important is that you should have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in sport, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively.
- Unless you select to complete Unit 7, you are not assessed on your practical performance, whereas to achieve a good grade in A Level PE you need to be currently competing at county standard or above.

Flexible unit-based structure, with a mixture of written assignments and external assessments. Furthermore, the optional units provide choice, allowing the course to be tailored to the class' interests and needs.

The course consists of completing 4 units, 3 of which are mandatory:

PHYSICS A LEVEL

AQA

Physicists explore the fundamental nature of almost everything we know of. They probe the furthest reaches of the earth to study the smallest pieces of matter. Join them to enter a world deep beneath the surface of normal human experience.

Topics Covered

A Level Physics lasts two years, with exams at the end of the second year. The table below shows the topics covered in each year.

AS and first year of A Level

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and energy
- Electricity

Second year of A Level

Further mechanics

Thermal physics

Fields

Nuclear physics

Plus one option from the following;

Astrophysics

Medical physics

Engineering physics

Turning points in physics Electronics

Possible career options

Studying an A Level Physics related degree at university gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including:

- Geophysicist/field seismologist
- Healthcare scientist, medical physics
- Higher education lecturer
- Radiation protection practitioner
- Research scientist (physical sciences)
- Scientific laboratory technician
- Secondary school teacher
- Meteorologist
- Structural engineer

- Acoustic engineer
- Product/process development scientist
- Systems developer
- Technical author.

You can also move into engineering, astrophysics, chemical physics, nanotechnology, renewable energy and more, the opportunities are endless.

Practicals

Physics, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- investigating interference and diffraction of laser light
- measuring acceleration due to gravity
- investigating systems that oscillate
- investigation of the links between temperature, volume and pressure
- safe use of ionising radiation
- investigating magnetic fields

Exams

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practicals will be assessed. There are three exams at the end of the two years for A Level, all of which are two hours long.

Entry requirements

A Level Physics builds on the work done in GCSE Physics and Maths, so you'll need a minimum of grade 6 in Maths or grade 7 in Physics. Written communication is also important and you'll need to be a strong writer.

A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY, AQA (7182)

Ever wondered...

...if prison really does change criminal behaviour?

...why some people conform?

...if the experiences you had before the age of five really do shape the person you are today?

...why some people suffer from stress or mental illness?

Psychology represents our efforts to understand the thinking and behaviour of human beings. A Level Psychology provides an introduction to this complex and diverse field of enquiry across a range of areas.

The course develops students' ability to understand, apply, and criticise scientific research within a range of cultures and populations. Furthermore, it will develop a critical awareness of the strengths and shortcomings of different methods of scientific investigation, and how findings are interpreted and presented within this ever-progressing field.

In Year 1, we cover the following topics: - Paper 1 – 2 hr exam

Social influence – Conformity, Obedience, Resistance to Social Influence, Minority Influence and Social Change.

- Memory – Memory Models, Forgetting, Eye Witness Testimony.
- Attachment – Childhood Attachments, Animal studies, Effects of Institutionalisation and Privation.
- Psychopathology – Definitions of Abnormality and Introduction to Mental Illnesses (Depression, Phobias and OCD).

Paper 2 – 2 hr exam

- Approaches – Learning approach, Cognitive approach, Biological approach, Psychodynamic approach and Humanistic Psychology.
- Research Methods
- Biopsychology – Nervous and Endocrine System, Localisation of Brain Function, Ways of Studying the Brain and Biological Rhythms. This topic is completed in Year 2.

In Year 2, the following topics are completed:

Paper 3 – 2 hr exam

- Issues and Debates
- Gender – Biological, Cognitive, Psychodynamic and the Learning theory approach to Gender identity, and Atypical Gender Identity.
- Schizophrenia – Classification of Schizophrenia, the Biological and Psychosocial explanations of Schizophrenia, Drug Therapy and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.
- Forensic Psychology – Defining Crime, Offender Profiling, Dealing with Offending Behaviour and the Biological and Psychosocial explanations of Offending Behaviour.

SPANISH

What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

This is an advanced level course in Spanish, so you will be expected to have already undertaken some study of the language you have chosen. Most students who take this course will have a GCSE or an equivalent qualification. You will be interested in different cultures and keen to use a different language to understand and to communicate your own ideas and opinions to others on different topics and issues. You will enjoy reading, speaking, writing and listening.

What will I learn?

During this course you will develop your linguistic skills alongside your understanding of the culture and society of the countries where Spanish is spoken.

You will study:

- technological and social change, looking at the multicultural nature of Hispanic society.
- highlights of Hispanic artistic culture, including a focus on Spanish regional identity and the cultural heritage of past civilisations.
- aspects of the diverse political landscape of the Hispanic world.
- the influence of the past on present-day Hispanic communities.

Throughout your studies, you learn the language in the context of Hispanic countries and issues and influences which have shaped them. You will study texts and film and will have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of your choice.

Assessment tasks will be varied and cover listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

Course structure and assessment:

The AQA A Level in Spanish comprises three units, which test you in the four skills at the end of the second year.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing (50% of A Level, 2 hours 30 mins)- listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources covering different registers and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail. Studio recordings will be used and students will have individual control of the recording.

Paper 2: Writing (20% of A Level, 2 hours) - essays on one text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification.

Paper 3: Speaking (30% of A Level, 21-23 mins) - presentation and discussion of your individual research project, discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card.

What can I do after I have completed the course?

With an A level in Spanish you can apply to university to study the language, study this language and take up a second language *ab initio* at university, combine a language with another subject (e.g. business) at university, communicate with people from other countries, work abroad, work for a company with international links, improve your UCAS application for any subject, have more fun on foreign holidays! Throughout the course you will also be practising your Key Skills (Communication, ICT, improving your own learning and performance, working with others) that will help you both personally and professionally.

Girls in Year 12 will study for a qualification in First Line Management. Developing and enabling brilliant leaders, this training will give them the management skills they need to unlock their potential. Adcote School is the only school in Shropshire to offer this award.

We believe passionately that our pupils are the next generation of Women Leaders and will address the balance of women in management positions across the workforce. To give our Sixth Form pupils a head start and an advantage when they leave Adcote School, through a partnership with the Chartered Management Institute, all our year 12 students will complete a Level 3 Certificate in Management and Leadership in addition to their A level studies.

We believe this is a very important initiative for our students which will not only prove objectively that they have indeed mastered the skills that businesses and organisations are interested in, but will also be a powerful addition to their CV. Whilst many universities offer this course, we are the only sixth form in the county to be offering this to Sixth Form students.

It will be compulsory for all Year 12 students. The qualification will provide strong evidence to university admission tutors and corporate employers that our young women are far more capable than they are often credited to be.

Assessment is by way of one, externally assessed, written assignment (1750 words). The assignment is set and accredited by our partner in this venture, Studyflex.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (AQA) SPECIFICATION: H460

What is the award?

The Extended Project Qualification is a wonderful new opportunity for students, where they can create a project based on a passionate interest of their own choosing, or a deeper investigation into an aspect of one of their A Level subjects.

The project is assessed at AS Level and carries UCAS points up to A*.

What does the award involve?

It might be a long written study, a performance, a film or an artefact plus a commentary, but each one is unique. Students keep a log book of the process and make a presentation to a non-specialist audience upon completion of their project.

Working within a small group, you will meet your teacher for 2 hours a week to develop relevant skills, receive guidance and discuss your progress. However, this is a piece of independent research, so you will also need to do extended work on your own. You are required to:

- choose a topic to study, and draft a title
- complete a production log to document the project process
- plan, research and carry out the project
- prepare and deliver a presentation on the outcome

Examples of Projects

- Global Warming – Is the threat real?
- All in the mind? – An exploration of the perceptions of mental health & learning disability disorders
- Cystic Fibrosis – Is gene therapy the answer?
- Is it possible to create a piece of Verbatim Theatre, articulating the experiences of offenders with mental health problems?
- Maths and its everyday uses
- Somali piracy and the west's response

What are the entry requirements?

The Award is open to Level 3 students who have independent learning and good time-management skills and are motivated to stretch and extend themselves.

CLEAR LEARNING PROGRAMME

"When parents visit us here at Adcote, they are united by a single wish: they want their daughters to achieve their full potential. All of the elements in our curriculum are designed to secure these core values in our students." - Headmistress, Diane Browne

Confidence

We build confidence through our small class size and mutual respect, as well as inspiring each student to use their voice. We offer all of our girls a tailored education, as well as the positive encouragement to be an active member in the classroom conversation. Emotional wellbeing and engagement in our CLEAR Learning Programme is supported by the assignment of a personal tutor. Students have regular contact with their tutors who are their first point of contact should they have any queries, concerns or just need someone to talk to.

Leadership

As an all-girls school, we feel we have a particular responsibility to equip the next generation of leading young women with all of the skills, qualities and self-belief that they will need. At Adcote, we offer work-related activities to build the skills necessary to be an effective and impactful leader. All our girls participate in Challenge Days once per term. The girls enjoy a variety of tasks that are designed to develop all of the CLEAR aspects. There are leadership responsibilities throughout their time at Adcote. In particular, we have Prefects and House Captains, as well as offering the Duke of Edinburgh Award and other activities.

Engagement

Our girls are encouraged to take an active role within the school, in the classroom as well as through extra-curricular activities, sports, or one of our outdoors programmes such as the Wayfarers. Our PSHE programme ensures that the girls have a strong understanding of current affairs and visiting speakers give them an informed account of a variety of key issues. We also encourage extra-curricular visits for the girls to enjoy, such as ski trips and visits to local towns. Particular favourites include visiting Christmas Markets in the UK and Europe.

Achievement

We are proud to accept all children, assess their individual needs, and offer a personalised education that accommodates those needs and expectations. We secure results that are far in excess of the national average and girls leave us to study at some of the top universities in the UK such as Oxford and Cambridge. Our accomplishments list not only comprises of academic results, but also in other achievements such as Science, Sports and Performance Arts competitions.

Resilience

We understand the many challenges that our girls will face during their time with us, as they grow from little girls into strong young women. Here at Adcote, we build resilience in their characters, in this way they cope with adversity and flourish. Resilience is not only demonstrated in the classroom or through extra-curricular activities, it is also demonstrated through individual achievements such as overcoming a learning barrier or attaining personal goals.

AWARD-WINNING SCHOOL

We are a multi national award-winning school







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