



2012 Admissions Criteria

Experience shows that those who have not reached a high level at G.C.S.E. are rarely successful in an academic sixth form offering only 'A' levels. That is not to say they may not be capable of passing 'A' levels on a mixed course such as those offered by some other institutions, but simply that the traditional sixth form, offering a package of 3 or 4 'A' Levels, is not the best place for them. We therefore make the following stipulation:

The requirement for entry into the Sixth Form is that students **must** have achieved at least **48 GCSE points** (A* = 8 points, A = 7 points, B = 6 points etc.) from their best 8 GCSE results and that they should have achieved **at least 3 A grades or better**. In addition to the above students **must** have achieved at least a **B grade** in the subjects to be studied at AS/A2 level or in related subjects. Please note that only 1 maths grade can count towards the 48 points / 3 A grades requirement.

Those aiming to enter universities must remember that G.C.S.E. passes in Mathematics and English are normally needed as a basic matriculation requirement.

Each year we are delighted to welcome a number of students from other schools who choose to join our Sixth Form. The criteria applied to their admission are the same as those for internal candidates set out above, although of course this will depend on places being available. Where places for external candidates become available, these will initially be allocated to those students in order of merit based on their predicted G.C.S.E grades.

External candidates are encouraged to apply between December and March during Year 11.

All internal Year 11 students will be issued with application forms in January and these should be returned by early March.

Transfer from Year 12 to Year 13 is not automatic and depends on the quality of AS exam results achieved at the end of Year 12. Because of their record at G.C.S.E., candidates at this School are quite capable of achieving A or B grade scores at AS level and certainly no less than a C grade score.

Hopefully most students will achieve this in all their subjects but if, generally, they do much worse than this then the following procedure is likely to apply:

- Their position will be reviewed. The School reserves the right to provide advice about their prospects at A2 level and, if they are allowed to return into Year 13, it will be with conditions attached.
- However, any student whose AS scores **generally** are the equivalent of grade D/E or below will be expected to make alternative arrangements for their continuing education. They will not be allowed to continue into Year 13 nor to repeat Year 12.

For further information relating to admissions, please refer to our Sixth Form Admissions Policy available to download from the School website or email the Admissions Officer, Mrs Richardson at trichardson@agsb.co.uk.

SUBJECTS AVAILABLE

The number of combinations theoretically possible for approximately 150 students choosing four subjects is far in excess of what is, in practice, possible to timetable. Therefore it must be understood that while we will do our best to accommodate all first choices, it may not be possible, or indeed desirable, to provide all combinations.

Art
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computer Studies
Design & Technology
Economics
English Language and Literature
English Literature
Further Mathematics
French
Geography
Geology
German
Government and Politics
Greek (see Latin)
History
I.C.T.
Latin
Mathematics
Music
Philosophy
Physical Education
Physics
Religious Studies
Spanish

All of these subjects are on offer but the School reserves the right to withdraw any subject where the number of students interested is too low. Alternatively it may be the case that if a subject attracts only a small number of students it may be offered to AS only.

OTHER COMPULSORY ELEMENTS OF THE CURRICULUM

The Key Skills/General Studies Course
Physical Education

CAREERS and LINKS WITH INDUSTRY

Careers Advice
Challenge of Enterprise Conference
Work Shadowing

ART

Exam Board: AQA

The Requirement

Students intending to take 'A' level Art should normally have attained at least a grade B at GCSE in Art & Design. Those who have not taken Art & Design for GCSE are not precluded from taking this 'A' level, but suitable evidence would need to exist as to the student's suitability for the course. **Anyone in those circumstances MUST discuss his wishes with the Head of Art at the earliest opportunity during Year 11.**

The Course and Examinations

The AS Level:

Unit 1: Portfolio (Coursework)

50% of total AS marks; 25% of total A Level marks.

Candidates will produce a portfolio of practical work on a topic or topics set and marked by the Centre, moderated by AQA. This will run from September to around February/March in Year 12.

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment

50% of total AS marks; 25% of total A Level marks.

An exam paper containing a number of starting points will be provided by AQA, with a fixed period of preparatory time and a supervised time of five hours for the final piece of work. Runs March to late April in Year 12. Marked by the Centre, moderated by AQA.

The A2 Level:

Unit 3: Personal Investigation

25% of total A Level marks.

A personal project of practical work, set through discussion with the teachers, and supported by 1000 – 3000 words. This will begin immediately on the return from AS, and will run to around February/March in Year 13. Marked by the Centre, moderated by AQA.

Unit 4: Externally Set Assignment

25% of total A Level marks.

An exam paper containing a number of starting points will be provided by AQA, with a fixed period of preparatory time and a supervised time of fifteen hours for the final piece of work. Runs March to late April in Year 12. Marked by the Centre, moderated by AQA.

Combination of Subjects

'A' Level Art and Design can work in any combination of subjects. Technology is a frequent companion subject, and many students benefit greatly from the natural relationship of these two subjects.

Further and Higher Education

Not everyone who takes Art for 'A' level intends to pursue a career in Art and Design. The traditional path for those who do, however, is to begin with a one-year Art Foundation Course at one of a number of local colleges/universities. That would normally lead to a three year B.A. (Hons.) degree course at a university on one of a range of disciplines such as Fine Art, Graphic Design, Three-dimensional Design, Fashion and/or Textiles, Photography, Film, Multi-media, Theatre/TV Design etc. A number of Universities now offer four-year courses, taking students directly from school after "A" levels; in some cases the first year is rather like a Foundation Course. We have also had a steady output of students onto Architecture courses, and recently a student left to read Art History.

It should be noted that Art is the single most important requirement for Architecture courses.

BIOLOGY

Exam Board: OCR

What is Biology?

Saving threatened species, feeding people, GM organisms, curing diseases.....the 21st Century offers many challenges to a biologist. Which ones are you interested in meeting head-on?

New knowledge in areas such as genetics, molecular Biology, biodiversity and ecology have effects on human society and the environment all over the planet. The world moves quickly; in order to move with it and participate fully people need to be 'in the know'.

Studying Biology gives you the skills and opportunities to advance human knowledge and understanding in today's world, in order to make a difference to tomorrow's world. A background in Biology gives you transferable skills and increases your career options so you can adapt to the world changing around you. Biology is always relevant to life!

Entry Requirements

A level Biology is a demanding academic subject; therefore we recommend that students have a minimum of a B grade in Biology. Students embarking on this course should have a real interest in the subject. To be successful in Biology at this level, students will have to commit a substantial amount of time to homework and learning. Practical work is an integral part of the course and students must be fully involved in this aspect of the course at all levels.

Course Content and Assessment

At AGSB we teach the OCR Biology specification as we believe it offers a good grounding in a range of Biological Sciences which enables students to progress to the widest range of higher education courses. The course content is delivered by two specialist teaching staff in a total of 10 lessons per fortnight. The course is modular and has external examinations in January and June. The practical skills aspect of the course is done under controlled conditions in School.

AS

Unit 1 - Cells, exchange and transport (90UMS)

This unit covers the topics of cell structure, cell membranes, cell division, diversity and cellular organisation. Exchange surfaces and breathing, transport in animals and plants.

Unit 2 - Molecules, Biodiversity, Food and Health (150UMS)

This is a wide ranging unit covering the topics of Biological molecules, Nucleic acids, enzymes. Diet and food production. Health and disease. Biodiversity, classification and evolution

Unit 3 - Practical skills in Biology (60UMS)

In this unit students will be required to carry out three tasks based on the AS content.

A qualitative task which will test the ability to carry out experimental activities

A quantitative task which will test the ability to analyse and interpret data.

An evaluative task which will test the ability to evaluate evidence and resolve conflicting evidence.

A2

Unit 1 - Communication, Homeostasis and energy (90UMS)

This unit covers communication, nerves, hormones, excretion, respiration and photosynthesis.

Unit 2 - Control, genomes and environment (150UMS)

The topics covered in this unit include Cellular control and variation. Biotechnologies and gene technology. Ecosystems and sustainability. Behaviour, plant and animal responses to the environment.

Unit 3 - Practical skills in Biology (60UMS)

In this unit students will be required to carry out three tasks based on the A2 content.

A qualitative task which will test the ability to carry out experimental activities.

A quantitative task which will test the ability to analyse and interpret data.

An evaluative task which will test the ability to evaluate evidence and resolve conflicting evidence.

Special Features

Students are required to take part in a residential field trip which will form the basis of the experimental work done for the ecology part of the specification. Students and parents must be prepared to budget for the financial implications of this trip which is currently around £250. Students in both AS and A2 years are given the opportunity to attend lectures and workshops held at local universities. A dissection club is also run at lunchtimes for AS students.

Higher Education and Career Prospects

Biology is a versatile subject that complements many different subject combinations. Popular combinations include Biology taken with

- Chemistry
- Physics
- Maths
- Geography
- Psychology
- ICT
- Geology

Such combinations can pave the way for careers in

- Scientific Research
- Medicine/ Dentistry
- Nursing
- Forensics
- Physiotherapy
- Biotechnology
- Environmental science
- Biochemistry
- Food Science
- Sports Science
- Psychology
- Microbiology
- Teaching
- Patent law

BUSINESS STUDIES

Exam Board: AQA

Business Studies provides students with insight into the operation of both small and large enterprises. AS Business Studies introduces students to the challenges and issues of starting a business, including financial planning. It then explores the key internal functions of business and how the management of these functions can assist in improving the effectiveness and performance of a business. At A2, students consider strategies for larger businesses and how these strategies may change according to circumstances. Finally, the course considers the effects that external factors can have on businesses and how a business can plan for, and manage change, including leadership style and change in business culture.

Business Studies at AS and A2 is designed to give you the extra skills and knowledge that are essential in starting and running a business. Perfect for budding entrepreneurs and apprentices.

Studying Business Studies at AS/A2 level does not require students to have studied the subject at GCSE level – in teaching the course we assume no prior knowledge.

The AS/A Level Course

The Department will be following the AQA specification consisting of two units in Year 12 and two units in Year 13. Both AS and A2 make up 50% of the full A Level.

Specification at a glance

AS Examination

Unit 1: Planning and Financing a Business

Topic list

- **Starting a Business** - The challenges and issues of starting a business; enterprise; entrepreneurs
- **Financial Planning** - Key financial concepts needed to start a business including: sources of start up finance, planning cashflow, contribution and break even.

Assessment: 1 hour written paper, consisting of multiple choice, short answer questions and one compulsory question (40% of total AS marks).

Unit 2: Managing a Business

Topic list

- **People** - Communication; motivation; recruitment; HR planning
- **Operations Management** - adding value; quality; customer service
- **Finance** - improving cash flow, measuring profit, improving profitability
- **Marketing and Competition**- planning; 4 'P's; analysing the competitive environment.

Assessment: 1 hour 30 minute written paper, consisting of 2 compulsory data response questions (60% of total AS).

A2 Outline

Unit 3: Strategies for Success

Topic list

- **Financial Strategies and Accounts** - financial information, measuring performance, financial decisions
- **Marketing Strategies** - analysing markets, devising marketing strategies
- **Operations Strategies** - location, R & D, improving operational efficiency
- **Human Resource Strategies** - workforce planning, measuring performance, adapting organisational structures, employee relations.

Assessment: 1 hour 30 minute written paper, consisting of 5 questions based on an unseen case study (25% of total A level)

Unit 4: The Business Environment and Change

Topic list

- **External Influences** - the effects of changes in the economic, political, legal, social and ethical; corporate culture; risk strategy; change management and responses of organisations
- **Leadership, Corporate Culture, Ethics** - leadership styles, role of leaders in responding to change, corporate culture
- **Managing Change** - planning for change, corporate strategies, managing change, decision making.

Assessment: 1 hour 30 minute written paper, consisting of questions based on prior research and one essay question from a selection of three.

Choosing Business Studies

Students considering reading a Business degree at university should seriously contemplate studying Business Studies at AS and A2 level. This would provide an invaluable platform for progression onto the higher level course. There is no ideal combination of subjects which includes Business Studies as the subject combines well with all other academic subjects. Having a better understanding of how organisations work will be valuable to all students, particularly those looking to achieve a management position. Business Studies may be used as a career progression into any of the following areas:

Marketing
Accountancy
Human Resources
Finance
Banking & Insurance
Retailing

Module 4 Kinetics, Equilibria and Organic Chemistry

Many of the concepts encountered in Y12 are treated in a more quantitative fashion. Also acids, bases and pH changes are studied.

Students encounter more functional groups in organic Chemistry and learn about how modern spectroscopy can be used to identify more complicated structures.

Module 5 Energetics, Redox and Inorganic Chemistry

This module extends the study of energetics, periodicity and redox reactions. Transition metal Chemistry including those used in industry and medicine are considered along with substitution and hydrolysis reactions in metal complexes.

Modules 3 and 6 Investigative and Practical skills Assessments

Each of these modules carries 10% of the total A level marks (20% overall) and these assessments are structured in a similar way to those encountered by the students doing the AQA GCSE exams. They are externally Marked Practical Assessments, or Practical Exams.

These will allow students to:

- demonstrate and describe ethical, safe and skilful practical techniques.
- process and select appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods.
- make, record and communicate reliable and valid observations.
- make measurements with appropriate precision and accuracy.
- analyse, interpret, explain and evaluate the methodology, results and impact of their own and others' experimental and investigative activities in a variety of ways.

WHY STUDY CHEMISTRY?

Many university degree courses such as Medicine and Veterinary Science place an enormous value on an A level qualification in Chemistry and demand the highest grades. However our students have used their qualification in a wide variety of jobs in research and industry such as pharmaceuticals, mining, forensic science textiles, foodstuffs, oil industry and many others.

Others have opted for Chemistry degrees and then gone on to additional study to become lawyers.

Extension Opportunities

In Y13 we enter students who express an interest for the Advanced Extension Award. There is also the opportunity for students to participate in the Chemistry Olympiad. We have also invited speakers in who can give an idea of what it is like to study Chemistry and Chemistry related degrees at university.

COMPUTING

Exam Board: OCR

In an increasingly computer dependent world, people will increasingly need technological skills that include the ability to understand problems suitable for solution by computer, and to construct and implement such a solution while being fully aware of its wider implications.

The Course and Examination

OCR examination board. Two examination papers for AS level (no coursework), one examination paper and coursework for A2, with a weighting of 60% theory, 40% coursework.

Requirement

No previous knowledge or experience is required. However, a GCSE ICT background would be beneficial.

Why study Computing?

In today's workplace, those with knowledge and skills in computing have the opportunity to pursue new and exciting careers, and to be instrumental in the conception of computer systems that increasingly shape work and leisure activities.

To meet these career challenges, students must be self-reliant as well as good communicators and problem solvers. They need interpersonal, academic, and technical skills, and must demonstrate an ability to work independently and as part of a team. They also need to develop an ethical approach to the use of computers.

Possible careers include:

- Application Programming
- Games Design
- Web Design
- Animation
- Computer Generated Imagery (CGI)
- Systems Analysis
- Project Management
- ICT Consultancy
- Systems Engineering
- Systems Design
- Network Management
- Network Engineering
- Telecommunications
- Artificial Intelligence
- Robotics

The course will help students to develop the necessary skills for their career, while ensuring that they acquire a sound knowledge of computing.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Product Design (Resistant Materials Technology)

Exam Board: Edexcel

Requirements

GCSE Design and Technology Grade B or better is required. Students from Graphics and Electronic Products are encouraged to continue their technological interest and choose this subject as the new structure is skills based from first principles. If you have not studied Technology at GCSE, it may still be possible for you to choose this option but you should consult with Mr Baker prior to handing your form in.

Overview

This course seeks to develop students' knowledge, understanding, skills and application for designing products. Product Design encompasses a wide range of design disciplines but is firmly rooted in the skills required to design and make high quality products.

The qualification emphasises two key factors - creativity and sustainability. We want all students to explore ideas of originality and value, to question and challenge, to envisage what could be, but equally we need students to achieve the results that will progress their careers. This is a new A-level course that will allow students to develop a range of skills and outcomes at AS level and apply these to a design and make project at A2.

AS Content Summary

Unit 1: Coursework (60% of AS or 30% of full A-level)

In this unit, students are given the opportunity to develop their creative, technical and practical skills through a series of product investigation, design and manufacturing activities.

Unit 2: Examination: 90 minutes (40% of AS or 20% of full A-level)

In this unit, students will develop a knowledge and understanding of a wide range of materials and processes used in the field of Design and Technology.

A2 Content Summary

Unit 3: Examination: 120 minutes (40% of A2 or 20% of full A-level)

In this unit, students will develop their knowledge and understanding of a range of modern design and manufacturing practices and contemporary design issues.

Unit 4: Coursework (60% of A2 or 30% of full A-level)

In this unit, students are given the opportunity to apply the skills they have acquired and developed throughout this course of study, to design and make a product of their choice. In order to reach high attainment levels, students must adopt a commercial design approach to their work, reflecting how a professional designer might deal with a design problem and its resolution.

Careers

Possible career paths include architecture, consumer product design, engineering product design, marketing, industrial design consultancy, production engineering, project planning, technical sales, furniture design, CAD/CAM, interior/exhibition design, advertising and display design.

Industry is keen to recruit people with a good capability in product design. We offer Year 12 students the opportunity to participate in the Engineering Education Scheme and work on real design issues with a partner company. Our partners for 2011-2012 are United Utilities and Network Rail.

ECONOMICS

Exam Board: AQA

Economics is seen as a vitally important area of study for any young person considering a career in industry, commerce or politics. The study of Economics is a study of how the world works. It helps you understand more about how we can make the best possible use of the earth's scarce resources, the impact of government policies and the effects of globalisation.

What makes a luxury item such as a diamond more expensive than a necessity like water? Why should public transport be subsidised by the government? Should David Beckham be allowed to earn £120,000 per week? Should Britain join the single European currency? Why is China the fastest growing economy in the world and how will it affect me?

Economics graduates have one of the highest average earning potentials. Many people with Economics degrees move onto Banking, Insurance and the Law or as professional Economists, advising multinational companies.

Studying Economics at AS/A2 level does not require students to have studied the subject at GCSE level – in teaching the course we assume no prior knowledge.

The AS/A Level Course

The Department will be following the AQA specification consisting of two units in Year 12 and two units in Year 13. Both AS and A2 make up 50% of the full A Level. In both Year 12 and Year 13 one unit is focused on the study of Microeconomics and the other on the study of Macroeconomics.

Specification at a glance

AS Examination 5141

Unit 1: Markets and market failure (25% of total A Level marks)

Topic list

- The economic problem
- The allocation of resources in competitive markets
- Production and efficiency
- Market failure
- Government intervention in the market

Assessment: Written Paper of 1 hour 15 minutes. Comprising 25 optional choice questions and one data response question chosen from two.

Unit 2: The National Economy

Topic list

- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- How the macroeconomy works:
AD/AS analysis, the circular flow of income, and related concepts
- Economic performance
- Macroeconomic policy

Assessment: Written Paper of 1 hour 15 minutes. Comprising 25 optional choice questions and one data response question chosen from two.

A2

Unit 3: Business Economics and the Distribution of Income (25% of total A Level marks)

Topic list

- The firm: objectives, costs and revenues
- Competitive markets
- Concentrated markets
- The labour market
- Government intervention in the market.

Assessment: 2 hour written exam. Comprising one data response question chosen from two and one essay question chosen from three options

Unit 4: The National and International Economy

Topic list

- Macroeconomic indicators
- Managing the national economy
- The international economy

Assessment: 2 hour written exam. Comprising one data response question chosen from two and one essay question chosen from three options

Economics with

There is no ideal combination of subjects which includes Economics but some universities' Economic departments look favourably on/expect applicants to offer A level Maths. Anyone considering a career in the areas of banking, accountancy and financial services will find that professional examinations in these areas will have a strong Economics element and therefore prior knowledge of this subject would be beneficial. Combining Economics with Business Studies would undoubtedly provide a broad base of relevant knowledge for careers in the commercial world. Economics would also be an ideal subject as a fourth choice in the post-16 combinations – students with a major interest in the Sciences have seen Economics as a subject that would stand them in good stead when considering a wide range of careers from Production Engineering to Zoo Management.

ENGLISH

The English Department offers two courses at this level; one in English Literature, and one in English Language and Literature. It is not possible to do both subjects; this is what is known as a "prohibited combination". We do not currently offer a course in English Language alone.

The observations below apply to both courses.

English is non-vocational, though it obviously has a good deal of relevance to people intending to write or read in their careers (teachers, lawyers, journalists, TV producers, politicians, publishers). The subject has a human dimension (offering rigorous training in civilised negotiation, debate and argument), and this prepares people well for many management and personnel rôles, as well as for careers where dealing with people is important (such as banking, accountancy, the retail trade, social work, the armed services and the police force).

Students from both subjects have equal access to any theatre trips or other extra-curricular activities which we offer. Apart from local theatre outings, we have in the past few years been to Stratford, and on half a dozen occasions taken Year 13 students to London for an overnight Virgin Trains/ theatre/ Imperial War Museum/ posh hotel/ British Library/ Wagamama's experience. We would also encourage English students to be active members of Debating Society. Opportunities are provided to enter creative writing competitions.

The Courses are detailed on the following sheets:

English Literature

English Language and Literature.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam Board: AQA

English Literature is for students who like to read; who like to talk about ideas and about the ways in which writers explore and present their ideas. There will be a good deal of discussion of the texts studied and a variety of approaches in the classroom. The type of writing through which you will be principally assessed is the literary critical essay; writing about the texts you have studied; about their ideas, their characters, their language, form and structure; making connections between different texts. We may well ask you to do some creative and imaginative things with the texts in order for you to broaden and deepen your understanding of them; hot seating exercises; role play; acting out scenes; writing letters and diary entries from the characters etc.; and there may well be the opportunity for you to produce a creative response to a literary text, but ultimately it is through formal essays - some in exams, some in coursework - that you will be mostly assessed.

You should have at least a grade B in English Literature at GCSE to embark upon this course; and preferably at least a grade B in English at GCSE as well.

AQA English Literature Specification A

AS

Modules 1 and 2 at AS are linked by a common theme. So if, for example, the theme which we chose to follow from the three options offered was World War One Literature, in Module 1 (assessed by examination) you would study a collection of World War One poetry and answer a question on this. In preparation for this examination you would also study a selection of texts and extracts about World War One and link these to a previously unseen passage on the examination paper. Then in module 2, (assessed by coursework) you would produce two pieces; one examining the literary and dramatic qualities of a play; and one in the form of a creative response to a prose text about World War One.

A2

Module 3 Love Through The Ages. In this paper you will be comparing previously unseen pieces of writing on the topic of love with each other and with texts which you have prepared.

Module 4 This module requires you to produce a piece of coursework which makes connections between a Shakespeare play and two other texts, which you may choose for yourself.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Examination Board – OCR

The English Language and Literature course deals not just with literary texts, but with non-literary texts. It gives you the chance to produce some writing of your own as well. You will also explore the rules which are applied to conversation. How do we know when it's our turn to speak? When is it acceptable to interrupt? And how does the representation of speech in fiction differ from the real thing? Thus you are analysing non-literary material and literary material; and this will include the spoken word. Literary texts are studied in their entirety as well.

The Language and Literature course involves becoming familiar with terms that are used to describe and explore language; a grammatical and linguistic terminology; what is sometimes called a metalanguage - a language in which to talk about language. The specialist terminology used in English Literature will to a greater or lesser extent already have been met at GCSE.

To embark upon this course you should have achieved at least a grade B in either English or English Literature at GCSE, and preferably in both.

AS

Module 1 Voices in Texts. This module (assessed through examination) explores the effects of narrative voice in prose fiction through study of two prose texts, such as “*Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*”, “*Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*” and “*The Child in Time*” and also involves analysis of a transcript of written speech.

Module 2 Changing Texts. This coursework module requires you to produce two pieces. The first is an analytical study of a literary text and a related multimodal text such as a blog or a film. For the second you produce your own multimodal piece and an accompanying commentary.

A2

Module 3 Voices and Power. In this examination module you explore how power relationships are presented through the genre of drama. You study two texts from different periods- such as “*As You Like It*” and “*Arcadia*”. You will not have access to the texts in the exam room.

Module 4 Connections Across Texts. In this coursework module you produce two pieces of writing. You study a substantial text and several related others - literary and non-literary- and analyse them in relation to how they explore ideas about status and value. Then you produce a piece of creative writing arising from the study in the first task, accompanied by a commentary.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Requirement

Not for the faint-hearted. Do you enjoy Mathematics? Are you good at Mathematics?
An enquiring mind?

A grade A* at GCSE required plus your teacher's recommendation.

The Course

Edexcel

This is of course a very tall order but is proving very successful. A normal option at 'A' level takes up 10 periods on a fortnightly timetable; for this Further Mathematics option a few extra periods are added to accommodate the increased number of modules.

Further Mathematics is to some extent an extension of 'A' level Mathematics with additional topics e.g. complex numbers, proof, polar co-ordinates, differential equations, vector geometry and matrices. After completing 6 or even 7 modules in Year 12, you would then complete a further 6 modules in Year 13 including two extra 'Pure' modules, a decision Maths module, further Mechanics and Statistics modules.

Examination

Three modules in January of Year 12, three modules in June of Year 12, four modules in January of Year 13 and the remaining two modules in the June of Year 13. All examinations are one and a half hours with equal weighting.

Career

Further Mathematics is extremely useful if you intend to follow a career in Accountancy or Actuarial work, or if you intend to read Physics or certain types of engineering especially Electrical or Civil. For a degree in Mathematics it is not actually a requirement but you would start at a disadvantage without it.

FRENCH

Exam Board: AQA

The Course

Number of lessons per fortnight: 10

(Plus weekly time with French assistant to prepare for the oral exam).

The ever increasing importance of Modern Languages cannot be stressed enough and this is reflected in many courses offered at universities; it is possible to take a Modern Language with almost any other subject.

For example, a language may be taken with Law, Medicine, Accounting, Engineering, Business and many more courses.

Please find below an outline of the AS and A2 French course. The aims of the course are to enable students to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in French through both the spoken and the written word, using increasingly accurate, complex and varied language. Students will also develop critical insights into the contemporary French society and cultural background of countries where is spoken.

AS Level

Topics; Media, Popular Culture, Healthy living / lifestyle and Family relationships.

AS Exam

Unit 1: Listening, Reading and Writing 2 hours 70% of the total AS marks
35% of the total A Level

Listening Section

Candidates listen to approximately 5 minutes of material which is within their individual control.

This section comprises a task involving transfer of meaning into English and 2-4 items requiring short target-language or non verbal responses.

Reading Section

This section comprises 3-4 items requiring short target-language or non verbal responses, together with a cloze test. The cloze test comprises ten discrete sentences not based on any of the stimulus texts; in each case candidates will be required to manipulate a given noun / verb / adjective.

Writing Section

Candidates respond to one question from a choice of three. There will be one question on three of the four AS topic areas. Candidates write approximately 200 words.

Unit 2: Speaking **35 minutes** **30% of the total AS marks**
15% of the total A Level

Part 1 Discussion of stimulus card (5 minutes)

Candidates should prepare **one** of two cards given to them by the examiner. The cards will be based on the four topics prescribed for AS level, i.e. *Media, Popular Culture, Healthy Living/Lifestyle* and *Family/Relationships*.

Part 2 Conversation (10 minutes).

The Conversation will cover 3 of the 4 AS topics.

A2 Level

Topics: Environment: pollution, Energy and protecting the planet: the Multicultural Society; immigration, integration and racism and Contemporary Social Issues: wealth and poverty, Law and order and the impact of scientific and technological progress.

In addition students will also study two of five cultural topics from:

A target language-speaking region/ community

A period of 20th Century history from a target language-speaking country / community

The work of an author from a target language-speaking country / community

The work of a dramatist or poet from a target language-speaking country / community.

The work of a director, architect, musician or painter from target language-speaking country / community.

A2 Exam

Unit 3: Listening, reading and writing **2 ½ hours** **35% of the total A Level**

Listening Section

Candidates listen to approximately 6 minutes of material which is within their individual control.

Reading Section

This section comprises 2-4 items requiring short target-language or non verbal responses, together with a task involving transfer of meaning from the target language into English and a task involving transfer of meaning from English into the target language.

Writing Section

Candidates respond with one piece of writing to one question from a choice of two, Candidates write a minimum of 250 words.

Unit 4: Speaking **35 minutes** **15% of the total A Level**

Part 1 Discussion of a stimulus card (5 minutes)

Part 2 Conversation (10 minutes)

The Conversation will cover both Cultural Topics studied by the candidate.

GEOLOGY

WHAT IS GEOLOGY?

Geology is an applied branch of science that uses physical, chemical and biological principles to explain the structure, evolution and dynamics of the Earth. Like all sciences, Geology draws extensively on the skills of observation, imagination and the synthesis of information and ideas.

Aspects of Geology (Earth Science) will have been studied indirectly by all students in Years 10 and 11 as part of the GCSE Separate Science courses. This clearly illustrates that Geology is a multidisciplinary science and hence, Geology is an appropriate subject to take if you enjoy science. Most students that take the subject, therefore, are following other science-based AS levels, and the subject also attracts students who enjoy the physical aspects of Geography.

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

Being a science subject, the entry requirements are a B in both Chemistry and Physics. GCSE Geography is **not required**. **Prior study of GCSE Geology is also not required.**

WHY STUDY GEOLOGY?

Geology has many applications to human activities. Our modern society cannot exist without resources explored for, and exploited by, geologists; notable examples being oil, gas, coal, water, building materials and minerals. Geologists are also involved in hazard prediction, i.e., earthquake, volcano and landslide forecasting. In major civil engineering projects, Geologists are required to investigate the ground foundations, and a major recent growth area for Geologists is in environmental projects.

RESULTS AND DESTINATIONS

Based upon mean UCAS points score, the Geology Department results are invariably amongst the best in the School. Value added results are generally excellent and two past candidates have obtained the best national Advanced Level Geology result.

A2 RESULTS

YEAR	A*	A	B	C	D	E	PASS RATE	AV. POINT SCORE
2009	n/a	8	2				100	116
2010	4	4	3		1		100	110
2011		3	8	2	3		100	100

Maximum Points = 120

AS RESULTS

YEAR	A	B	C	D	E	F	PASS RATE	AV. POINT SCORE
2009	9	3	1	1			100	54
2010	8	6	2	2	2	1	95	46
2011	13	3		1			100	56

Maximum Points = 60

Most students have used their GCE grade to obtain a place at university on varied non-Geology related courses, including: physical, chemical, biological and natural sciences, engineering, geography, computing, environmental science, law and medicine. Usually, one or

two students continue with Geology to degree level each year, with past students having obtained places at Oxford, Imperial College, Durham, Bristol and Edinburgh. Three of the 2010 cohort obtained Oxbridge places, two to read Earth Sciences at Oxford and one to read Natural Sciences at Cambridge.

THE COURSE

The GCE Geology A Level followed is that offered by WJEC. The AS specification comprises the basic components of Geology and includes Planetary Geology, Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, Mineralogy, Hazard Geology, Engineering Geology, Palaeontology, Petrology (Igneous, Metamorphic and Igneous rocks) and Structural Geology.

The A2 specification affords an opportunity to extend the knowledge learned at AS level to a higher level. Additional new topics include Petroleum Geology, Economic Mineral Geology, Hydrogeology, The Lithosphere, Geological maps and Climate change.

ASSESSMENT

Specification	Module	Assessment	Weighting
AS GEOLOGY	GL1 Foundation Geology	1 Hour Written Paper	17.5%
	GL2 Investigative Geology (Internally assessed)	1 Hour 15 Minutes Written Paper	15%
	GL3 Geology & The Human Environment	1 Hour 15 Minutes Written Paper	17.5%
A2 GEOLOGY	GL4 Interpreting The Geological Record	2 Hour Written Paper	17.5%
	GL5 Geological Themes	2 Hour Written Paper	17.5%
	GL6 Investigative Geology (Internally assessed)	Two Fieldwork Assessed Exercises	15%

FIELDWORK

Fieldwork is an integral part of the Geology course. In the Lower Sixth a residential course is held in the Vale of Eden. In the Upper Sixth there is a one day field trip to the Peak District followed by a weeklong excursion to Cyprus.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

All students in the Lower Sixth will visit Manchester University School of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences and in the Upper Sixth, Manchester Museum. Numerous professional Geologists visit the department and talk to the students including volcanologists, engineering geologists, mining geologists and academic geologists. The Geology Department has good contacts with local companies and universities and has been able to arrange work placements for motivated students. Occasionally relevant lectures run by The Geological Society and Manchester Geological Association are attended voluntarily by students.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For any additional information do not hesitate to contact Dr Stephen or Mrs Eastwell in N8, or by email kstephen@agsb.co.uk or eeastwell@agsb.co.uk

GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board: AQA

The Advanced level course emphasises the relationship of human populations to each other over space and time and their relationship with their environment at a variety of scales from the local to the global.

All units offer opportunities for candidates to consider:

- their own roles, values and attitudes in relation to themes and issues being studied;
- the roles, values and attitudes of others including decision making;

The subject content follows an issues and impacts approach throughout.

What are the entry requirements?

Students should have studied the subject at GCSE and have achieved at least a B grade.

The AS Course (Year 12)

Unit 1 The Core Physical and Human Course

Structured short and extended questions on:

- rivers and flood management;
- cold environments;
- global population change;
- energy issues.

Unit 2 The Geographical Skills Paper

- the application of geographical knowledge and skills to unseen information/resources from the core unit 1 topics.
- The fieldwork element and investigative skills.

In the Autumn term of Year 12 there is a 3 day residential fieldwork trip to the Lake District. It is strongly recommended that all students participate. The compulsory question on Unit 2 paper (exam in January of Year 12) will be based on the fieldwork carried out on this trip.

The A2 Course (Year 13)

Unit 3 Contemporary Geographical Issues

2 Structured questions and one essay from the 3 topics studied. The topics are:

- Plate Tectonics and associated hazards;
- Weather and climate and associated hazards;
- Development and Globalisation.

Unit 4 An issue evaluation paper

Specification at a glance

Unit	Unit Name	Time	% of AS marks	% of A2 marks	
1	Physical and Human Geography	2 hours	70	35	Structured short and extended questions
2	Applied Geography	1 hour	30	15	Structured short and fieldwork questions
3	Contemporary Geographical issues	2 ½ hours		30	Structured short and extended questions and an essay
4	An issue Evaluation paper	1 ½ hours		20	Structured short and extended questions

Further Education/Career

Geography at GCSE and at A level is of value in the following types of career:

Agriculture and Horticulture, Surveying, Auctioning and Estate Agency work, Civil Aviation, Commerce and Industry, Landscape Architecture, Local Government, Merchant Navy, The Armed Services, Meteorology, Cartography, Town and Country Planning, Purchasing and Supply, Travel Agency work, The Transport Industry.

If in doubt consult either Mrs Pearson, Mr Wales, Miss Meehan or Mrs Bushnell.

Enrichment/Extension Opportunities

- Membership of the Manchester Branch of the Geographical Association – enabling students to attend evening lectures, once a month, at Manchester University.
- Subscription to journals e.g. Geography Review Magazine.
- Outside speakers.
- Fieldwork opportunities.
- Visits to Oxford Geography Department Open Day.
- Attendance at the Hazards Day Conference.

GERMAN

Exam Board: OCR

(www.ocr.org.uk)

The course

Number of lessons per fortnight: 10 + regular time with the German Assistant

The pupils will be studying 8 topic areas (4 at AS Level and 4 at A2 Level) from a variety of traditional and new media, from books, newspapers, magazines, literary texts and films. In addition to the topic areas at AS and A2 Level, German grammar is studied in depth.

AS Level

Topic Areas

- 1) Aspects of daily life
Sub-topics - The family; Food, drink, health; Transport.
- 2) Leisure and Entertainment
Sub-topics – Sport; Tourism; Leisure Activities: the arts (film, theatre).
- 3) Communication and Media
Sub-topics - Communication technology; Media (written press, radio, television).
- 4) Education and Training
Sub-topics – School; Work and training

Format of the Exam

Unit 1: Speaking Test

20 minutes preparation time + 15 minutes exam

60 marks, equally split over the two parts of the test

This exam represents 30% of the marks for AS (15% of A Level)

Section A: Role-Play, based on a stimulus in English; 5 minutes

Section B: Topic Discussion of an AS topic chosen by the candidate; 10 minutes

Unit 2: Written Paper

2 hours and 30 minutes to complete a range of tasks grouped in two sections 140 marks

This exam represents 70% of the marks for AS (35% of A Level)

Section A: Listening and Writing (55 marks), 1 hour

3 listening texts

1 short writing task (English into German) based on last listening text

Section B: Reading and Writing (85 marks), 1 hour 30 minutes

3 reading texts

1 extended writing task (200-300 words) based on last reading text

A2 Level

Topic Areas

- 1) Society
Sub-Topics - Integration and Exclusion; Law and Order; Unemployment
- 2) The Environment
Sub-topics - The individual and the environment; Energy management; Pollution; Conservation of the natural world.
- 3) Science and Technology
Sub-topics - Medical progress; Scientific advances; Technological developments.
- 4) Culture
Sub-topics - Literature and the arts; Political issues; Heritage and history.

Format of the Exam

Unit 3: Speaking Test

20 minutes preparation time + 15 minutes exam

60 marks, equally split over the two parts of the test

This exam represents 15% of the marks for A Level

Section A: Discussion of Article, based on a text in German; 5 minutes

Section B: Topic Discussion of one or two prepared A2 topics chosen by the candidate; 10 minutes

Unit 4: Written Paper

2 hours and 45 minutes to complete a range of tasks grouped in three sections

140 marks This exam represents 35% of the marks for A Level

Section A: Listening and Writing - 2 listening texts

Section B: Reading and Writing

2 reading texts + a range of test types

Section C: Writing

1 essay (400-500 words) from a choice of 8 titles based on the four A2 topic areas

Why study German at A Level?

The ever increasing importance of a Modern Foreign Language cannot be stressed enough and this is reflected in the many courses offered at universities; it is possible to take German with almost any other subject:

- e.g. Law and German
- Accounting and German
- Engineering and German etc.

Even if not a major part of the degree German can be taken as a module throughout the course at the majority of universities, the aim of this being to produce graduates who have the specific skills of their degree but also have a reasonable to high level of fluency in a foreign language.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

The Course

You would be expected to have achieved a grade A*, A or grade B in a Humanities subject like History or Economics.

A natural interest in the subject would be a big advantage because the course will, in part, require wide reading to keep up to date with the latest developments, especially within the British political system. Like all 'A' Levels this is a serious academic subject. It will be assessed through essay writing and data response exercises. It will require thought, preparation and hard work. There will be opportunities for discussion also. You will be advised to subscribe to a Politics magazine.

The course can be taken as an AS level over one year or as an A Level over two years.

AS Level

UNIT 1 PEOPLE AND POLITICS

Introduces students to the key channels of communication between governments and people. It encourages them to evaluate the adequacy of existing arrangements for ensuring representative democracy and participation.

UNIT 2 GOVERNING THE U.K

Introduces students to the major governmental processes within the UK. It encourages them to develop a critical understanding of the role and effectiveness of key institutions.

Format of the Exam

Unit 1

1 hour and 20 minutes written examination
50% of total AS marks

Unit 2

1 hour and 20 minutes written examination
50% of total AS marks

A2 Level

UNIT 3 KEY THEMES IN POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Introduces students to key themes in political analysis. Students will study Political Ideologies including: Liberalism; Conservatism; Socialism, Anarchism.

UNIT 4 GLOBAL POLITICAL ISSUES

In this unit students will study Global Politics and in particular: Conflict, War and Terrorism, Poverty and Development, Environmental Issues, Human Rights.

Format of the Exam

Unit 3

1 hour and 30 minutes written examination
50% of total A2 marks

Unit 4

1 hour and 30 minutes written examination
50% of total A2 marks

Complementary Subjects

Government and Politics is regarded as a social science but is generally regarded as being complementary to History, Economics and Geography. This does not preclude taking it with other subjects.

Careers

Like History, Government and Politics is not a vocational subject but does help to develop skills useful in a variety of careers. See the History section for further details.

GREEK

Greek is not formally offered as part of the Sixth Form curriculum but special provision may be made in exceptional circumstances. Please discuss this with Mr. Gartside.

HISTORY

Exam Board: AQA

The Course

For the AS level examination in their Year 12 and the full A level examination in their Year 13 students will study the AQA History Syllabus.

Most AS/A level History students will have studied History at G.C.S.E. level and will need to have achieved a grade A*, A or B. However, it is not essential to have done G.C.S.E. History providing you have an A*, A or B grade in a similar subject like English Literature and have had a good record in History up to the end of Year 9. You must enjoy wide reading and be able to express ideas in essays.

The Value of History

History at “A” level is primarily about the **handling of text** (the analysis of information from books and other references, the appraisal of historical sources and the evaluation of differing historical interpretations) and the **construction of text** (largely through essays).

Through all this students should develop their capacity for critical thinking, their ability to cope with large amounts of information, and their ability to argue a case convincingly using evidence.

AS Level

The AS examination will involve two modules.

UNIT 1

Absolutist States: the reign of Louis XIV, 1661-1715.

UNIT 2

A Sixties Social Revolution? British Society, 1959-1975

Format of the Exam

UNIT 1

1 hour and 30 minutes written examination on Absolutist States.
50% of total AS marks

UNIT 2

1 hour and 30 minutes written examination on British Society.
50% of total AS marks

A2 Level

The A2 examination will also involve two modules.

UNIT 3

The Making of Modern Britain 1951-2007

UNIT 4

This is a Personal Study. Candidates will be required to submit an *historical enquiry* based on the investigation of an historical issue from the European History course being studied.

Format of the Exam

UNIT 3

1 hour and 30 minutes written examination.

60% of total A2 marks

UNIT 4

Historical enquiry.

40% of total A2 marks

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Languages and Classics are the old standard subjects that go well with History, but Geography, English and Economics, Politics and Philosophy are also good complementary subjects. However, History is very flexible and boys have even taken it with Physics and Maths!

CAREERS

A superficial glance suggests the uselessness of History as a “bread and butter ticket for life”. Only teaching, archivists, libraries, and museums specifically require a History degree. However, the reality belies this common assumption: History Departments remain some of the largest faculties at Universities. In fact the so-called vocational weakness of History is its very strength: it allows a final choice of career to be delayed to the very end, and does not put the final choice into any one basket – the general nature of the training of historians, as outlined above, making for the greatest variety of careers. This includes the Civil Service, publishing, journalism and broadcasting, business administration management, engineers, surveyors and town planners, sociologists, economists, politicians and the old standby – the law.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

There is no escaping ICT in the 21st Century. It is now a core skill and a requirement in many careers, as well as being hugely beneficially in many aspects of home life. Those with greater skill and knowledge of ICT can participate more successfully in our modern culture.

The ICT AS/A2 level course thoroughly develops you into a skilled, independent and enterprising user of ICT, through participation in a varied and imaginative curriculum.

The Course and Examinations

The current exam board we choose to use is OCR.

At AS level you will undertake a series of enterprising tasks that are set by the exam board. These are an excellent insight into how ICT is used in the workplace. You will also undertake one examination that requires you to recall and discuss ICT theory and current affairs in the world of technology.

At A2 level you will undertake a similar examination for which you will develop a deeper understanding of the impact of ICT on the modern world. The coursework for A2 level is a project based task that explores the development of a system.

AS – 60% Examination, 40% Coursework

A2 – 60% Coursework, 40% Examination

Requirement

No previous knowledge or experience is required. However, a GCSE ICT or Computing background would be beneficial.

Why Study ICT?

The impact of ICT on society is enormous and as the number of businesses and households connected to communication networks such as the Internet grows, so does the need for individuals who can master and manipulate these new technologies.

You may be considering a career in one of the numerous aspects of the ICT industry, you may wish to develop a firm grounding in ICT as preparation for the wider world, or you could be interested in studying ICT to AS level to support your A' level studies and your future at university. Whatever your reason, this course has a lot to offer.

Altrincham Grammar School for Boys' ICT Department is very successful. It has received two Good Schools Guide Awards in recent years for the high quality of our AS results. In 2005 the School won recognition for achieving the best AS ICT results in England.

Possible careers include:

- Games Design
- Web Design
- Animation
- Computer Generated Imagery
- Systems Analysis
- Project Management
- Business Analysis
- ICT Consultancy
- Systems Design
- Network Management
- Network Engineering
- Telecommunications

LATIN

Exam Board: OCR

The Course

The aim of the course is to provide an insight into Latin literature and Roman culture through the study of prescribed works, both prose and verse, and literary or historical topics. Typical authors studied are (prose) Cicero, Livy, Tacitus or Sallust, and (verse) Vergil, Horace, Juvenal, Ovid or Catullus. Skill in unseen translation is also developed.

Latin blends well with any combination of Arts subjects but is particularly beneficial to students of English, History and Modern Languages. University Classics courses are a logical step from Latin A level, but there are also joint courses (e.g. Latin with French) and related courses such as Archaeology. Latin is a useful tool for students taking any arts or social science degrees, especially Law, History or English.

The full A level course consists of four modules. There will be two modules at AS level, which are taken at the end of Year 12, and two A2 modules to be taken at the end of Year 13. The modules are as follows:

AS level

There are two units in the AS Level.

Unit L1: Unprepared Translation I.

Passage of prose for translation. (50% of marks)

Unit L2: Latin Literature:

Questions on prescribed literary texts from a choice of authors. (50% of marks)

A2 level:

Unit L3: Latin Verse:

Questions on prescribed verse texts

Verse unseen translation

Unit L4: Latin Prose:

Questions on prescribed prose texts

Unseen prose translation

The two units are equally weighted.

MATHEMATICS

Exam Board: Edexcel modular course

The Course

In September 2000 we began the Edexcel modular course. This incorporates six modules for A level. The first three modules, Core 1, Core 2 and Mechanics 1 constitute an AS level qualification. Core 1 is taken in January and Core 2 and Mechanics are taken in June. This will then be added to with three modules Core 3 (taken in January), Core 4 and Statistics 1 to give a full A level in Year 13.

'Core' or 'Pure' Mathematics is an extension of the GCSE course although it involves some new topics altogether. Its basis is to provide you with a basic technique for use in applications. It broadly covers Analysis (Calculus), Algebra, Co-ordinate Geometry, Trigonometry, Functions, Approximate methods of solution, Kinematics, Probability and descriptive Statistics, Logarithms, Indices, non-numerical Trigonometry, Differential Equations and Vectors.

Requirement

At least grade B at GCSE, though an A grade is strongly recommended.

Calculators

A scientific calculator is essential.

A graphic programmable calculator is a useful, though not essential tool, at A level.

These can be purchased through the School at a substantial saving on shop prices.

The Examination

All module exams are one and a half hours and are equally weighted. They are all marked out of 75 marks.

Other Subjects

Obvious choices would be Physics, Chemistry, Biology but almost any A levels are complemented by Mathematics, especially Geography and Economics.

Career

Almost anything nowadays, Mathematics is increasingly used by all branches of Industry and Commerce as well as in the obvious Science based careers.

MUSIC

The Course

Exam Board: AQA

AS level

There are three units in the AS Level.

Unit 1 – Written exam: Influences of Music – 30%

Candidates are given structured questions using a CD of musical excerpts. Candidates then answer two essay questions:

- one on the set work, Mozart Symphony No.41;
- one on the area of study, British Popular Music from 1960-present day.

Unit 2 – Composing: 30%

Candidates respond to one brief from a choice of three:

1. Compositional Techniques;
2. Free composition;
3. Arranging.

Unit 3 – Performing: 40%

Candidates offer two performances (each 5-8 minutes) from a choice of six:

1. A solo performance on an instrument;
2. A solo performance on voice;
3. A solo performance on a second instrument;
4. An ensemble performance;
5. A technology based performance |-sequencing;
6. A technology based performance |-microphone multi track recording.

A2 level

There are also three units in the AS Level.

Unit 4 – Written exam: Music in Context – 40%

Candidates are given structured questions using a CD of musical excerpts. Candidates then answer two essay questions:

- one on the set work, Mahler Symphony No.4;
- one on the area of study, Four Decades of Jazz and Blues 1910-1950.

Unit 5 – Composing: 30%

Candidates respond to one brief from a choice of three:

1. Compositional Techniques;
2. Free composition;
3. Arranging.

Unit 6 – Performing: 30%

Candidates offer two (or more) contrasting pieces to form a short programme, as a soloist or using music technology or a combination of these. The programme will last 10-15 minutes.

Extra-Curriculum Activities in Music

The Music Department runs a wide range of extra activities and instrumental lessons that are available for all students.

Instrumental lessons are available on the following instruments

- Strings
- Brass
- Woodwind
- Percussion
- Guitar
- Electric Guitar
- Piano
- Voice

These lessons take place from 8.00 am until 4.30 pm every day. Experienced specialists provide tuition in all areas and lessons are normally ½ hour in length and take place during free periods, before or after school or during lunchtime.

A wide range of ensembles runs throughout the School year - at present they include the following:

- Orchestra
- Concert Band
- Swing Band
- Choir
- Barbershop Vocal Group
- Brass Group

If you require further information of any of the above please contact Mr. Myers at the School.

PHILOSOPHY

Exam Board: AQA

The Course

Philosophy A level has been a part of the Sixth Form curriculum at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys for more than ten years. It is a subject which has grown rapidly in popularity in recent years, especially in Grammar and Independent school sixth forms. Many of the most able and academic sixth form students find the study of Philosophy valuable, interesting and stimulating. The subject helps to develop skills of argument and analysis, as well as inviting students to consider fundamental questions about our understanding of the world.

Syllabus

We will be following the AQA A level Philosophy syllabus, which combines the study of major topics of philosophical enquiry with great philosophical texts. The set texts include works by Plato, Descartes, Mill, Hume and Nietzsche. Areas of philosophical study covered by the syllabus include Epistemology, Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Mind, Political Philosophy and Aesthetics.

Subject Content

In Plato's 'Republic', when Socrates was asked to define 'true philosophers', he replied that they are, "Those who love to see the truth". He also explained that, "A philosopher's passion is for wisdom of every kind without distinction".

It is the task of Philosophy to strive for wisdom and understanding by challenging assumptions about the way we see the world, by asking questions and by attempting to formulate answers. The following is only a small sample of the questions which we shall be considering during the course.

What do we know? How do we know it? Are the senses reliable sources of knowledge? What is 'the good for man'? What makes our actions right or wrong? Which ideals and ends should we pursue and why? Are there any moral truths or are there simply our 'tastes' and 'preferences?' What is the mind? What is the relationship between mind and body? Could a machine ever achieve self-awareness? Is there a God? How successful are philosophical arguments for the existence of God? Do human beings have "free will"? What makes good art?

AS and A2 level

The subject is organised into four units of study, two of which are examined at AS level and the remaining two at A2. The two AS examination papers are 1½ hours each in length and candidates are required to submit 45 minute essays. At A2, again candidates are required to produce essay answers; one of the two papers is of 2 hours' duration and there is a specific focus on the study of philosophical texts in this year of the course.

Qualifications for entry to the subject

Students wishing to take this subject at A level must demonstrate they possess good all round academic ability, but with a particular aptitude for essay writing. A minimum of B grades in both English Language and English Literature is required.

Academic and Career Value

As with all Arts and Humanities subjects, Philosophy does not lead into one specific career area. However, it is a valuable foundation for further academic study and careers such as Law, in which high quality skills of argument and analysis are required. At A level it combines very well with a wide variety of subjects; Philosophy is popular in combination with English Literature, History, Politics, Economics, Religious Studies, Mathematics and Physics.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Courses Studied:

OCR Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Physical Education (H154)

OCR Advanced GCE in Physical Education (H554)

The course takes a multi-disciplinary approach, encouraging the development of different methods of enquiry. The focal point is always the performer and their performance. The course is based on the interaction between the theory and practice of Physical Education.

AS GCE has made up of two mandatory units:

Unit G451: An introduction to Physical Education, which is externally assessed;

Unit G452: Acquiring, developing and evaluating practical skills in Physical Education, which is externally set, internally assessed and externally moderated.

Together they form 50% of the corresponding four unit Advanced GCE.

The Advanced GCE is made up of two mandatory units at AS and two further units at A2:

Unit G453: Principles and concepts across different areas of Physical Education, which is externally assessed;

Unit G454: The improvement of effective performance and the critical evaluation of practical activities in Physical Education, which is externally set, internally assessed and externally moderated.

Before you start this course:

Due to the large amount of what the syllabus refers to as 'prior/presupposed knowledge' it is now departmental procedure to only allow boys who have studied GCSE Physical Education access to the AS and A2 courses.

With a qualification in Physical Education you could go on to Higher Education to pursue a career in teaching, coaching or professional sport, as well as the ever increasing leisure industry, recreational management or health and fitness industries

The units you will study for AS comprise:

AS Unit G451: An introduction to Physical Education

Section A

Anatomy and Physiology

This section focuses on the impact of physical activity on the systems of the body and on young people's participation

Section B

Acquiring Movement Skills

This section focuses on the acquisition of movement skills that impact upon young people's participation and performance in physical activity as part of a balanced, active and healthy lifestyle.

Section C

Socio-Cultural Studies relating to participation in physical activity

This section focuses on physical activity as an intrinsically valuable and necessary experience in contemporary society. Candidates will develop their knowledge and understanding of the role of physical activity and its impact on young people developing a balanced, active and healthy lifestyle.

AS Unit G452: Acquiring, developing and evaluating practical skills in Physical Education Candidates are assessed in their **MAIN SPORT** plus **ROUNDERS**
BOYS DOING AS LEVEL PE WILL BE REQUIRED TO USE AT LEAST ONE OF THEIR FREE LESSONS PER FORTNIGHT TO AID STAFF IN THE TEACHING OF JUNIOR LESSONS.

The units you will study for A2 comprise:

A2 Unit G453: Principles and concepts across different areas of Physical Education

This Unit has two sections; Section A: Socio-Cultural options and Section B: Scientific options.

Section A: Socio-Cultural options

Historical Studies

This section focuses on the historical factors that impacted upon participation and improved competence in physical activity as part of a balanced, active and healthy lifestyle. Candidates will develop their knowledge, understanding and their ability to apply historical concepts which impacted upon young people and other societal groups being physically active.

Section B: Scientific options

Sports Psychology

This section focuses on the sports psychology factors, such as individual differences and group dynamics, that impact upon participation and improve competence in physical activity as part of a balanced, active and healthy lifestyle. Candidates will develop their knowledge and understanding of, and the ability to apply, psychological concepts such as attitudes and achievement motivation, which impact upon young people being physically active.

Exercise physiology

This section focuses on how the body changes as a result of physical activity and how physical competence may be improved as a result of sustaining a balanced, active and healthy lifestyle. Candidates will develop their knowledge and understanding of the measurement, analysis and appraisal of physical fitness and the ability to apply physiological concepts that enable young people to be physically active as part of a balanced, active and healthy lifestyle.

A2 Unit G454: The improvement of effective performance

This unit allows pupils to experience activities across different activity profiles, building upon the National Curriculum and GCSE experiences. Candidates will have the opportunity to experience different roles and responsibilities from coach, to official, to captain, as well as improving their range of skills, ability to use tactics and perform effectively.

Therefore the breakdown of the two qualifications is:

AS unit G451 Introduction to PE	60% of AS Level	2hr Written paper (90 marks)
AS unit G452 Acquiring movement skills	40% of AS Level	Practical (80 marks)
= AS Level		

Including the AS units as above, unit G451 becomes 30% of the total A2 marks and unit G452 becomes 20% of the A2 marks

AS unit G453 Principles & concepts	35% of A2 Level	2hr 30 mins Written paper
AS unit G454 Improvement of effective performance	15% of A2 Level	Practical
= A2 Level		

PHYSICS

Exam Board: AQA Specification A

Physics is the study of Matter and Energy: What is our universe made of? How do these constituents interact with each other? Physics explains how things work on a very small scale, Quantum mechanics and particle physics and on a very large scale – cosmology. The AS/A2 course deals with both of these and a lot in between! We strongly urge students with less than an A grade at G.C.S.E. to think very carefully before choosing AS Physics and consult their Physics teacher before choosing. This is a challenging course for the student who possesses good numeracy skills (A or above at G.C.S.E. Maths is highly recommended).

Career Opportunities

There are numerous career opportunities after an A Level in Physics. These include: Engineering/Technology (e.g. communications, nanotechnology), Physics research, (e.g. Astrophysics, particle physics, superconductors, cosmology), Management/Accountancy, IT, Law and Medicine.

Physics 'AS' and 'A' Level are qualifications that are highly regarded by academic institutions and employers in general.

The Course

Please note, at A2 there is a choice of 4 operational units including Astrophysics and Medical Physics.

AS level

Unit 1: Particles, Quantum Phenomena and Electricity

- The nucleus including particles, antiparticles and photons; hadrons and leptons; the quark model;
- Quantum phenomena including photo electricity, energy levels and photon emission, wave particle duality;
- Electricity including electrical quantities, resistivity, circuits and components, alternating current.

Assessment

Written Paper: 1 hour 15 minutes Weighting: 20% of total A Level marks

Unit 2: Mechanics, Materials and Waves

- Mechanics, including motion along a straight line, projectile motion, Newton's laws of motion, energy and power,
- Properties of materials, including density and the Young modulus,
- Waves, including longitudinal and transverse waves, progressive and stationary waves, refraction, diffraction and interference.

Assessment

Written Paper: 1 hour 15 minutes Weighting: 20% of total A Level marks

Unit 3: Centre assessed unit

Practical skills

- Selection and use of various equipment
- Processing of data,
- Making observations and measurements,
- Analysing and evaluation of results.

Assessment

Weighting: 10% of total A Level marks

A2 level

There are also three units in the A2 Level.

Unit 4: Fields and Further Mechanics

- Further mechanics, including momentum, circular motion and simple harmonic motion
- Fields, including gravitational fields, electric fields, capacitors, magnetic fields, electromagnetic induction

Assessment

Written Paper: 1 hour 45 minutes Weighting: 20% of total A Level marks

Unit 5: This unit is comprised of two sections

Overall Assessment

Written Paper: 1 hour 45 minutes Weighting: 20% of total A Level marks

Section A: Nuclear and Thermal Physics

This section builds on key ideas about particles and energy from AS Physics and covers probing the nucleus, radioactivity, nuclear instability and nuclear energy as well as the thermal properties of materials, ideal gases and the kinetic theory of gases

Section B: Option Units

Topic list

This section will provide students with opportunities to develop deeper knowledge and understanding in one chosen area of the subject:

- **Astrophysics:** lenses and telescopes, non-optical telescopes, classification of stars, cosmology
- **Medical Physics:** Physics of the eye, physics of the ear, biological measurements, non-ionising imaging, X-ray imaging
- **Turning points** in Physics: the discovery of the electron, wave-particle duality, special relativity
- **Applied Physics.**

Unit 6: Centre assessed unit

Practical skills

- Selection and use of various equipment
- Processing of data,
- Making observations and measurements,
- Analysing and evaluation of results.

Assessment

Weighting: 10% of total A Level marks.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The Course

Advanced Level Religious Studies has been offered at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys since September 2005. It is a subject taught at other local grammar and Independent schools such as Manchester Grammar School, Sale, and Altrincham Girls.

Syllabus

Exam Board: AQA

We will be following the AQA syllabus, concentrating on a philosophical approach to the study of religion and allowing the opportunity to study eastern religions as well as western religious concepts. We expect our chosen modules to include: studies of the nature of Religious Experience; Religion and Science; a specialist study of Buddhism; the Philosophy of Religion

Subject Content

A level Religious Studies is a thoroughly academic subject, which appeals to students of any religious persuasion or none. It explores those aspects of human culture which address humanity's fundamental spiritual, ethical and philosophical concerns. Although Religious Studies and Philosophy are separate academic subjects, they complement each other and may be studied together, as is the case with Maths and Further Maths. Our chosen syllabus enables us to consider:

- the quest for meaning in life, truth and ultimate values;
- aspects of human life other than the physical and material;
- the human experience of transcendence, awe, wonder and mystery;
- the nature of religious belief.

Qualification for entry to the subject

Students wishing to take this subject at A level must demonstrate that they possess good all round academic ability, but with a particular aptitude for essay writing. A minimum of B grades in both English Language and English Literature is required. A good GCSE grade in RS would be desirable but is not essential.

Academic and career value

As with all Arts and Humanities subjects, Religious Studies does not lead into one specific career area; however, it is a valuable foundation for further academic study and careers such as Law, in which high quality skills of argument and analysis are required. At A level it combines very well with a wide variety of subjects; Religious Studies is popular in combination with Philosophy, English Literature, History, Politics, Economics, Mathematics and Physics.

SPANISH

The Course

Exam board: AQA

Number of lessons per fortnight: 10

(Plus weekly time with Spanish assistant to prepare for the oral exam).

The ever increasing importance of Modern Languages cannot be stressed enough and this is reflected in many courses offered at universities; it is possible to take a Modern Language with almost any other subject.

For example, a language may be taken with Law, Medicine, Accounting, Engineering, Business and many more courses.

Please find below an outline of the AS and A2 Spanish course. The aims of the course are to enable students to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in Spanish through both the spoken and the written word, using increasingly accurate, complex and varied language. Students will also develop critical insights into the contemporary Spanish society and cultural background of countries where is spoken.

Language related opportunities

AS and A2 pupils are encouraged to participate in the Spanish exchange to Barcelona which is a fantastic opportunity for the students to put into practice everything learnt in the classroom. The trip heightens cultural awareness and considerably improves linguistic ability and confidence. There is also a trip to Madrid for the Year 13 students. This will include visiting Picasso's "Guernica" at the Reina Sofia Museum and the general focus will be on the Spanish Civil War and Franco's dictatorship. There are also AS and A2 days at Manchester Metropolitan university and Manchester University which provide the students with an insight into what is involved in learning a language at university level.

As film and media is one of the topics studied at AS level, and Pan's Labyrinth is studied at A2 level, trips take place to the Cornerhouse cinema in Manchester to see films and attend AS/A2 based workshops.

AS Level

Topics; Media, Popular Culture Healthy living / lifestyle and Family relationships.

AS Exam

Unit 1: Listening, Reading and Writing 2 hours 70% of the total AS marks
35% of the total A Level

Listening Section

Candidates listen to approximately 5 minutes of material which is within their individual control.

This section comprises a task involving transfer of meaning into English and 2-4 items requiring short target-language or non verbal responses.

Reading Section

This section comprises 3-4 items requiring short target-language or non verbal responses, together with a cloze test. The cloze test comprises ten discrete sentences not based on any of the stimulus texts; in each case candidates will be required to manipulate a given noun / verb / adjective.

Writing Section

Candidates respond to one question from a choice of three. There will be one question on three of the four AS topic areas. Candidates write approximately 200 words.

Unit 2: Speaking **35 minutes** **30% of the total AS marks** **15% of the total A Level**

Part 1 Discussion of stimulus card (5 minutes)

Candidates should prepare **one** of two cards given to them by the examiner. The cards will be based on the four topics prescribed for AS level, i.e. *Media, Popular Culture, Healthy Living/Lifestyle* and *Family/Relationships*.

Part 2 Conversation (10 minutes).

The Conversation will cover 3 of the 4 AS topics.

A2 Level

Topics: Environment: pollution, Energy and protecting the planet: the Multicultural Society; immigration, integration and racism and Contemporary Social Issues: wealth and poverty, Law and order and the impact of scientific and technological progress.

In addition students will also study two of five cultural topics from:

A target language-speaking region/ community

A period of 20th Century history from a target language-speaking country / community

The work of an author from a target language-speaking country / community

The work of a dramatist or poet from a target language-speaking country / community.

The work of a director, architect, musician or painter from target language-speaking country / community.

A2 Exam

Unit 3: Listening, reading and writing **2 ½ hours** **35% of the total A Level**

Listening Section

Candidates listen to approximately 6 minutes of material which is within their individual control.

Reading Section

This section comprises 2-4 items requiring short target-language or non verbal responses, together with a task involving transfer of meaning from the target language into English and a task involving transfer of meaning from English into the target language.

Writing Section

Candidates respond with one piece of writing to one question from a choice of two, Candidates write a minimum of 250 words.

Unit 4: Speaking **35 minutes** **15% of the total A Level**

Part 1 Discussion of a stimulus card (5 minutes)

Part 2 Conversation (10 minutes)

The Conversation will cover both Cultural Topics studied by the candidate.

OTHER COMPULSORY ELEMENTS OF THE CURRICULUM

KEY SKILLS/GENERAL STUDIES

The Key Skills / General Studies course takes up two sessions per fortnight in Year 12 and seeks to complement students' other courses and to prepare them for the General Studies examination. The course is delivered by a team of teachers and also involves input from visiting speakers.

General aims

- To help students to manage their AS/A level studies more effectively.
- To increase their chances of gaining access to the employment or Higher Education courses of their choice.
- To prepare them generally for life beyond the classroom.
- To develop personal, transferable skills such as communicating, investigating, debating, managing money, handling numbers, study skills, time management and team work.
- To prepare students for the AS/A2 General Studies examinations.

The Examination

All Sixth Form pupils are entered for the AQA General Studies A level examination. This consists of four module papers with essay, structured writing and multiple-choice questions set in the following fields:-

Module 1: AS - Culture and Society

Module 2: AS - Science and Society

Module 3: A2 - Culture and Society

Module 4: A2 - Science and Society

In Year 13 Students attend three lessons per fortnight in preparation for the examinations but are also encouraged to prepare by reading widely and keeping abreast of current events and issues.

Many universities accept a good grade in General Studies as part of their entry requirements. Success in the examinations has proved to be a valuable guide to success at degree level.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All pupils in the Sixth Form will have a session devoted to Physical Recreation on a Wednesday afternoon, unless they are involved in AGSB Volunteers or a worthwhile "on-site" alternative such as the Drama Group. There will be a variety of activities available at School in the Sports Hall and the fields and Astro turf pitch plus the use of the local squash courts. Pupils will be required to 'opt' for an activity on a termly basis.

CAREERS and LINKS WITH INDUSTRY

Careers Guidance

All members of the Sixth Form are encouraged to make use of a well-stocked Careers Library and to consult with members of staff about education and employment opportunities at 18+. A student may, at any time, request an interview with a personal adviser employed by Connexions Trafford (the Careers Service).

Help and advice is available on a wide variety of matters including:

- Higher Education Choices
- HE procedures
- Electronic Application System
- Employment Opportunities at 18
- Year in Industry
- Interview techniques and practice

The Challenge of Enterprise Conference

Members of Year 12 take part in a two-day Conference in the last week of the Summer term. The purpose of the Conference is to give students a further insight into the world of industry and commerce and an opportunity to develop skills through a variety of role-play exercises and business games.

The event is run by the School and involves representatives of a variety of both small and large organisations passing on their thoughts and advice about business problems and issues. Each representative leads a team of about ten students through a series of highly interactive activities aimed at developing the skills of teamwork, leadership, negotiation and problem solving. The event culminates in a competitive production and costing exercise.

Work Shadowing

For many of our students the choice of a degree course is related to their career choice. Accordingly, all Year 12 students are also invited to arrange a Work Shadowing Placement in the last week of the summer term. This enables the student to shadow a professional in a career area in which he himself may be interested in the future. Because of all the checks involved we must have details of an arranged placement by the end of the Spring Term and we can only allow a maximum of fifty placements to take place.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

The School offers a wide range of activities including:

- Language College language classes, exchanges and immersion courses;
- The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Scheme;
- The Young Enterprise Scheme;
- Student Investor Challenge;
- Drama;
- Music – the Choir, Barbershop, School Orchestra, Swing Band;
- Debating;
- AGSB Volunteers Programme and Charity Work;
- The European Computer Driving Licence (E.C.D.L) (run when viable);
- Amnesty International;
- School sport – Soccer, Rugby, Cricket, Hockey;
- The Library is also a valuable resource available to all students.
- Open University Short Courses (the YASS scheme)
- The Extended Project Qualification (currently being run as a pilot).

Language College

Extra-Curricular Classes

Students can attend Arabic, Chinese, Italian, Russian and Spanish classes after School and Japanese classes during School.

Exchanges

Students are welcome to take part in annual exchanges to France, Germany and Spain.

Summer Camp to China

This has been available in the past two years.

Work Experience Abroad

Available to both A Level linguists and non-linguists during School holidays.

European Youth Parliament (E.Y.P.)

Year 12 students interested in debating will have the opportunity of representing the School in the North West debate before hopefully reaching the National Final stage at Durham University. If they win, they will represent the country at a European venue together with other European winning teams. Debates take place through the medium of English and teams have the opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues, such as E.U. enlargement, immigration, social issues, etc.

The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Scheme

Many sixth formers every year are involved in working towards the Gold Award. There are five elements; the development of a skill, a period of volunteering (such as a project in the community), involvement and progress in some form of physical recreation, an expedition over wild country and a residential project. It is not necessary to have already completed the Bronze award.

The Young Enterprise Scheme

This is a business/industry related competition run by Trafford Young Enterprise in collaboration with local industry and Trafford Schools. The competition gives you the chance to run a business – your chance to become a successful entrepreneur! The School has a fantastic record in the YE scheme having reached many regional finals and thus providing a great learning experience.

Student Investor Challenge

All students in Years 12 and 13 can take part in this national share trading competition. Additional classes are held outside of lessons to inform students about how to make the right decisions.

Drama

Drama is a performing art. It is a discipline that has a unique appeal, it has immediacy; a “here and now impact” that creates a bond between performers and audience. A shared experience which at its very best is utterly compelling and absorbing: loosely translated as – it’s great fun!

We are proud to say that extra-curricular drama at AGSB is vital and exciting. Our productions range from the magical, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” to the fabulous, “History Boys”, and the musical extravaganza that is “Return to the Forbidden Planet”. We welcome any budding actors or technical crew alike to come and join the team at AGSB.

Music

Sixth formers are welcome to join staff and junior boys in the School Choir which performs concerts at Christmas and in the Spring. They are also welcome to participate in any of the School Instrumental Groups; the Swing Band, the Orchestra or the Concert Band.

Instrumental or Vocal Lessons continue to be available from beginners to advanced levels. For more details of the above see the Music Department’s entry earlier in this prospectus.

The Debating Society

Run by a committee of sixth formers, the Debating Society meets one lunchtime bi-weekly to debate contentious issues. In recent years the Society has reached the National semi-finals of the Observer Mace Debating Competition and will be participating in the Model UN event at Stockport Grammar for the first time this year.

In addition, the Society enters other Public Speaking and Debating Competitions, liaises with other School Societies and gives the sixth formers valuable responsibility for organising debating and mentoring students lower down the school.

AGSB Volunteers

AGSB Volunteers is our Community Service Scheme. It is offered as an option to all Year 12 students and it is a year long commitment. Students take part in the various activities available, either on Wednesday afternoons or during another morning or afternoon when they have one or two free periods.

The range of opportunities we offer in the community is extensive and is subject to change as we try to cater for the interests of the students involved. A number of our Sixth Formers visit primary and junior schools or help in charity shops. They often choose to help at schools they attended when they were younger. Another popular option is to assist in Retirement and Nursing Homes. The residents look forward to visits by young people who can chat to them or play cards or board games. Several students opt to do their Community Service at Hospitals, although the number of places is limited and students must find and progress their own applications.

Through these activities we are keen to help the community, but also to broaden the experience of our students and give them an insight into aspects of delivering services to local people. Our students also find their community service option a very useful topic to include when completing application forms for employment or for university or college courses.

Charities and Chad's Challenges

Every year the Sixth Form gives assistance to both local and national charities mainly by helping with street collections. This is one of the ways in which the School aims to serve the Community. "Chad's Challenges" is a focus for some Sixth Form fun and fundraising, and in previous years we have raised tens of thousands pounds for local and national charities. Committee members represent Year 12 and Year 13 but ALL of the Sixth Form can propose and take part in Challenges.

School sport

As mentioned previously there are many opportunities to take part in sport, whether in teams or otherwise. Most activities are now held on-site within the Sports Development.

Amnesty International

The School has a very strong Amnesty International Group which is well supported by Sixth Formers. Students in the Sixth Form can take on leadership roles as Human Rights Prefects. They help run meetings, support younger pupils with letter writing and organise assemblies on human rights topics.

Open University - YASS

The Open University's "Young Applicants in Schools Scheme" (YASS) gives Sixth Form students the opportunity to study an O.U short course module to complement their A level studies. The Scheme allows able students to flavour university level work, to further develop their independent learning skills and to demonstrate to university admission tutors that they have a real interest in a particular subject area. The only modules worth considering are those which have a start date in May and which can be completed by October at the latest. It should be stressed that students need to be fully committed to doing the hours of study necessary. The cost of these courses will be met by the School providing that the student completes the course.

The Library

The Library welcomes you as Sixth Formers to utilise the full range of services that we have to offer.

Using the Library and its resources regularly will enrich your studies significantly and will reflect well in your work.

The Library will try at all times to support your study by:

- Providing a positive environment for study.
- Answering your enquiries effectively.
- Supplying a range of resources suitable for your courses and interests.
- Providing links to outside information services.
- Consulting with you as we make changes to ensure that our services are more effective for you.

In return the Library asks that you agree to the following:

- To use the Library as a place for quiet study.
- To accept the Library's code of conduct.
- To accept the School Computer Network code of conduct.
- To not eat or drink.

Library information:

Opening Hours Monday – Friday, 8.30am – 4.30pm (closed 1.30 – 2.00pm.)

Resources A comprehensive range of materials including Books (fiction and non-fiction), Reference material, Computers (15PCs), DVDs and Newspapers and Journals.

Loans You may borrow up to 5 books at a time for 2 weeks at a time. Books can be renewed for longer periods if not reserved by other users and may also be reserved.

Links We have links with Manchester University, John Rylands Library and have forms available in the library for you to join the University Library and you may then use it for reference purposes.

If you have any concerns, issues or recommendations about the Library, Mrs Clarke, the Librarian, will be happy to discuss them with you.