

Curriculum Policy

The College aims to:

- promote high academic standards
- foster international understanding and awareness of cultural diversity
- create an adult-focused environment to prepare students for higher education

For those students whose first language is not English, classes are provided in English as a Foreign Language and the students are prepared and entered for the IELTS examination. They may retake this until they have reached the standard required for the chosen undergraduate course. Students also receive tuition in Study Skills to support their academic subjects. A system of regular weekly tests in all subjects, taken under examination conditions, ensures that students revise their work on a regular basis, enables tutors to identify students' problems at an early stage in order to offer remedial help as appropriate, and provides students with practice at working under timed conditions. Any students of statutory school age also attend lessons in PSHE.

The College currently offers:

- a one-year GCSE course
- a 2-year A-level course
- an 18-month accelerated A-level course

GCSE course

This is a fast-track course and covers the whole of the GCSE curriculum in one year. Students take five subjects, including English and Mathematics unless they already hold an A*-C grade in these subjects.

Admission to the course is based on interview, previous school records and an academic reference. Students may choose their other three subjects freely from:

Accounting
Art & Design
Biology
Chemistry
Economics
French
ICT
Physics

2-Year A-level course

The academic requirement for admission to this course is a minimum of 5 A*-B grades at GCSE or equivalent. A further requirement for those choosing Mathematics or a Modern Foreign Language is an A/A* grade in that subject at GCSE and for other subjects chosen for A-level, a B grade at GCSE in that subject if previously studied. Students normally select four subjects for study at AS-level in Year 12, with some dropping down to three subjects for A2 in Year 13. Many students choose to continue with all four subjects to A2 and the College is happy for them to do so if they possess the necessary academic ability and potential.

Subjects may be chosen from:

Accounting
Art & Design
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computer Science
Economics
English Literature
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
Government & Political Studies
History
ICT
Italian
Law
Mathematics
Physics
Spanish
Statistics

We do not allow students to take both Business Studies and Economics, since this renders the curriculum too narrow. Students who choose Further Mathematics must also choose Mathematics. Those who choose Statistics may also choose Mathematics if they wish though this is not a requirement.

Students are entered for all AS examination units in June at the end of Year 12. In January of Year 13, they either sit one A2 unit or resit one AS unit. In June at the end of Year 13, they may sit the remaining A2 units and resit as many AS units as they wish.

18-month A-level course

A limited range of subjects is offered on this course. Students choose three or four subjects from:

Accounting
Biology
Chemistry
Economics
Further Mathematics
Law
Mathematics
Physics
Statistics

Students are entered for one, two or three AS examination units in their first June, one further AS or A2 unit in January of Year 13 and the remaining AS or A2 units in June of Year 13.

Extra-Curricular

All students are offered an enrichment programme of sports, debating, music, voluntary work and a varied "Aspects of Reality" programme. In addition to the College's own programme of careers/higher education guidance, visiting speakers from a variety of academic institutions offer presentations on all aspects of higher education. The Regional Director of the Independent Schools Careers Organisation addresses students on options after A-levels and attends all Parents' Evenings when she is available for counselling individual students and their parents. Students with Special Educational Needs are provided for with a bespoke support package in order that they shall not be disadvantaged by their disability. All staff are involved in this support, which is co-ordinated by the Vice Principal and the Head of Student Welfare.