

Headteacher's Introduction

The Sixth Form at Handsworth Wood Girls' School is in a new and exciting phase of its development. In September 2011, we introduced a brand new curriculum providing a wide range of courses for all types of learners. Our aspirations for our students are extremely high: we want them all to achieve a good range of qualifications so that they can move on to study at university, access level 3 courses at FE college or move on to employment with good career opportunities. In many ways, Handsworth Wood Girls' School is able to offer a unique experience in that it combines the flexibility of a college experience with the support and range of opportunities of a school.

Today, students are continuing their education in increasing numbers and are enjoying an even wider range of courses both at Key Stage 4 and in the Sixth Form. Choice at Handsworth Wood Girls' School is further enhanced by the North West Partnership of which the school is a part and which enables us to offer students real diversity both in their subject choices and learning preferences.

The school's motto is "Aspiring for Excellence." Success can only be achieved through a commitment to studies, working in partnership with each student, her family and the school. Academic progress is carefully monitored and there are regular reports home. Students are supported and encouraged to use their time in school profitably and wisely and we have work spaces and laptops/computers available for them. As their time in the Sixth Form progresses, students are supported to assume more responsibility for their own learning in preparation for Higher or Further Education and employment. To support this, we are able to offer students good accommodation facilities, high quality teaching and learning and a Sixth Form support team to cater for applications to university through UCAS, and to offer study support, mentoring and advice.

We encourage our students to get involved in school life and there are numerous opportunities for students to take part in activities such as Arts Leadership courses, Young People's Parliament, taking assemblies as well as working with younger students in the school.

We believe that our Sixth Form will provide the right opportunities for your daughter to achieve success. We have a team of staff in the Sixth Form who are very experienced, a personalised curriculum and individual support for all students. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss your future at our Sixth Form Open Evening on November 9th 2011.

Nicola Walters
Headteacher
November 2011

An Introduction to HWGS Sixth Form

Thank you for the interest you have shown in Handsworth Wood Girls' School Sixth Form. We are delighted to receive applications from students who can reach their full potential from our courses, and we look forward to consistently helping and supporting you in developing essential skills and talents.

At Handsworth Wood Girls' School Sixth Form, we offer a broad curriculum and a range of enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities which caters for a variety of interests. We are very fortunate to have a particularly dedicated, well qualified and enthusiastic staff who are single minded in their support for their students. Sixth Form classes are taught with enthusiasm and the girls can expect 1:1 help from their teachers when they need it.

How will Sixth Form differ from Lower school?

As a member of our Sixth Form, you will be treated as young adults. Your timetable will include study periods, giving you the opportunity to organise and prioritise your own time. During this time you are encouraged to work on independent learning tasks, background reading and revision. You are also expected to stay on-site during this time. You will have ample support from all Sixth Form staff to develop the skills necessary to become a successful independent learner and thus be taking more responsibility for your own learning. You will also be encouraged to take active leadership roles, support younger students and to be good role models for the rest of the school community.

Our aims are to encourage independent learning and as a result award you with life long skills that will be helpful in any professional working environment.

With a significant team of dedicated tutors and support staff in the HWGS Sixth Form, you will have access to first rate support and advice when you need it throughout your time in the Sixth Form.

We are constantly reviewing our practice and facilities in school to ensure that every student gets the best learning opportunities at Handsworth Wood Girls' School Sixth Form. The Sixth Form benefits from:

- A broad range of academic awards that will give you more opportunity to choose appropriate qualifications and learning styles for you, personalising your learning experience.
- A pathway approach in the Sixth Form. You will be able to choose from five different pathways tailored to your needs.
- A wide range of enrichment courses that will support your personal development and applications to Higher or Further Education, or employment.
- The opportunity to experience University study early. You may apply to study Level 4 (undergraduate) University Modules at Wolverhampton University during your Sixth Form study or access Open University Level 4 modules.
- Modern IT infrastructure and ICT facilities:
 - Computer:pupil ratio of 1.28, and every Sixth Former is provided with a laptop to support their learning.
 - A 100 MB internet connection for the school.
 - A cutting edge wireless network – the most advanced in a Birmingham school.

- A new VLE with significant resources to support independent study through Anywhere Anytime learning
- Projectors and IWB in nearly all teaching rooms.

- Science department refurbished with five brand new teaching laboratories, and two new preparatory rooms.
- Dedicated Sixth Form common room, work room and study area in the library.

Whilst much has been done recently we are working hard to continue to make improvements. Future priorities include extending and improving the dedicated Sixth Form areas, and providing even more specialist support for Sixth Formers.

We hope that you have the opportunity to find out about us first hand. Whilst this guide contains much of the information that you may require there are bound to be additional questions you want answered and I ask that you feel free to contact ourselves or our colleagues. We look forward to your application.

Dr. K. Hylands
Senior Deputy Headteacher
Director of Curriculum and Assessment

Mrs. M. McCalla
Head of Sixth Form

The Admissions Calendar for a September 2012 Start

Wednesday 9th November 4.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.	Sixth Form Open Evening. This is a great opportunity to find out about HWGS Sixth Form. There will be presentations of key information and you will be able to speak to members of staff and existing Sixth Form students.
Wednesday 14th December	Deadline for completion of internal action plans. All internal Year 11 students complete an action planning process as part of their careers guidance. Students may choose to apply to HWGS Sixth Form as part of this process.
December / January	Action Plan based Discussions: Every internal Year 11 student is given an information, advice and guidance discussion with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. For students applying to HWGS Sixth Form we will discuss career aspirations, the chosen pathway, combination of subjects and personal statement.
Wednesday February 8th	Offer letters to current HWGS students.
Monday 31st January	Deadline for external applications to HWGS Sixth Form. Application forms may be obtained from the HWGS School Office, telephone number 0121 5548211 or from the school website http://www.hwgs.org.uk/ . Application forms will be available for use from Wednesday 9 th November.
January / February	Discussions about pathway / option choices for non HWGS students. Any student who has applied to join the HWGS Sixth Form will have an information, advice and guidance discussion with a member of the Senior Leadership Team where we will discuss career aspirations, the chosen pathway, combination of subjects and personal statement.
Wednesday 29th February	Deadline for offers of provisional places to have been sent to external students.
Wednesday July 11th	Sixth Form Induction Day – Attendance is compulsory for students wishing a Sixth Form place at HWGS in September.
Thursday August 23rd 10.00 – 12.30	Internal Year 11 Results and Sixth Form Enrolment Day: Current HWGS students will collect their results and enrol into the Sixth Form.
Friday August 24th 10.00 – 12.30	External Students Sixth Form Enrolment Day: External students who have been offered a place should enrol into the Sixth Form on August 24 th . Students enrolling will need evidence from their schools of their results.

Completion of Application Forms

Internal Students

All Year 11 students participate in the Action Planning process which begins before the Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 9th November 2011. The entry requirements to Handsworth Wood Girls' School Sixth Form is as detailed below for entry onto a Level 3 or Level 2 pathway. This includes the requirement for a minimum 92 % attendance, excellent punctuality, a positive pastoral record and a strong work ethic.

External students

HWGS Sixth Form provides an environment for girls only, where the focus is on achieving academic excellence and developing personal attributes that will enhance life chances. The procedure for students from other schools who wish to come to us for AS-Level and A-level study, BTECs, GCSEs or Cambridge Pre-U Certificates is as follows:

1. Obtain an application form from HWGS school office, telephone number **0121 5548211** or the school website <http://www.hwgs.org.uk/>. Forms will also be available at the Sixth Form Open Evening. The application form is in two parts and should be completed by the student and returned to HWGS:

part one is for you to complete and provide supporting evidence for your application to Handsworth Wood Girls' School Sixth Form.

part two, which is confidential, should be completed with the details of your school or college referee. We will contact them for an academic and pastoral reference including details of your attendance and punctuality record.

2. Places are offered if a student's predicted grades at GCSE are high enough, and if the student possesses a good behaviour record and work ethic.

To progress onto a Level 3 pathway:

- Student's entry requirements should include five GCSE passes at Grade C and above including English and Mathematics.
- The entry requirements for individual subjects need to be met. This is usually a grade B (GCSE) or Distinction (BTEC) to progress onto an Advanced Level course or a grade C (GCSE) or Merit (BTEC) to progress onto a L3 BTEC course.
- A minimum attendance of 92 % in Year 11 of your current school, with an excellent punctuality record is a requirement for entry to HWGS. We will request this information on your behalf from your current school.

To progress onto a Level 2 pathway:

- Students entry requirements should include five GCSE passes at Grade G or better, including **English and Mathematics at Grade E** or better. We will be unable to offer a place on the Level 2 pathway without at least E grades in both GCSE English and GCSE Maths.

3. Sixth Form places are of course conditional on GCSE results. We ask external applicants to attend for an interview on **Friday 24th August 2011**, the day following release of GCSE results to confirm their place and subject choices. Students should bring with them to their interview confirmation of their GCSE results.

4. Students who are offered a place are expected to attend an induction event on Wednesday 11th July 8.40 a.m. – 3.20 p.m., once the external exams have been completed.

Studying in the Sixth Form

Sixth Form students bear a great deal of responsibility for their own studies and progress, and should be **focused upon learning and achieving excellence** during their two years in the Sixth Form at Handsworth Wood Girls' School. Level 3 courses (A-Level, BTEC, and Cambridge Pre-U Certificate) are much more demanding than GCSEs (Level 2) and require a more disciplined approach. Most Sixth Form students are expected to study on average about 3 hours a day **outside** of lessons. This does not mean that 3 hours of work will be set every day, but it does require good organisation, if study is to be effective and potential is to be realised. Post-16 students are expected to undertake a substantial amount of their own research through independent study to supplement their classroom studies. The precise nature of this will vary from subject to subject, but in general terms good students will:

- prepare for lessons in advance.
- strengthen their knowledge of classroom material through their own research.
- research wider aspects of their subjects which were perhaps not covered in lessons.

Students are expected to spend their non-contact periods in self-directed private study or in activities that support the school community, and which helps to develop their CV. Independent study may take place in the Sixth Form Study Rooms, the Sixth Form Common Room or the school library. In addition, subject to staff approval, students may make arrangements to study elsewhere in the school, e.g. Science, Art or ICT rooms.

Good grades in the Sixth Form courses come from a steady effort over the duration of the course. Candidates who try to pull things round at the eleventh hour invariably come unstuck and have to settle for poorer grades and a more limited choice of higher education or employment opportunities. If the most is made of one's time in School, not only will grades improve, but also there will be time left over for leisure activities outside of school.

Support in the Sixth Form

In September 2012 the Sixth Form Support Team will consist of:

Head of Sixth Form:	Mrs. Merle McCalla
Assistant Head of Sixth Form: (Responsible for UCAS applications)	Mrs. Perminder Gohir
Sixth Form Support Officer:	Miss. Sanam Hussan
CEIAG Co-ordinator:	Mrs. Jackie Plimmer

This team will work with the Sixth Form Tutors to support the students in all aspects of their Sixth Form life. Students will be assisted to achieve their best academic results and strongly encouraged to get involved in the wider aspects of the school experience.

Each Sixth Form student will join a tutor group of about 20 students. The smaller groups aids getting to know the Form Tutor very well over the course of the Sixth Form years and the Form Tutor is usually the first point of contact should problems occur. The tutor oversees a student's development throughout the Sixth Form and plays a significant part in helping to assess progress. Students meet with their tutors on a twice daily basis during registration for

notices and short tasks to aid personal development. The Form Tutor regularly has 1:1 progress meetings with tutees. They play a significant role in writing the references for UCAS applications to university, in giving careers advice as well as giving guidance in pastoral and academic matters.

Specific Support for Sixth Form Students

- All Sixth Formers take part in a two day induction programme on entry to the Sixth Form in September to prepare them to make the most of Sixth Form study.
- The induction programme is continued in the first term through a series of group seminars and action planning sessions in tutor time where students' performance in a range of areas such as attendance, punctuality, completion of work and involvement in the wider aspects of school are reviewed. Where there are concerns parents will be invited in for discussions.
- All students on level 3 pathways will participate in target setting for each subject based upon an analysis of ALIS (Advanced Level Information System).
- The Head of Sixth Form is supported by a dedicated Sixth Form Administrator who assists in the day to day running of the Sixth Form. With the extra support available in the Sixth Form we are able to carefully monitor attendance and act immediately on any concerns.
- The Deputy Head of Sixth Form has a specific responsibility for supporting students through their applications to university through UCAS and in co-ordinating the enrichment activities in the Sixth Form.
- We operate an open door policy, so you have access to the Head of Sixth Form at all times. As you can build a positive rapport with a Form Tutor, we aim to keep you with the same tutor for two years as this is crucial to your success.

Facilities for Sixth Form Students

In addition to the facilities available to the rest of the school, the Sixth Form has a dedicated area consisting of:

- Two Sixth Form study rooms with access to electrical sockets for use with their laptops.
- Sixth Form common room with further study facilities.

Sixth Formers are also expected to benefit from a long term loan arrangement where they borrow a laptop which they take to and from home to use for study purposes.

Higher Education / Employment Support Programme

Tutors and visiting experts provide information, advice and guidance to students through the structured tutor programme. In Year 12 students will prepare CVs which they will update as they move through the Sixth Form. Parents and carers will be invited to a 'Higher Education Information Evening' during the Autumn term where the university application process, study options and student finance will be explained and information provided. Students who are considering an Oxbridge application will require additional information and will be invited to an additional evening session.

In order to help students with their higher education choices we encourage everyone to participate in the 'Centigrade' scheme run by UCAS (The University and Colleges Admissions Service) and Cambridge Occupational Analysts. Students complete a form containing 140 questions and receive back a personalised folder which matches them to courses according to their interest and suitability, and provides them with advice and action plans for entry to higher education. Currently the scheme costs £20.00 and is very good value for money. Students enter the Centigrade scheme at the start of the spring term of Year 12, following the Higher Education Information Evening.

Students will be provided with information during Year 12 on:

- Specific courses relevant to particular career paths – Eg. Medilink.
- University Open Days.
- How to access funds to support post-16 students.
- How to gain sponsorships.
- Employment possibilities including post-18 management routes that avoid university charges.

During year 13 students will be supported:

- Through the UCAS application process or application to FE or employment. (Autumn)
- In making arrangements for Student Loans and Tuition Fees. (Spring)
- On the UCAS results process and the Clearing System. (May)

Possible ways in which students will be supported in their preparation for application to Higher or Further Education, or for employment include:

- ✓ organisation of Centigrade Reports (subsidised by the school); where appropriate.
- ✓ organisation of Open Day visits;
- ✓ provision of external speakers in response to demand;
- ✓ support for Work Experience placements;
- ✓ support for 'Taster Courses'.
- ✓ 1:1 support
- ✓ Interviews with connexions staff.
- ✓ Practice interviews with a senior member of staff.

The Sixth Form Committee

The Sixth Form Committee is an essential link between students and staff. It ensures that the ideas, opinions and concerns of students are known and taken into account. It also recognises that students have a right to be actively involved in, and informed about, decisions that affect them. Membership of the Committee consists of representatives from each Form. Members of the Committee represent the views of their Form and can raise matters of concern or suggestions for improvement about any aspects of life in the Sixth Form.

Opportunities available within the Sixth Form

The Sixth Form offers great opportunities for students to show initiative and take responsibility in ways that will benefit the whole school community. It also offers an environment in which students can pursue a wide range of their own interests. It is through such activities and experiences that students develop the skills and knowledge that will support their academic work and promote their chances of success in higher education and employment.

Leadership

Many Sixth Form students serve as Prefects and Committee members; others help in the Library and at School functions. Sixth Form students play an important role in organising meetings of the School's Religious Societies, which reflect the diversity of our students and a tolerant atmosphere of which we are proud. Students have the opportunity to represent the School in a wide range of sports and recreational activities, particularly in the areas of the schools' specialism of visual and performing arts. Indeed Sixth Form students are encouraged to participate in the Arts Leader Award .

Enrichment

A number of study and personal development opportunities are offered within the weekly enrichment curriculum slot. These are detailed towards the end of this Sixth Form Guide.

A range of personal development and community support opportunities will be available. Sixth Formers will be expected to play a key role in this, either through participating in activities or events, leading their own activities or supporting other organisers. Sixth Form students will be able to gather outstanding experience that will support their ability to write excellent personal statements for UCAS or perform confidently in interviews.

Visual and Performing Arts

There are opportunities for involvement in the School's specialist areas of art, music, drama, and performing art through a range of whole school activities, competitions and performances. In addition Sixth Formers may train as Art Mentors or participate in the Arts Leader Award Scheme.

Community Service

Many students are involved in activities to support and raise money for local and national charities and other community work to enhance community cohesion, which we strongly support and encourage. Students completing sufficient hours of community service may gain a nationally accredited qualification which provides UCAS points for university applications. We also encourage Sixth Formers to support younger students through:

- The school's mentoring scheme.
- By being trained as a peer mediator.
- By participating in reading schemes.
- By supporting staff in lessons.

Work Related Learning

In order to develop skills of independence, self motivation and team work, and to see a real-life working environment, students are encouraged to undertake at least one week of Work Experience out of school time, to broaden their experience and in some cases, clarify career or university choices. In some career areas such as dentistry, medicine, pharmacy and veterinary science, it is particularly important to undertake relevant work experience to support a university application.

Young Enterprise



The ultimate enterprise experience – mentored by a volunteer Young Enterprise Business Adviser, students set up and run their own real company over the course of one year.

Students elect a board of directors from amongst their peers, raise real finance by selling shares, open and use their own company bank account, carry out market research, work together to create their business plan, develop, market and promote their own product or service, trade with the public, manage the company finances, take part in local Young Enterprise trade fairs, compete with other schools and colleges in the company of the year competition.

In setting up their own business, students are supported by the Company Programme website: www.young-enterprise.org.uk/company which provides a suite of online business communication tools specifically designed to help them run their business. Features include: online company messaging, calendar, tasks and resources for collaborative working, fully featured online accounts package, company profile and member profile pages, view, communicate and trade with over 2500 other Young Enterprise companies, extensive guidance and support materials. In addition, a volunteer Young Enterprise Business Adviser from the world of work will guide and support students throughout the programme at regular company meetings.

The Young Enterprise programme is designed around the principal of “**learning by doing**” and contains a wide range of styles of activity that **support all 6 of the Personal Learning and Thinking Skills**: independent enquiry, self-management, reflective learning, effective participation, creative thinking and team working. The programme also supports functional skills in English, Mathematics and ICT to work-related contexts.

As students build up their own portfolio of evidence during the course of the year it is possible for students to write up their Company Programme experience as an **Extended Project (Level 3)**.

OCR Level 3 Certificate in Enterprise is now available to all students taking on board the Company Programme. This gives them **an opportunity to gain an extra qualification and up to 30 UCAS points**. Visit www.ocr.org.uk for further details.

In closing, this programme of study can be included in the personal statement section of a UCAS application, as it is widely recognised by universities.

Personal Standards

In the Sixth Form we want to cultivate an atmosphere in which there is a balance between discipline, supervision and the relative freedom that is appropriate for Sixth Form students in the Sixth Form. A strong emphasis is placed on the importance of good personal relationships between staff and students and amongst the students themselves. The qualities of self-discipline, mutual respect and concern for others are valued.

Sixth Form students set an example to younger students and often act as ambassadors for our School in the wider community. High standards of personal appearance and responsible behaviour are expected. **Girls are expected to wear smart business dress in the Sixth Form.**

'Gifted and Talented' Initiative

Handsworth Wood Girls' School endeavours to provide for the individual needs of all of its students and, therefore, we will seek to provide learning opportunities and experiences appropriate and specific to the more able, gifted and talented within the school community. As well as providing appropriate learning for such students during lessons, enrichment opportunities are organised, and students can also receive financial support to pursue their own interests out of school.

In addition to these, there are a large number of departmental visits and trips organised within specific subject departmental areas. Students are encouraged to register with the Young Gifted and Talented Academy on www.ygt.dcsf.gov.uk.

HEMIS (Higher Education Modules in Schools) Project

We are pleased to offer in partnership with Wolverhampton University the opportunity for students to participate in a tailored Level 4 University course at Wolverhampton University as part of the governments Higher Education in Schools Initiative. This gives Gifted and Talented students the opportunity to:

- gain the experience of studying at university level.
- develop their independent learning skills.
- increase their self-confidence.
- further personalise their learning.
- improve their study skills and time management.
- gain university Level 4 credits

These courses are for students who are:

- motivated and committed to learning at a higher level.
- interested in the subject.
- committed to gaining an additional qualification.
- fully aware of the level of challenge and workload implications.
- comfortable with taking more responsibility for planning and managing their own learning.
- prepared to travel by tram unaccompanied to Wolverhampton.

Students will study on a Wednesday afternoon and the course will run from October 2011 – March 2012.

Students will need to make a separate application to the University that the school will administer. You will need to contact Dr. Hylands or Mrs. Khutan if you are interested..

YASS (Young Applicants in Schools and Colleges Scheme)

Students may choose to study a Level 4 undergraduate course through the YASS scheme run by the Open University. The course materials are provided by the Open University with an emphasis upon independent study facilitated by tutor support from the University. There are similar benefits to studying through the HeMiS project but with a greater emphasis upon self-study rather than tutorials, workshops or lectures at University. There are over 60 courses that may be chosen. Further information is available at www.open.ac.uk/yass . Please see Dr. Hylands or Mrs. Khutan if you are interested in applying.

Nb. The Open University provides a cost effective alternative to traditional university courses and this option provides an opportunity to experience what it would be like to study in such a way.

Why Sixth Form at HWGS?

Twenty two good reasons:

- ✓ High expectations for all students to achieve the highest grades.
- ✓ Good teachers who know their subject, and who enjoy teaching you.
- ✓ An exciting learning atmosphere. We offer a wide range of exciting activities and an array of exciting learning resources.
- ✓ Excellent student - teacher relationships. Teachers are considerate, friendly, loyal, understanding and easy to talk to.
- ✓ Supportive systems to help you through any hard times.
- ✓ A caring, warm and friendly environment where you are known as an individual.
- ✓ Opportunities to develop more than just the academic side.
- ✓ A flexible curriculum personalised for you!
- ✓ Excellent careers advice, and support to get to university.
- ✓ Many excellent facilities.
- ✓ We are consistent, insistent and persistent.
- ✓ Wide choice of courses, some with innovative delivery systems.
- ✓ A forward looking school.
- ✓ Students achieve their potential.
- ✓ Hard working staff.
- ✓ Opportunities to take responsibility.
- ✓ A rich diversity of students working in harmony.
- ✓ Strong reputation in the city.
- ✓ Those who wish to go to university are enabled to do so.
- ✓ Strong sense of community and equality of regard.
- ✓ Variety of curriculum extension activities.
- ✓ Five hours of lesson time per week in Level 3 subjects (many institutions provide less).

Academic Study in the HWGS Sixth Form

Overview of Curriculum Pathways

At HWGS we are pleased to be able to offer an exceptionally broad range of curriculum pathways, that cater very well indeed for a diverse range of students. Each route provides a progression pathway to future study or employment. These curriculum pathways are summarised below and explained in more detail in the following pages.

Pathway 1 Level 3 AS / A2 Route	Year 12:	Three or four (exceptionally five) AS Levels Enrichment course
	Year 13:	Three to four (exceptionally five) A Levels Zero to Two AS Levels Enrichment course
Pathway 2 Level 3 Vocational Route 1	Year 12	Vocational course – Eg. CACHE / H&SC with work placement 1 -2 AS Levels / GCSEs / BTECs Enrichment course
	Year 13	Vocational course – Year 2 with work placement 1 -2 AS Levels / BTECs Enrichment course
Pathway 3 Level 3 Vocational Route 2	Year 12	Level 3 BTECs (number depends on size) Enrichment course
	Year 13	Level 3 BTECs – 2 nd Year (number depends on size) Enrichment course
Pathway 4 Level 3 MEDICAL Route	Year 12:	Four AS Levels (including Chemistry) plus Chemistry Masterclasses following Pre-U Chemistry syllabus. Enrichment Course – Global Perspectives
	Year 13:	Four A Levels (including Chemistry) plus Chemistry Masterclasses following Pre-U Chemistry syllabus. Enrichment course – Independent Research Project
Pathway 6 Level 2 Level 2 Route	Year 12	GCSE / Level 2 BTEC / Enrichment course. L2 CACHE or L2/3 BTEC WorkSkills
	Successful completion of this pathway provides progression to one of the Level 3 pathways above or employment.	

What Subjects can I study?

The core subjects we offer, dependent upon staffing and student numbers, from September 2011 are listed on pages 20 and 73 whilst enrichment subjects are listed on page 84.

Option Blocks and Subject Combinations

There are currently no option blocks. We wish to personalise the curriculum to the greatest extent possible so that we can provide the combination of courses that the greatest number of students actually want. Each applicant will have an interview with a member of the senior leadership team from HWGS where their learning needs and choice of subjects will be discussed. Information from all applications received and interviews taken place by Wednesday December 14th 2011 will be used to determine the option blocks which will give the maximum number of students their preferred options within the resources of the school. Students who as a consequence of the option blocks created would not be able to receive all of their first choice subjects will be informed in writing and offered alternatives or the opportunity to come into school to discuss options.

All students must choose from the core subjects on offer **at least the equivalent in time of three AS Levels**. You should refer to course descriptions of non-AS Level courses to establish their AS Level equivalence.

What other Subjects will be studied?

- In addition to these subjects a student will follow at least one enrichment course, usually on a Wednesday, many of which lead to qualifications aiding entrance to University or enhancing job prospects.

Students also have access to:

- A form of **physical recreation**.

The Sixth Form curriculum is geared towards providing academic and vocational courses that provide progression routes to university, further education or employment. Whilst qualifications are very important university admission tutors and potential employers are looking for far more, and we expect students to make the most of the opportunities at HWGS to include social, recreational, technological and work related aspects of education. The breadth for which we strive reflects Government intentions. When making subject choices, a student should remember that many universities are looking for *breadth* of study especially in Year 12.

Some Additional Points to Consider When Choosing Subjects

- Think carefully what sort of course or courses you wish to take. You will be spending a lot of time studying it/them and should enjoy it. All Sixth Form study requires significant time to be devoted to study both in and out of school. There are no 'easy' subjects!
- Research what courses you need to study in the Sixth Form in order to progress onto the University course or career path that you have chosen.

- A-levels are academic courses and most require that you sit external examinations during the course, so you should consider your effectiveness at sitting examinations.
- BTECs are vocational courses which are assessed by ongoing coursework. These courses require excellent attendance and the ability to keep to strict deadlines.
- Some vocational courses have one or two days a week of work placement as part of the course. This work experience can be very valuable for future job applications but means you can study fewer courses in the Sixth Form. Think about whether you would like to spend some of your time in and some out of the school Sixth Form.
- The Cambridge Pre-U courses have been designed to facilitate entry to prestigious universities and competitive courses by providing access to higher grades than possible through A-Levels. Students who opt for the Medical Route will sit exams for the Pre-U at the end of the two year course in addition to also sitting AS-Level and A-Level exams for that subject.
- All courses are offered subject to there being sufficient demand for the groups to be viable. Governors reserve the right to withdraw a subject if there are insufficient numbers to make a viable teaching set.
- **Government and Politics** is studied via an independent study programme with a visiting tutor giving direct teaching for two hours per week, and an additional two hours delivered by Internet.
- At least a Grade 'B' in the relevant subject will usually be required to study a subject at AS-Level or for new subjects a Grade 'B' in English and/or Mathematics will be required as appropriate.
- To study AS-Level **Mathematics** a grade 'A' from GCSE Mathematics is recommended.
- Choose a subject because it is what **YOU** want to do not because a friend wants to do it and you want to be with your friend.
- Also choose a subject because it is the **subject** that you enjoy not because of the teacher. You will not necessarily get the teacher you prefer – they may teach a different group or even leave.
- Not all combinations of subjects will be possible and advice should be asked of Heads of Department, Subject Teacher and the Careers Teachers regarding suitable combinations.
- Some courses or combinations of courses not available at HWGS will be available across the NW Network of schools. If HWGS does not offer the course you want to do, it is likely you can study the majority of your subjects here and study another course at one of our partner schools.
- If you already know what sort of degree courses you are likely to want to do, research what the subjects and grades are that will enable you to apply successfully to them in the future.

Curriculum Pathways in Handsworth Wood Girls' Sixth Form

As mentioned earlier, there are five routes that you can choose to follow through the Sixth Form. These are detailed below.

Pathway 1, the AS / A2 route, is the traditional way of studying in Year 12 and 13. A Levels and A Levels are excellent, well known, well understood and demanding qualifications that will give you a good academic grounding in the subject(s) that you choose and will allow you to progress onto virtually any University course as long as you choose a suitable combination of subjects and achieve appropriate grades. You will choose between three and five of the twenty one AS Level core optional subjects on offer at Handsworth Wood Girls' School that you would like to study in Year 12. On entry into Year 13 you must choose a minimum of three subjects that you will continue with to A-Level standard. You could choose to carry on with four or even five A Levels if you wish. Since there are A Levels and AS Levels in the same option blocks you also have the option of picking up one or two new AS Levels instead of carrying on with the fourth and fifth A-Levels, thus giving you the flexibility to choose either breadth or depth of subject. (Before doing this, check that the combination is acceptable for your possible universities). You must also choose enrichment courses throughout the Sixth Form as part of your compulsory curriculum. There are many options for this, detailed in the Enrichment section.

Pathway 2, consists of vocational qualifications with work placement. Subjects available are Child Care and Education, and Health and Social Care. These qualifications are ideal for students who enjoy working with children and people, and may be thinking about careers in these areas after leaving the Sixth Form. They also provide a route to university courses in these areas. There is also an opportunity to study one or two additional qualifications such as GCSE's or AS/A Levels. All students are expected to participate in an enrichment course.

Pathway 3, consists of vocational qualifications without a regular work placement although students may wish to participate in a work experience placement during a vacation. The approach to study is different to that which occurs in the A Level route and may suit some student's learning styles better. Vocational courses are often active and more practical than A Levels and give students skills and knowledge for a particular sector or work. Assessment is coursework based and appropriate for students who are well organised, like working to deadlines and are less keen on exam based assessment.

Pathway 4 – Medical Route, Chemistry is the most important subject for any students wishing to follow a medical career. Students who follow this route take four A Levels including Chemistry and have additional masterclasses to allow them to complete the Level 3 Pre-U Certificate in Chemistry in addition to A Level Chemistry. Students also complete the Pre-U Global Perspectives course in Year 12 and the Independent Research Project in Year 13 to enable the student to achieve the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma, enhancing their University applications.

This is aimed at ambitious, able and hard working students who have a love for learning and whom wish to develop a deeper, broader and more joined-up understanding of their subjects than usual in A Levels. It is also designed to actively develop scholarly learning through introduction and development of critical thinking skills, the promotion of rigorous research skills and by providing the genuine opportunity to explore connections between academic subjects and focus on real-world challenges and opportunities. The course will equip candidates with a coherent theoretical and practical basis of transferable skills and key knowledge suitable for future scientists, medics and academic researchers, whilst providing thought-provoking material that may appeal to those intending to progress to study in higher education and ultimately into a wide range of careers. This pathway will be particularly

suitable for well-motivated students who wish to apply for Medical courses or top universities such as Cambridge University, Oxford University and Imperial College, London.

Pathway 5: This Level 2 route is appropriate for those who are not yet ready to undertake pathways 1 – 4. Students may have the opportunity to learn new subjects from a number of GCSE or L2 BTEC courses or to study English or Mathematics in order to improve their GCSE grades. All students are required to study for the WorkSkills BTEC qualification or the L2 CACHE award which involves a work placement. Students taking WorkSkills will improve their employability skills, teamwork skills and ability to manage oneself better. Students studying Work Skills will have the opportunity to move from a Level 2 to Level 3 study during Year 12 and thus be able to gain a Level 3 qualification from this pathway. Successful completion of this pathway will enable students to access the Level 3 pathways available, and a further two years of funded study at HWGS (subject to meeting ongoing course requirements).

In practice you may find that you wish to take advantage of elements of different pathways, for example by taking a mixture of AS Levels or L3 BTECs. The curriculum has been structured to allow this personalisation of your learning to be facilitated, and we would encourage you to do this if appropriate - the pathways are effectively a guide or starting point for you.

Some Advice

The purpose of this subject guide is to help you decide which courses you wish to take at HWGS. You will need to think carefully about your personal learning style and career and University aspirations when considering your options. You should talk this through with the people who know you best or who can give you independent advice and guidance – Your family, subject teachers and personal tutor, careers teacher / advisor and friends. Finally however, **the decision is yours** and **you will need to live with the consequences** so take the time to make a good decision.

When choosing your subjects, it is important that you remember a few points:

- Choosing some subjects means not choosing others and thereby closing various avenues for careers or university study. For example you cannot study Maths at university if you have not studied it at A Level, although sometimes studying a subject in the Sixth Form is not a prerequisite for university study. Make sure you get advice, so that you know if your choices are compatible with any career ambition you may have. The School's Careers Staff will be able to help you with this.
- Different universities have different entry requirements and may have different expectations about the subjects required to study a degree course. If you have specific universities in mind make sure you have found out about what they require.
- Choose a course for the right reasons with your career in mind. Do not choose a course just because your friend wants to study it. Often as you grow, friendships change. Also, what is right for one person need not be right for another.
- Teachers who teach a subject in the GCSE years may not be teaching it at A Level, or may move on, therefore do not choose a subject simply because you like a particular teacher.
- If you have an ambition that needs a particular subject, but you are not good at that subject, it is probably best not to choose it. Courses in Year 12 are harder than GCSE and in Year 13 they will be harder still, therefore you may need to modify your ambition. You need to be realistic about what you can do. Speak to the School's Careers Staff about it.
- Whatever subjects you choose, you will need to show commitment to them over one or two years, therefore you need to choose something that interests you. **It soon becomes too late to change course**, so read the details in here, talk to the teachers about their subject and to students who are studying it.
- One or two years studying something you find very difficult or boring can be demotivating or demoralising. Try to find something you both like and can do well. Nevertheless, you will be expected to work hard.

There are many other points that could be made, but the upshot is that you need to choose wisely and use all the help you can find to enable you to do so. In particular, speak to your teacher and also the School's Careers Staff; we are as keen as you that your decision is the right one for you.

CORE SUBJECTS – Level 3

The Level 3 subjects we offer, dependent upon staffing and student numbers, from September 2011 are:

AS Levels and A Levels (One year course for each)

Accounting	Grade B Maths
Art	Grade B full GCSE, BTEC Merit, proven ability
Biology	Grade B GCSE Biology / Additional Science or Distinction BTEC Applied Science.
Business Studies	Grade B GCSE Maths and GCSE English or Grade B GCSE BS.
Chemistry	Grade B GCSE Chemistry / Additional Science or Distinction BTEC Applied Science.
English Lit	Grade B GCSE English / English Literature
French	Grade B GCSE French
Geography	Grade B GCSE Geography / Grade B GCSE English
Govt & Politics	Grade B GCSE English
History	Grade B GCSE History or GCSE English Grade B
IT	Grade B GCSE IT / OCR National ICT Credit / Mathematics B
Law	Grade B GCSE English
Mathematics	Grade B GCSE Maths, Grade A recommended
Media Studies	Grade B GCSE English
Music Technology	Grade B full Music GCSE / proven ability
Physics	Grade B GCSE Physics / Additional Science or Distinction BTEC Applied Science.
Psychology	Grade B GCSE English
Religious Studies	Grade B full course/Grade A* short course/Grade B English
Sociology	Grade B GCSE English
Theatre Studies	Grade Merit – Performing Arts L2 BTEC / GCSE English Grade B.
Urdu	Grade B GCSE Urdu

Level 3 BTECs

Art	Grade C GCSE Art / Grade Merit BTEC Art
Child Development	Grade C L2 CACHE, Grade C GCSE English.
Dance	Proven ability, Grade C GCSE English
Health & Social Care	Grade C GCSE Additional Science / Grade Merit BTEC Applied Science and Grade C GCSE English
Performing Arts	Grade Merit L2 BTEC PA or Grade C GCSE Drama
Science	Grade C GCSE Additional Science / Merit L2 BTEC Applied Science
Sport	Grade C GCSE PE / Merit L2 BTEC Sport

Cambridge Pre-U Diploma (Two year course)

Chemistry	Grade A full GCSE or Grade A Additional Science
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All courses are offered conditional upon groups having viable numbers, and governors reserve the right to withdraw groups / subjects without notice.

Subject: Accounting

Qualification: AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

Students who are systematic and analytical with a good understanding of mathematics who would like a grounding in accounting for business purposes or who are considering accountancy as a career. You should have achieved at least grade B at GCSE Mathematics.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 1121

What will I learn? You will learn the basis of financial accounting in preparing a sole trader and partnership final accounts including an extended trial balance. You will develop an understanding of the double-entry system and develop skills in keeping accurate accounting records. You will learn how to verify the accuracy of accounting records. You also have to understand the basis of management accounting. This will provide valuable information for measuring and monitoring business performance and for planning future business operations.

What Units will I study?

Unit 1: Introduction to Financial Accounting

Unit 2: Financial and Management Accounting

How will I learn? You will learn through a wide range of methodologies including:

- use of case studies to illustrate key concepts
- visits to workplaces to see how businesses actually work
- visits from and talks by employers in industry and commerce
- homework/past examination questions/research
- independent learning/self-directed learning

How will I be assessed?

- Unit 1: A 1 ½ hour written exam containing four compulsory questions – 50 % AS Level.
- Unit 2: A 1 ½ hour written exam containing four compulsory questions – 50 % AS Level.

How can I progress with this qualification?

A grade D or better enables you to continue onto the second year of the course to complete the A Level qualification. Students who complete the AS Level will find it will provide a useful addition to their qualifications which will aid them in their applications for a range of careers and university courses.

Is there any other information I need to know?

A grade B in GCSE Mathematics is required for this course. We are currently exploring the option of being able to offer completion of the Level 3 AAT Accountancy NVQ as part of this AS and A Level course over two years.

Subject: Accounting

Qualification: A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

Students who are systematic and analytical with a good understanding of mathematics who would like a grounding in accounting for business purposes or who are considering accountancy as a career. You should have achieved at least a grade D at AS Level Accounting.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 2121

What will I learn? You will extend your knowledge and understanding of financial accounting and of management accounting. You will learn techniques that can be applied to businesses that do not maintain complete accounting systems. You will also learn the techniques and procedures that are relevant to partnerships and develop further your understanding of financial accounting in relationship to limited companies. During the course you will learn how accounting techniques may be used to aid the management of a business and contribute to effective decision making. You will develop an understanding of a variety of cost concepts including overhead absorption, activity based costing, standard costing and variance analysis.

What Units will I study?

Unit 3: Further Aspects of Financial Accounting

Unit 4: Further Aspects of Management Accounting

How will I learn?

You will learn through a wide range of methodologies including:

- use of case studies to illustrate key concepts
- visits to workplaces to see how businesses actually work
- visits from and talks by employers in industry and commerce
- homework/past examination questions/research
- independent learning/self-directed learning

How will I be assessed?

- Unit 3: A 2 hour written exam containing four compulsory questions – 25 % A2 Level.
- Unit 4: A 2 hour written exam containing four compulsory questions – 25 % A2 Level.
- The remaining 50 % of A Level marks come from the AS Level year of the course.

How can I progress with this qualification?

You can gain entry to University or employment as a trainee accountant. This qualification is valued in most areas of employment for the skills that you develop in the process of the course.

Is there any other information I need to know?

A grade D at AS Level Accounting is required for this course. We are currently exploring the option of being able to offer completion of the Level 3 AAT Accountancy NVQ as part of this AS and A Level course over two years.

Subject: Art and Design

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School.

Who is the course for? The course is designed for students with GCSE or Level 2 BTEC qualifications in Art and Design.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 8AD01

What will I learn? Students will generate practical work, ideas and research from primary and contextual sources. You will experiment with media and processes, develop and refine your ideas then present your outcomes. The AS course takes one year to complete and consists of a coursework based unit and an external assessment unit set by Edexcel.

What Units will I study?

AS Unit 1: Art and Design Coursework

AS Unit 2: Art and Design Externally Assessed Assignment

How will I learn?

You will learn through artistic experiences in and outside of the classroom. Attainment is achieved by following assessment structures set by the school, staff and Edexcel. You will be guided through the course and expected to promptly meet deadlines. Learning is achieved through the creative development of process, production, reflection and evaluation.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your coursework and through assessed tasks.

Summative assessment will be through:

1. The production of Coursework during the course (worth 60% of AS). Internally assessed, a sample will be moderated by Edexcel.
2. An external assignment and controlled 8-hour exam from Edexcel (worth 40% of AS). Internally assessed, a sample will be moderated by Edexcel.

How can I progress with this qualification?

The Advanced Subsidiary GCE (AS) course leads to Advanced GCE (A Level / A2) which would require a further one years' study.

Is there any other information I need to know? A minimum grade of B at GCSE or its equivalent is required to study the course.

Subject: Art and Design

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

Students who have completed the Advanced Subsidiary GCE (AS) in Art and Design.
Students who are looking to continue in an artistic subject at University level.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 9AD01

What will I learn?

You will develop a deeper understanding of the techniques learnt in your AS level course. You will continue to experience the subject through the specialised route of Art, Craft and Design. Additionally you will support your studies with linked, written assignment and develop a further 2 units on top of the units completed at AS Level.

What Units will I study?

A2 Unit 3: Art and Design Coursework (A2 year)

A2 Unit 4: Art and Design Externally Assessed Assignment (A2 year)

How will I learn?

You will learn through artistic experiences in and outside of the classroom. Attainment is achieved by following assessment structures set by the school, staff and Edexcel. You will be guided through the course and expected to promptly meet deadlines. Learning is achieved through the creative development of process, production, reflection and evaluation.

How will I be assessed?

Summative assessment will be through:

- The production of coursework and written assignment during the second year (worth 30% of A2).
- An external assignment and controlled 12-hour exam from Edexcel during the second year (worth 20% of A2).
- 50 % of A Level marks are obtained from the AS Level.

How can I progress with this qualification?

Completion of this course will provide access to Art and Design related courses at Higher Education.

Is there any other information I need to know?

A grade D at AS Level in this subject is required to progress from the AS Level to the A Level.

Subject: Art and Design

Qualification: L3 Subsidiary Diploma

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

Learners who have achieved a C grade for GCSE or the equivalent for the BTEC Level 2 Art & Design course.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 9AD01

What will I learn? The BTEC Level 3 is available in four different sizes, potentially providing you a range exit points, which makes the qualification easier to fit alongside other studies.

What Units will I study? You will complete one of the following structures:

	Certificate	Subsidiary Diploma	Diploma	Extended Diploma
Total credits	30	60	120	180
Mandatory unit credits	10	40	50	50
Optional unit credits	20	20	70	130

How will I learn?

The BTEC Level 3 qualification structure will provide you with a broad foundation of underpinning skills, techniques and knowledge through the mandatory units. You may follow a general Art & Design pathway, choosing professional specialist and optional units, which will give you a broad understanding of the industry. Alternatively it also allows you to tailor your programme of learning to your interests through a number of endorsed routes. **(Graphic design, fashion and clothing photography, fine art, interactive media, 3D design, textiles, design craft)**

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by a series of assignments that you will complete throughout your course. Evidence submitted by you for assessment must adhere to Handsworth Wood Girls' School and Edexcel verification processes.

How can I progress with this qualification?

Successfully completing your BTEC Level 3 National Art & Design course enables you to take a variety of progression routes:

You may continue on to further full-or part-time study in a range of higher educational programmes. You may go into full-time employment, either working for a business, or starting a business yourself. You may embark on an advanced Apprenticeship (in the Arts, Media and publishing categories).

Is there any other information I need to know?

A Merit grade at BTEC Level 2 or a GCSE Grade C in this subject is required. You will be encouraged to take responsibility for your learning and achievement.

Subject: Biology

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The course is for students who have an interest in the living world and the structure and function of living things. Genetics and biotechnology are at the cutting edge of current scientific research. They impinge on our lives everyday and are completely relevant to the 21st century. This subject is the gateway to many medical and biomedical careers.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 8B101

What will I learn? Biology is the study of living things. By living things we mean all organisms that demonstrate the characteristics of life - Movement, Respiration, Sensitivity, Growth, Reproduction and Nutrition - (MRS GREN). At AS level we develop some of the topics studied at GCSE but delve further into the understanding of these at a molecular level. You will learn about diseases and how they develop, the structure and functions of systems of the body, and the influence of the environment and its biodiversity. In doing so we see how incredibly complex but elegantly designed living things are. You will also develop your practical skills and personal learning and thinking skills.

What Units will I study?

AS Unit 1: Lifestyle, Transport, Genes and Health

AS Unit 2: Development, plants and the Environment

AS Unit 3: Practical Biology and Research Skills

How will I learn? You will learn through a wide range of methodologies including:

- practical work / field studies / educational visits
- teacher exposition and demonstration
- individual tasks / group-work / problem solving
- homework / past exam questions / research
- personal study through the press, internet and specialist publications such as New Scientist, Nature and Biological Sciences.

How will I be assessed? Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment will occur through two exams:

- Unit 1 is examined by a 1 ¼ hour written examination contributing 40 % of AS Level marks.
- Unit 2 is examined by a 1 ¼ hour written examination contributing 40 % of the AS Level marks.
- 20% of the AS-Level is awarded internally on your practical visit or issue.

How can I progress with this qualification? You can proceed to A level study should you wish if you achieve at least a grade D. As a consequence of its direct and indirect relevance to so many areas, a study of AS or A Level Biology will assist access to a range of degree courses and careers including Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Biomedics, Environmental Work, Nursing and Pharmaceuticals.

Is there any other information I need to know? A grade B at GCSE Biology or Additional Science or a Distinction at L2 BTEC Applied Science is required to study this course. Students are also encouraged to attend appropriate Sixth Form lectures at the University of Birmingham.

Subject: Biology

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who have achieved a grade D or better in their AS Level course and who wish to continue to deepen their understanding of Biology. Study of Biology at this level will provide a good grounding for students wishing to progress onto scientific careers whilst the skills developed will be valuable in nearly all career paths.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 9B101

What will I learn?

You will learn about a range of topics concerned with Populations and Environment and Control in cells and in organisms. You will continue to develop your practical skills and personal, learning and thinking skills. You will be expected to develop your communication skills through presenting some of your work to the rest of the class.

What Units will I study?

A2 Unit 4: The Natural Environment and Species Survival
 A2 Unit 5: Energy, Exercise and Co-ordination
 A2 Unit 6: Practical Biology and Experimental Investigation

How will I learn?

Students will continue to learn through similar methodologies to the AS-level course. However problem solving tasks and exam questions will be more challenging to allow access to the new A* grade and students will be expected to engage in more independent learning to prepare them for University education.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

- Summative assessment for A2 Biology is by means of two external module exams of compulsory questions. (one 1 ½ hours and one 1 hour 40 minutes) These are worth 20 % each of the total (AS+A2) mark.
- 10% of the total mark is based on the Year 13 internally assessed practical work.
- The remaining 50 % of A2 marks is from the AS Level course.

How can I progress with this qualification?

As a consequence of its direct and indirect relevance to so many areas, a study of A2 Biology will assist access to a range of degree courses and careers including Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Biomedics, Biology, Environmental Work, Nursing and Pharmaceuticals.

Is there any other information I need to know?

A grade D at AS Level in this subject is required to progress from the AS-level to the A level.

Subject: Business Studies

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who are interested in business issues and decision making. It is not only good for those interested in a commercial career, but also for any student wishing to improve their understanding of the business world. Whatever career you choose you will ALL be working in an organisation and will have to be involved in finance, operations and work with and possibly manage people. In addition all organisations will be affected by external events; this course introduces students to these concepts.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 1131

What will I learn? You will learn about planning, financing and managing a small business. The course emphasis is on providing practical solutions to business problems rather than applying models or theories. It aims to encourage you to develop a critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value. It covers the internal workings and management of organisations in an ever-changing environment and looks at business behaviour from a range of stakeholder perspectives including customers, managers, shareholders/owners, suppliers and employees. You will use many real world examples throughout your learning.

What Units will I study?

AS Unit 1: Planning and Financing a Business

AS Unit 2: Managing a Business

How will I learn? You will learn through a wide range of methodologies including:

- use of case studies to illustrate key concepts
- visits to workplaces to see how businesses actually work
- visits from and talks by employers in industry and commerce
- homework/past examination questions/research
- independent learning/self-directed learning

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment will be by two written external exams taken in June:

Unit 1 is a 1 ¼ hour exam contributing 40 % of the AS Level marks.

Unit 2 is a 1 ½ hour exam contributing 60 % of the AS Level marks.

There is no coursework.

How can I progress with this qualification? A grade 'D' or better will enable progression to the A2 Business Studies course. This AS Level provides opportunities to develop valuable knowledge-based skills and provides a route to move onto degree/professional courses in Accounting, Economics and Finance to name but a few. The skills and knowledge in this course will be of use in any workplace environment.

Is there any other information I need to know? Students do not need to have studied Business Studies previously. If they have then a grade 'B' in BS is required, if not then an average point score of 5.75+ including grade 'C' in English and Mathematics is required.

Subject: Business Studies

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The course is for students who have achieved grade D, or higher, in the AS Business Studies course. This course is a continuation of the course studied at AS Level and is perfect if you wish to complete a full A2 course leading to a university placement or if you are hoping to work within the field of business in a role that doesn't require a graduate degree, such as an 18+ management route.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 2131

What will I learn? At A2, this specification considers strategies for large businesses and how managers might measure the performance of the business. Finally, it 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. There will be many opportunities for students to continue to develop Personal Learning and Thinking Skills throughout the course.

What Units will I study?

A2 Unit 3: Strategies for Success

A2 Unit 4: The Business Environment and Managing Change

How will I learn? You will learn through a wide range of methodologies including:-

- use of case studies to illustrate key concepts
- visits to workplaces to see how businesses actually work
- visits from and talks by employers in industry and commerce
- homework/past examination questions/research
- independent learning/self-directed learning

There will be a greater emphasis upon independent study and communication of ideas to others at A2 compared to AS Level in order to prepare all students for University Study.

How will I be assessed? Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

- Summative assessment will be by two external exams in June
- Each exam 1hr 45mins carries 25% towards the A Level qualification. One will be based upon an unseen case study and the other will be an essay.
- The remaining 50 % of the mark comes from the AS Level Business Studies course.
- There is no coursework in this course.

How can I progress with this qualification? This A Level does have a vocational aspect in terms of valuable knowledge-based skills but its main objective is to certify that the student is of a sufficient academic standard to move onto degree/professional courses in Accounting, Economics, Finance and Business to name but a few.

Is there any other information I need to know? A grade 'D' at AS Level in this subject is required to progress from the AS Level to the A Level.

Subject: Early Learning and Child Care **Qualification:** CACHE Level 3 Diploma CYPW

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School and workplace settings

Who is the course for? The level 3 Diploma for CYPW is suitable if you wish to work in the children and young people's workplace. It will be suitable for those who wish to follow early learning and child care pathway. You should enjoy working with young children. **Students must have a commitment to a two year course.**

Awarding Body: CACHE

Specification Number: 500/8887/7

What will I learn? You will learn the knowledge and skills related to early learning and childcare workforce. Some of these are listed below:

Communication	Duty of care
Personal Development	Young people development
Equality and Inclusion	Safeguarding
Health and Safety	Developing positive relationships with children
Early year provision	Working in partnership to benefits young children
Professional practice	Working with babies and young children

What Units will I study? You will need to study units with a total value of at least 65 credits.

- 11 mandatory units worth a credit value of 27 credits.
- 5 Early Years Mandatory Pathway units worth a credit value of 22 credits.
- 3 or 4 Optional units worth a credit value of at least 16 credits

How will I learn? You will learn through a range of methods:

- Practical work experience in care settings
- Individual task / group work
- Research and Personal study

How will I be assessed?

- You will need to produce a portfolio of evidence 'CACHE Learner Achievement Log'.
- You will be assessed through written assignments set by CACHE and also in real work environments by qualified vocational assessors.

How can I progress with this qualification? You can progress to various job roles such as:

Playgroup worker	Registered child minder and nanny
Children's centre staff	Personnel in day nurseries
Support worker	

Is there any other information I need to know? A minimum grade 'C' in English at GCSE is required to study this course. Preferably you will have successfully completed the L2 CACHE course. You will need to complete a CRB check before you can begin your work placement and should apply for this by July 2011. The cost of your CRB check will be refunded to you once you have started the course.

Subject: Chemistry

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The course is for students who wish to develop a deeper understanding of the amazing world around them through understanding how Chemistry impacts virtually everything that we come into contact with. This is an **essential** course for students wishing to study Medicine, Veterinary Science, Chemical Engineering and Chemistry related degrees. Many other degrees both Science and otherwise value it.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 1421

What will I learn? You will develop many of the ideas that were met in GCSE Chemistry into more advanced models that better explain the observations of the world around us. Through this process you will understand ideas related to How Science Works and will build a firm base upon which to learn more advanced subject matter. You will learn a range of subjects in Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry and Physical Chemistry and through these develop a range of Personal Learning and Thinking Skills that will be much valued by Universities and employers.

What Units will I study?

AS Unit 1: Foundation Chemistry

AS Unit 2: Chemistry in Action

AS Unit 3: Investigative and Practical Skills in AS Chemistry

How will I learn? Students will learn through a wide range of methodologies including:

- practical work / field studies / educational visits
- teacher exposition and demonstration
- individual tasks / group-work / problem solving
- homework / past exam questions / research
- personal study through the press, internet and specialist publications such as New Scientist, Chemical World and Chemical Sciences.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment is as follows:

Unit 1: Externally set exam of 1 ¼ hours sat in June (33.3 % of total AS Level marks)

Unit 2: Externally set exam of 1 ¾ hours sat in June (46.7 % of total AS Level marks)

Unit 3: Practical skills assessment and Investigative Skills Assignment (20 % AS Level marks)

How can I progress with this qualification? Students can proceed to A Level study should they wish if they achieve at least a grade 'D'. As a consequence of its direct and indirect relevance to so many areas, a study of AS or A-Level Chemistry will assist access to a range of degree courses and careers including Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Environmental Work, Nursing and Pharmaceuticals.

Is there any other information I need to know? A grade 'B' at GCSE Chemistry or 'Additional Science or a Distinction at L2 BTEC Applied Science is required to study this course. Students are also encouraged to attend appropriate lectures at the University of Birmingham.

Subject: Chemistry

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The course is for students who have achieved a grade 'D' or better in their AS-level course and who wish to continue to deepen their understanding of Chemistry. This is an **essential** course for students wishing to study Medicine, Veterinary Science, Chemical Engineering and Chemistry related degrees. Many other degrees both Science and otherwise value it.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 2421

What will I learn?

You will learn more advanced concepts in Physical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry and Inorganic Chemistry. You will gain a broad understanding of a wide range of chemical reactions for both Inorganic and Organic Chemistry and be able to use them to create synthetic routes for potential products while maintaining an awareness of the environmental impact this might have. You will develop an understanding of how Physical Chemistry concepts such as Enthalpy, Entropy and Rates of Reaction affect reactions. Throughout you will continue to have many opportunities to improve your PLTSS.

What Units will I study?

A2 Unit 4: Kinetics, Equilibria and Organic Chemistry
 A2 Unit 5: Energetics, Redox and Inorganic Chemistry
 A2 Unit 6: Investigative and practical skills in A2 Chemistry

How will I learn? Students will learn through a wide range of methodologies including:

- practical work / field studies / educational visits
- teacher exposition and demonstration
- individual tasks / group-work / problem solving
- homework / past exam questions / research
- personal study through the press, internet and specialist publications such as New Scientist, Chemical World and Chemical Sciences.

Problem solving tasks and exam questions will be more challenging than at AS Level to allow access to the new A* grade and students will be expected to engage in more independent learning to prepare them for University education.

How will I be assessed? Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment is as follows:

Unit 4: Externally set exam of 1 ¼ hours sat in January (20 % of total A Level marks)

Unit 5: Externally set exam of 1 ¾ hours sat in June (20 % of total A Level marks)

Unit 6: Practical skills assessment and Investigative Skills Assignment (10 % AS-Level marks)

The remaining 50 % of marks will be taken from the AS-Level course.

How can I progress with this qualification? Completion of A-level Chemistry is a requirement for entry to many degree courses such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Chemical Engineering. It is also valued for entry onto many other degree courses including Accountancy, Banking and Management.

Is there any other information I need to know? A grade 'D' or better is required for progression to the A Level Chemistry course.

Subject: Chemistry **Qualification:** Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Principal)

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The course is for ambitious, able and hard working students who have successfully achieved grade A or A* in GCSE Chemistry or GCSE Additional Science and wish to develop a deeper, broader and more joined-up understanding of Chemistry than usual in A Levels. This course will be particularly suitable for well-motivated students who enjoy a challenge such as those wishing to study Medicine, Veterinary Science or Engineering, or students who wish to apply to top universities such as Cambridge University, Oxford University and Imperial College, London. You should have a natural inquisitiveness for Chemistry and delight in exploring a topic yourself.

Awarding Body: CIE

Specification Number: 9791

What will I learn? This qualification has been designed to allow you to learn cutting edge Chemistry that will build on your existing knowledge gained at GCSE. You will develop the ability to undertake independent and self-directed learning and to think laterally, critically and creatively. You will gain a philosophy of evidence based thinking that will foster practical approaches to problem solving that will engender an appreciation of the need for accuracy and precision when working with data. You will learn how to articulate your informed opinions about Science and Technology issues, particularly controversial ones both orally and in written form. You will learn to solve substantial chemical problems that cross subject boundaries and given these opportunities will have the chance to develop real flair and creativity in your approach to Science. You will also learn to develop skill and precision in your practical work, and learn how to keep a high-quality practical notebook. During your practical work you will learn how to manipulate apparatus, present data and analyse and evaluate data.

You will learn a number of topics that are not included in any A-Level syllabus. These are included in the syllabus to enable you to gain a greater understanding of Chemistry and to facilitate progress to degree study. Examples of these subjects are: Van Arkel Diagrams, Functional Group Level, Carbon-13 NMR and Antibonding molecular orbitals.

What Units will I study?

Physical Chemistry: Atomic Structure, Chemical forces, Energy Changes, Free Energy and Entropy, Equilibrium, Gases and Kinetics, Chemical models and evidence.

Inorganic Chemistry: Periodic Table, Main Group Chemistry, From non-metals to metals: Group 14, Transition elements, Crystal Structure.

Organic Chemistry: Preliminaries, Functional Group Level, Lower functional group level reactions – Alcohol level, Lower functional group level reactions – Carbonyl level, Addition and Elimination reactions, Green Chemistry, Higher functional group level reactions – Carboxylic Acid level, Higher functional group level reactions – Carbon dioxide level, Mechanisms, Aromatic Chemistry, Acidity and Basicity, Stereochemistry.

Analysis: Qualitative and quantitative analysis, mass spectrometry, electronic spectroscopy, Infra-Red, Carbon-13 NMR, NMR of other spin $\frac{1}{2}$ nuclei.

Practical Work: At least 25 % of your time in lessons will be spent on either individual or group practical work.

Subject: Chemistry cont. **Qualification:** Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (Principal)

How will I learn? You will learn through a wide range of methodologies including:

- practical work / educational visits
- teacher exposition and demonstration
- individual tasks / group-work
- homework / past exam questions / research
- pupil led learning and teaching tasks
- Independent and self-directed learning
- through joint application of problem solving, critical thinking, team work and communication skills
- personal study through the press, internet and specialist publications such as New Scientist, Chemical World and Chemical Sciences
- classroom debate
- scientific investigation

How will I be assessed?

A broad range of formative assessment will occur throughout the course which will support your development in becoming an independent-minded individual, capable of applying your skills and abilities. You will be encouraged to develop a 'deep understanding' in learning through verbal and written feedback and through an increasing ability to self-evaluate.

All students will need to complete exam board set 'Can do' tasks in order to matriculate (be able to take external exams). These will include a range of practical tasks and a ten to twelve minute presentation followed by a question and answer session which will be videoed.

This is a terminally examined course which means that all examinations are taken at the end of the two year course. The subjects within the course are divided into Part A and Part B. Part A papers examine only Part A subjects but Part B papers examine all subjects. The externally set examinations are as follows:

Paper 1:	Part A multiple choice	1 hour	15 %
Paper 2:	Part A written	2 ¼ hours	35 %
Paper 3:	Part B written	2 ¼ hours	35 %
Paper 4:	Practical	2 hours	15 %

How can I progress with this qualification? The course will equip you with a coherent theoretical and practical base for future study and employment in Chemistry and related fields (e.g. medicine, engineering, applied sciences) whilst providing thought-provoking material that may appeal to those who do not want to pursue a scientific career. This academic qualification is highly regarded both in the UK and abroad.

Is there any other information I need to know? A grade 'A' in Chemistry or Additional Science plus a commitment to independent study is a requirement of this course. This is a two year course with exams taken at the end of the two years. Students will study alongside A Level students for much of the course with additional weekly masterclasses / seminars / practical sessions for Cambridge Pre-U students only.

Subject: Dance

Qualification: Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The course is for students who have successfully achieved grade merit (B), or higher in the BTEC level 2 Dance course. The course is aimed at those who are passionate about the subject and willing to extend their knowledge and understanding of a variety of dance styles. The course is for those wishing to further pursue dance as a career and or continue this subject at a higher level.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: Dependent upon units

What will I learn? Throughout the course students will participate in a range of performances to help broaden their understanding of the dance world, where they will learn how to appreciate different dance styles, in preparation for training. They will gain the opportunity to see live performances, work with and meet choreographers and dancers from local companies, which will provide students with an insight into some of the career pathways you could progress onto upon completion of this course.

What units will I study?

Mandatory units- Dance Performance (unit 38) & Performing to an Audience (unit 7)

Specialist units: Urban Dance, Developing Contemporary Dance technique, Jazz dance & International dance.

How will I learn? Students are allocated 5hrs per week where they will develop their knowledge and understanding through researching into specific dance styles and applying it to their practical work. Students will develop their creative and technical skills through participating in workshops both inside and out of lessons, providing them with the opportunity to work on set tasks as an entire dance company, in pairs and as an individual. Students will also analyse performances where they will be able to identify the technical aspects of a dancer and increase their vocabulary. Students will have multiple opportunities to create original pieces of choreography and perform to a variety of audiences.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through a range of practical performances, written assignments, presentations and workshops, with the weighting of 60% practical and 40% written (which may include presentations). All the work you produce will be internally moderated and checked by an external examiner. You will not be required to sit a written exam and all assessment will take place during the duration of the course.

How can I progress with this qualification?

Students may progress onto University degree courses that prepare for choreographers, professional dancers and teaching.

Is there any other information I need to know? Candidates must be willing to attend after school rehearsals and performances. This course is to prepare you for higher education and therefore candidates will need to work as a part of a team and most importantly independently.

Subject: Drama and Theatre Studies

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The course is for students who have studied Drama or Performing Arts at Level 2 and achieved a grade B (Merit) or above. Students who have achieved grade B or higher in English will also be considered following an audition. The course is for pupils who are interested in studying Drama and Theatre Studies at a higher level or who wish to broaden their study experience.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 8DR01

What will I learn?

- Students will be given the opportunity to see a variety of plays and styles of performance during the course and will give a personal response to live theatre.
- Students will learn about the Interpretation of a set play from a performance perspective.
- Students will work in groups to develop and present an extract from a published play alongside studying an influential director, designer, theatre company or practitioner.

What Units will I study?

Unit 1: Exploration of Drama and Theatre (40% of total AS) Internal examination

Unit 2: Theatre Text in Performance (60% of total AS) External examination

How will I learn?

You will have 5 hours allocated teaching time per week. These will consist of practical workshops, exploration of drama styles and play analysis. Students will also visit the theatre on several occasions to see a wide variety of plays.

The emphasis is on creating, developing, analysing and understanding Drama.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work, homework and practical exploration.

Summative assessment takes place at the end of each unit and consists of:

- Exploration notes and performance extract
- Written evaluation of a live performance
- Performance of a published play

How can I progress with this qualification? Drama and Theatre Studies will help to develop your social skills and is readily adaptable to a range of degree courses and jobs. It lends itself to jobs in public relations, law and teaching, giving students the skills of cooperation, teamwork and developing strong communication skills, all of which are useful in many fields of work. A wide variety of Higher Education courses are available to students completing the course including Drama and Theatre degrees or more specialised qualifications in acting, directing and technical theatre. It also provides the training that is essential for anyone who wishes to study at a Drama or Music school.

Is there any other information I need to know? It would be useful for applicants to have a degree of confidence in public speaking as there is a performance element to the course. Good communication and team work skills are essential. Candidates must have an interest in theatre and live performance as attending plays is an integral part of the course.

Subject: Drama and Theatre Studies

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The course is for students who have achieved grade D or above at AS Level Drama and Theatre Studies. It is appropriate for those who may wish to carry on this subject at a higher level, either at university or at a specialist drama school.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 9DR01

What will I learn?

- Students are required to create a unique and original piece of theatre. The knowledge and understanding gained in the AS units can now be applied to a created production.
- Students will study in detail one set play text and one prescribed historical period of theatrical movement.

What Units will I study?

Unit 3: Exploration of Dramatic Performance (40% of total A2) Internal

Unit 4: Theatre Text in Context (60% of total A2) External

How will I learn? Students will have 5 hours allocated teaching time per week. These will consist of practical workshops, exploration of drama styles and play analysis. Students will also visit the theatre on several occasions to see a wide variety of plays. The emphasis is on creating, developing, analysing and understanding Drama. Units studied in the A2 look to further the knowledge developed in AS Drama and Theatre Studies by creating original theatre and looking at the role of the director.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work, homework and practical exploration.

Summative assessment takes place at the end of each unit and consists of:

- An original performance piece for external examination
- A written examination

How can I progress with this qualification? Drama and Theatre Studies will help to develop your social skills and is readily adaptable to a range of degree courses and jobs. It lends itself to jobs in public relations, law and teaching, giving students the skills of cooperation, teamwork and developing strong communication skills, all of which are useful in many fields of work. A wide variety of Higher Education courses are available to students completing the course including Drama and Theatre degrees or more specialised qualifications in acting, directing and technical theatre. It also provides the training that is essential for anyone who wishes to study at a Drama or Music school.

Is there any other information I need to know? It would be useful for applicants to have a degree of confidence in public speaking as there is a performance element to the course. Good communication and team work skills are essential. Candidates must have an interest in theatre and live performance as attending plays is an integral part of the course. A grade 'D' is required from the AS Level to progress onto the A Level.

Subject: English Literature

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The course is for students who enjoy reading, writing and talking about a range of challenging texts. This course **does not** include any elements of creative writing found in the subject at GCSE, instead the emphasis is on the analytical, allowing you to develop your interests through the study of a variety of demanding texts. This is a good course for students who come with an open mind.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 1746

What will I learn? The specification will give you a rounded exposure to different aspects of narrative and dramatic genres, allowing you to display abilities in a variety of written disciplines and demonstrate your understanding of these contexts, in many different aspects of literary representation, with particular focus on how narratives are constructed and different ways in which they can be responded to by readers. You will learn to:

- Read widely and independently, both set texts and ones you choose yourself.
- Engage creatively with a substantial body of texts, exploring contexts and reading from different theoretical starting points.
- Develop literary analysis and evaluation and encourage a deeper understanding of the various traditions of literature in English.

What Units will I study?

AS Unit 1: LITB1 — Aspects of Narrative [Examination]

AS Unit 2: LITB2 — Dramatic Genres [Coursework portfolio]

How will I learn? Examination and coursework: Elements of 'The Gothic' and 'Pastoral'. Write in essay form and construct arguments relevant to set tasks. Offer textual evidence to support arguments. Use appropriate critical vocabulary, relevant to discussions of tragedy and chosen text. Show awareness of how dramatic form and structure contribute to meaning within a specific genre; use details of represented speech, including imagery and social status in Shakespeare and other works of Literature. Cross reference themes and issues to other plays, poetry, prose, writers and critical reviews. Work will be marked out of a given total for both examination and coursework.

How will I be assessed?

AS UNIT 1: ASPECTS OF NARRATIVE (*Worth 60% of AS Award*) ~ Students study four texts: two novels [one post 1900], and two units of poetry [1800 -1945]. The examination paper has two sections. Students must answer one question from each section; they must make cross-references between the four texts studied for this unit.

AS UNIT 2: THE DRAMATIC GENRE (*Worth 40% of AS Award*) ~ Students will study two plays within the dramatic genre of tragedy. They will aim to complete a written account of each text (2 x 1500 words essays) - One of the plays must be written by Shakespeare.

How can I progress with this qualification?

A grade 'D' or better at AS-level, allows progression onto Year Two of the overall A Level course. A2-level, is UNIT 3 and UNIT 4 of the course. This section of the course is crucial to the completion of the final 'AQA Advanced Level GCE in English Literature'.

Is there any other information I need to know? A minimum of grade 'D' at AS Level English Literature, is required to move on to study 'A2' English Literature (Units 3 and 4 of the overall 'A' Level).

Subject: English Literature

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? This course is for students who have successfully acquired the skills associated with 'AS' English Language or equivalent and who have successfully achieved grade 'D' at GCE Language, or higher.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 2746

What will I learn? This course involves an exploration of methodological issues concerning data collection, analysis, critical and creative approaches to texts. Students analyse and evaluate how the key constituent parts of language have developed under the influence of a variety of contextual factors. Students will be required to explore the nature and function of language acquisition and social development of children. Moreover, develop an understanding of language changes both historical and contemporary (from 1700+ to present). Students will study the cause and impact of these changes.

What Units will I study?

A2 Unit 3 — Developing Language [Examination]

A2 Unit 4 — Investigating Language [2x Coursework portfolio]

How will I learn? UNIT 3: Students develop an understanding of the key concepts and theories surrounding the study of language. They will build on the skills and knowledge gained at 'AS' Level, through a study of the early stages of language development, the learning of the sound system; Lexical, semantic and grammatical development in language and the theory of language and attitudes to changes. UNIT 4: Students choose to pursue an area of study cover at 'AS' Level; for example, gender and representation; the power of media texts; language investigations and new communication technologies; the language of children at play or historical changes in English over time and other issues.

How will I be assessed? A2 UNIT 3: ENGB3 — '*Developing Language*' (Worth 30% of 'A' Level) ~ one written paper: 2 hrs 30 mins. Students respond to two questions based on a selection of data relating to the topic areas studied for this unit [one question on language acquisition and one question on Language Change. Each question is worth 48 marks. A2 UNIT 4: ENGB4 — '*Investigating Language*' (Worth 20% of 'A' Level) ~ coursework. Assessment: the production of a written coursework portfolio. Two written pieces: Language investigation (1750 - 2500 words) and Media text (750 – 1000 words). The maximum marks for this unit is 80.

How can I progress with this qualification? English Language helps students to develop an understanding of the linguistic methods used to analyse and investigate language. Centrally, it combines a range of innovative modules; such as, Linguistics, Pragmatics, Graphology, Research techniques, ultimately — Undergraduate degree.

Is there any other information I need to know? To gain a GCE, 'A' Level, Grade 'C' in this subject, prepares students for, and provides access to, careers in any sector of cultural life, education, publishing, journalism, media, communication and the civil service.

Subject: French

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School / Holyhead School

Who is the course for? The course is for students who have achieved at least grade 'B' in GCSE French and who wish to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the French language, culture and society.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 1651

What will I learn?

You will build on the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing acquired at GCSE level. These will be developed to an advanced level during the course. The course covers four topics, each with three subtopics:

Media (Television, Advertising, Communication Technology);

Popular Culture (Cinema, Music, Fashion / Trends);

Healthy Living/Lifestyle (Sport / exercise, Health and well-being, Holidays);

Family/relationships (Relationships within the family, Friendships, Marriage/Partnerships)

What Units will I study?

AS Unit 1 (Listening, Reading and Writing)

AS Unit 2 (Speaking)

How will I learn? Through small group work, pair work and whole class work, using printed material, video and interactive websites. Learning the language involves vocabulary work, grammar exercises, role-play, presentations in the language and extensive class discussions of the topics. The new skills of translation and extended writing are also developed. The courses are taught using a variety of materials, including electronic resources and you are expected to carry out your own independent study and may be given the opportunity of working with a Language Assistant. Homework is set regularly and you are encouraged to evaluate your own work and progress.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment will occur through class and homework, and through inter-active assessment.

Summative assessment will be by external examination at the end of the course:

AS Unit 1: One two hour written examination (70 % of AS Level marks)

AS Unit 2: One thirty five minute speaking test (30 % of AS Level marks)

How can I progress with this qualification?

Students who achieve a grade 'D' or better can progress to A2 French.

Is there any other information I need to know?

A grade 'B' or better at GCSE French is required for entry onto this course. This course is co-taught by Handsworth Wood Girls' School and Holyhead School and lessons may take place at either site.

Subject: French

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School / Holyhead School

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who have successfully completed the AS course and achieved a grade 'D' or better and who wish to further enhance their knowledge of the French language, culture and society.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 2651

What will I learn?

You will continue to build on the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing developed at AS-Level. There are three topic areas: Environment (pollution, energy, protecting the planet), the Multicultural Society (immigration, integration, racism), and a Cultural Topic (drawn from options such as a study of a period in history, a playwright, director, artist or composer, a region).

What Units will I study?

A2 Unit 3: Listening, Reading and Writing

A2 Unit 4: Speaking

Both units cover the topic areas detailed above.

How will I learn?

You will continue to learn through similar methodologies to the AS Level course. However written, speaking, reading and listening tasks and exam questions will be more challenging to allow access to the new A* grade and you will be expected to engage in more independent learning to prepare you for University education.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed formatively through class and homework and through inter-active assessment.

Summative assessment is by external examination at the end of the course:

Unit 3: One 2 ½ hour written examination (35 % of A Level marks)

Unit 4: One thirty five minute speaking test (15 % of A Level marks)

There is no Coursework.

The remaining 50 % of the A Level marks are from the AS Level course.

How can I progress with this qualification? The Modern Languages Courses are compatible with many other subjects and can broaden career prospects for many students. With the European Union remaining as Britain's major trading partner there is an increasing demand for linguists in British Business and an ever reducing number of these available.

Is there any other information I need to know? A grade 'D' at AS Level in this subject is required to progress from the AS Level to the A Level. This course is co-taught by Handsworth Wood Girls' School and Holyhead School and lessons may take place at either site.

Subject: Geography

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School / Holyhead School

Who is the course for?

The course is for keen and hard working students who have successfully achieved grade B or higher at GCSE Geography. It is also available to some suitable students who did not study Geography at GCSE, but have achieved a grade B or higher at GCSE English.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 8GEO1

What will I learn?

This course enables candidates to study:

- Why some parts of the world are at risk from hazards and some climate change.
- What Globalisation is and how it affects the population on a global scale.
- Why the coastline is forever changing and the consequences of these changes.
- The way in which areas are rebranded and redeveloped.

What Units will I study?

Unit 1 6GEO1 – The world at risk / Going global

Unit 2 6GEO2 – Rebranding / Crowded coasts

How will I learn?

Geography is an open ended subject with an infinite number of answers. Therefore, discussion and individual research will play a key part in the course. Discussions on key global issues will take place, led by peers and staff. Group work will also be an essential journey to learning to investigate independently key topics. Fieldwork will also play an important part of your learning to go out and explore the environments, gather data and draw conclusions.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through assessed tasks. Exam questions will be set for homework and in lesson under exam conditions. Assessment through fieldwork techniques will also contribute towards your end grade.

How can I progress with this qualification?

You can move on to A2 level study if you achieve a grade 'D' or better at A-Level. Geography is a popular subject for employers as it demonstrates a student has the ability to look at global issues and respond to them, making an informed decision.

Is there any other information I need to know?

This is a collaborative course co-taught between Handsworth Wood Girls' School and Holyhead School, and lessons may take place at either site. Students must be willing to conduct their own research out of school time. It is advised that students keep up to date with current issues that arise on a global scale, by reading newspapers and watching the news.

Subject: Geography

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' school

Who is the course for?

The course is for keen and hard working students who have successfully achieved grade D or higher at AS Geography.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 9GEO1

What will I learn?

This course enables candidates to study:

- Issues of energy security.
- Water conflicts
- Biodiversity under threat
- World superpowers
- Technological fix
- Bridging the development gap
- Tectonic activity and hazards

What Units will I study?

Unit 3 6GEO3 – Contested Planet

Unit 2 6GEO4 – Geographical Research

How will I learn?

Geography is an open ended subject with an infinite number of answers. Therefore, discussion and individual research will play a key part in the course. Discussions on key global issues will take place, led by peers and staff. Group work will also be an essential journey to learning to investigate independently key topics. Fieldwork will also play an important part of your learning to go out and explore the environments, gather data and draw conclusions.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through assessed tasks. Exam questions will be set for homework and in lesson under exam conditions. Assessment through fieldwork techniques will also contribute towards your end grade.

How can I progress with this qualification.

Geography is a popular subject for employers as it demonstrates a student has the ability to look at global issue and respond to them, making an informed decision. This A-Level course will also develop your independent skills and time management.

Is there any other information I need to know?

This is a collaborative course co-taught between Handsworth Wood Girls' School and Holyhead School. Lessons may be at either site. Students must be willing to conduct their own research out of school time. It is advised that students keep up to date with current issue that arise on a global scale, by reading newspapers and watching the news.

Subject: Government and Politics

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who have an interest in politics, current affairs, and in how the UK is governed. It is especially useful for those students considering taking Law at university.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 8GP01

What will I learn?

You will learn ideas about democracy and different forms of representation. You will also consider how the institutions of UK government work together.

What Units will I study?

AS Unit 1: People and Politics

AS Unit 2: Governing the UK

How will I learn? You will learn through a variety of approaches including:

- Whole class debate.
- Group tasks / Pair tasks.
- Writing essays / answering data response and structured questions
- Research of contemporary issues.
- A willingness to keep abreast of current affairs.
- E-conferencing

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment will be via two external exams of one hour and twenty minutes each. These will consist of structured questions, data response and extended writing. Each exam will contribute 50 % of the AS-Level marks.

How can I progress with this qualification? You will need to achieve a grade 'D' or better to progress to A2 Government and Politics.

Is there any other information I need to know? A grade 'B' at GCSE History and GCSE English or an average point score of 6 or greater is required for entry onto this course. This course is taught through 2 periods of classroom contact and two periods of video conferencing each week.

Subject: Government and Politics

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who have successfully achieved grade 'D', or higher in the AS Level course and whom wish to pursue their interest in Government and Politics.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 9GP01

What will I learn?

You will learn key themes in political analysis and be able to specialise in different areas, to develop a deeper understanding and to engage with contemporary political debates. In common with all A2 courses, you will focus more on analysis and evaluation in order to stretch and challenge further.

What Units will I study?

A2 Unit 3: Key themes in Political Analysis

A2 Unit 4: Extended themes in Political Analysis

How will I learn?

You will continue to learn through similar methodologies to the AS-level course. However written tasks and exam questions will be more challenging to allow access to the new A* grade and you will be expected to engage in more independent learning to prepare for University education.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment will be by two external exams, 1hr 30 mins each with 3 short answer questions and an essay on each paper for 50 % of the A Level marks. The remaining 50 % of marks will come from the AS Level units.

How can I progress with this qualification?

Studying A-Level Government and Politics is useful for progressing to Law or Accountancy degrees or for specialising in Politics.

Is there any other information I need to know? A grade 'D' at AS Level in this subject is required to progress from the AS Level to the A Level. This course is taught through 2 periods of classroom contact and two periods of videoconferencing each week.

Subject: Health and Social Care **Qualification:** BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Health and Social Care

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School and workplace settings

Who is the course for? The course is for students who have an interest in the care industry. You will ideally have successfully achieved a merit at BTEC Level 2 in Health and Social care and have at least a grade 'C' in GCSE English.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 500/9317/4

What will I learn?

You will learn:

- Key knowledge and practical skills required in the Health and Social care sector.
- To be able to communicate and interact effectively.
- How legislation, policies and procedures promote health, safety and security.
- To have basic knowledge and understanding of the human body and how it functions.
- To understand concepts of nutritional health and be able to use dietary information from an individual to make recommendations to improve nutritional health.

What Units will I study?

You will study 1 mandatory unit, 1 specialist optional unit and 1 optional unit to provide a total of 30 credits.

Unit 1 – Developing Effective Communication

Unit 3 – Health Safety and Security

Unit 21 – Nutrition for Health and Social Care

How will I learn?

You will learn through a range of methods:

- Practical work experience in care settings
- Individual task / group work
- Research and Personal study

How will I be assessed?

In BTEC Nationals all units are internally assessed. All assessment is criterion referenced based on the achievement of specified learning outcomes. A summative unit grade can be awarded at Pass, Merit or Distinction.

How can I progress with this qualification?

You can progress onto the Subsidiary Diploma in Health and Social Care which requires a student to gain 60 credits. This is to be made up of 3 mandatory units and 3 optional units.

Is there any other information I need to know?

The Subsidiary Diploma has a broad equivalence to one A Level. Students may choose to spend a day a week in a placement to gain relevant work experience. This is a one year course.

Subject: Health and Social Care **Qualification:** BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Health and Social Care

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School and workplace settings

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who have successfully completed the BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Health and Social Care and who may be interested in a career in

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 500/9317/4

What will I learn?

You will learn:

- Key knowledge and practical skills required in the Health and Social Care sector.
- To be able to communicate and interact effectively.
- Know how anti discriminatory practice is promoted in Health and Care setting.
- Understanding of the way individuals change over time and investigate the influence of major life events.

What Units will I study?

You will study 3 additional units to provide a total of 60 credits:

Unit 2 Equality, Diversity and Rights
 Unit 4 Development through life stages
 Unit 14 Physiological Disorders

How will I learn? You will learn through a range of methods:

- Practical work experience in care settings
- Individual task / group work
- Research and Personal study

How will I be assessed?

In BTEC Nationals all units are internally assessed. All assessment is criterion referenced based on the achievement of specified learning outcomes. A summative unit grade can be awarded at Pass, Merit or Distinction.

How can I progress with this qualification?

You can progress onto a career in Health and Social Care. Many universities accept this qualification towards the entry requirements for a Nursing Degree.

Is there any other information I need to know?

The Subsidiary Diploma has a broad equivalence to one A Level. Students may choose to spend a day a week in a placement to gain relevant work experience. This is a one year course.

Subject: History

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' school

Who is the course for? The course is for keen and hard working students who have successfully achieved grade B or higher at GCSE History. It is also available to some suitable students who did not study History at GCSE, but have achieved a grade B or higher at GCSE English.

Awarding Body: OCR

Specification Number: H106

What will I learn?

This course enables candidates to study:

- significant events, individuals and issues;
- a range of historical perspectives;
- the diversity of society;
- the history of more than one country or state;
- a substantial element of English history;

What Units will I study?

Unit F961 Option A: *Medieval and Early Modern 1035–1642*

Unit F964 Option A: *Medieval and Early Modern 1073–1555*

How will I learn?

History is an open ended subject with an infinite number of answers. Therefore, discussion and individual research will play a key part in the course. Discussions will be teacher and peer led and there will be group work to investigate elements of the subject. Naturally, there will also be a core element to the subject which students will have to assess and use as the basis for their conclusions.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through assessed tasks.

Summative assessment is an hour and a half exam on each unit. Each exam has the same value (100 marks) and candidates will answer two questions from three on the paper.

How can I progress with this qualification?

You can move on to A2 level study if you achieve a grade 'D' or better at A Level. History is a popular subject for employers as it demonstrates a student has the ability to look at problems from all sides and is able to consider different interpretations of any situation.

Is there any other information I need to know?

Students must be willing to do a lot of their own reading around the topics, in order to develop their ideas. Reading lists will be supplied.

Subject: History

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who have achieved a grade 'D' or better in their AS Level course and who wish to continue to develop their understanding of the subject.

Awarding Body: OCR

Specification Number: H506

What will I learn?

You will learn to assess different historical interpretations and to carry out an historical investigation of their own choosing. You will display a range of skills in the critical assessment of different historical interpretations and in research. In Investigations you can pursue topics of personal interest, using them to display a range of historical knowledge and understanding. This style of assessment for candidates to draw together knowledge, understanding and skills of diverse issues centred upon a common theme ensures that 'stretch and challenge' requirements are met.

The Historical Themes unit is a synoptic part of the specification: You will develop an understanding of connections between different elements of the subject.

What Units will I study?

Unit F965: *Historical Interpretations and Investigations*

Unit F966: *Historical Themes*

How will I learn?

Students will continue to learn through similar methodologies to the A/S level course. In addition, there will be a greater concentration on interpretations of History as well as making links and comparisons through and across a Historical study.

How will I be assessed?

Interpretations: One piece of work up to 2,000 words long, based on the examination of a number of historians' interpretations in the context of the candidate's knowledge of the area of debate. (10%)

Investigations: One piece of work up to 2,000 words long, comprising a personal investigation by the candidate. This will be based on a problem or issue about which there is a variety of views.(10%)

Themes: One two hour exam in which candidates answer two questions from three on the paper. (30%)

How can I progress with this qualification?

History is a popular subject for employers as it demonstrates a student has the ability to look at problems from all sides and is able to consider different interpretations of any situation. It is key to the growing employment area of 'heritage' as well as being the most common degree amongst British Prime Ministers.

Is there any other information I need to know?

Students must be willing to do a lot of their own reading around the topics, in order to develop their ideas. Reading lists will be supplied.

Subject: Applied ICT

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? This course is for students with an interest in developing their use of ICT skills. You will have successfully achieved grade B or higher in GCSE ICT or an equivalent Level 2 qualification. Skills in Numeracy/Mathematics, Literacy/English and Information and Communication Technology will be particularly relevant.

Awarding Body: OCR

Specification Number: H115

What will I learn? The AS GCE is made up of three mandatory units which form 50% of the corresponding six-unit Advanced GCE. The aims of these specifications are to encourage candidates to:

- Develop a broad range of ICT skills and knowledge of the uses of ICT in vocational contexts, as a basis for progression into further learning in ICT-related fields, including progression from AS to A2;
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the components, functions and applications of information systems within a range of organisations;
- Develop an understanding of the main principles of solving problems using ICT and develop the skills necessary to apply this understanding.

What Units will I study?

Unit G040 Using ICT to communicate

Unit G041 How organisations use ICT

Unit G042: ICT solutions for individuals and society

How will I learn? As the Applied GCE ICT is a portfolio based course with an emphasis on practical skills, assessment is mainly through coursework with only one unit examined externally. Students are expected to work to the set deadlines and to work at home when required. You will acquire the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding to create, develop and present high-quality work. Whilst this is undoubtedly an advantageous skill set to have in an academic environment, the real benefit will be seen when applying your ICT skills in the workplace.

The Applied GCE ICT is a popular option as many students enjoy the emphasis on real world ICT skills and their application as opposed to merely focussing on theory.

How will I be assessed?

Unit G040: *Using ICT to communicate*: Internally assessed portfolio work.

Unit G041: *How organisations use ICT*: Externally exam - 1 hr 30 mins written paper.

Unit G042: *ICT solutions for individuals and society*: Internally assessed portfolio work.

How can I progress with this qualification? In terms of a career in ICT, the A level provides an excellent foundation in the ICT themes and concepts that are fundamental in today's workplaces; most specifically in the design and implementation of Information Systems for business. Many ICT students who wish to extend their studies in ICT go on to university to study ICT and Business Information Systems or Information System Design and Implementation.

Is there any other information I need to know?

In the age we live in, ICT capabilities are essential to success in all areas of life. For this reason Applied GCE ICT sits well with almost all other subjects chosen at A Level. The aim of the course is to develop as much understanding as possible of the application and use of ICT in all its contexts.

Subject: Applied ICT

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? ? The course is for students who have successfully achieved grade D or higher in AS Level ICT. It will be useful for students considering an ICT based career. Skills in Numeracy/Mathematics, Literacy/English and Information and Communication Technology will be particularly relevant.

Awarding Body: OCR

Specification Number: H515

What will I learn? The A2 GCE is made up of **three** units, one of which is mandatory G048: Working to a Brief. The course is designed to encourage candidates to:

- Apply their knowledge and understanding of ICT and use skills (eg planning, research, evaluation, problem solving) in vocational contexts;
- Develop an understanding of the impact of information systems on organisations' personnel, policies and practices;
- Develop project management skills and an understanding of the need to work with others.

What Units will I study?

- A2 Unit G048: Working to a Brief
- A2 Unit G050: Interactive multimedia products
- A2 Unit G053: Developing and creating websites

How will I learn? The A2 GCE ICT is a portfolio based course with an emphasis on practical skills, assessment is entirely through coursework. Students are expected to work to the set deadlines and to work at home when required. You will acquire the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding to create, develop and present high-quality work. Whilst this is undoubtedly an advantageous skill set to have in an academic environment, the real benefit will be seen when applying your ICT skills in the workplace. The Applied GCE ICT is a popular option as many students enjoy the emphasis on real world ICT skills and their application as opposed to merely focussing on theory.

How will I be assessed?

A2 Unit G048: Working to a Brief: This unit is assessed through internally assessed portfolio work

A2 Unit G050: This unit is assessed through internally assessed portfolio work

A2 Unit G053: This unit is assessed through internally assessed portfolio work

How can I progress with this qualification?

In terms of a career in ICT, the A level provides an excellent foundation in the ICT themes and concepts that are fundamental in today's workplaces; most specifically in the design and implementation of Information Systems for business. Many ICT students who wish to extend their studies in ICT go on to university to study ICT and Business Information Systems or Information System Design and Implementation.

Is there any other information I need to know?

In the age we live in, ICT capabilities are essential to success in all areas of life. For this reason Applied GCE ICT sits well with almost all other subjects chosen at A Level. The aim of the course is to develop as much understanding as possible of the application and use of ICT in all its contexts.

Subject: Law

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who are interested in studying law at university or for those who feel that knowledge of law would be useful to their future career for example business, personnel, finance, health professions, social work.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 1161

What will I learn?

In Unit 1 you will learn about the sources of law including legislation and Parliament and the influence of the media and pressure groups on law making. You will also cover the way disputes are solved in criminal and civil law examining the courts and the personnel in the courts such as magistrates and juries. In Unit 2 you will learn the non-fatal offences against the person in criminal law and the tort of negligence in civil law. You will learn the skill of legal analysis so that you can use your knowledge of law to decide liability in case studies.

What Units will I study?

AS Unit 1: Law Making and the Legal System
AS Unit 2: The Concept of Liability

How will I learn?

The course will be delivered by a number of methods including presentations by the teacher, teacher led discussion, student research and group work. Comprehensive handouts and exercises are provided throughout.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment will be by two exams each of 1 hour and 30 minutes. Each is worth 50 % of the AS-Level course. Unit 1 will be taken in January and Unit 2 in June.

How can I progress with this qualification?

Students who achieve a grade 'D' or better can progress to A2 Law.

Is there any other information I need to know?

A grade 'B' at GCSE English and an average point score of 6 or greater is required for entry onto this course.

Subject: Law

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who have achieved at least a grade 'D' in the AS Level and who wish to study Law at university or for any student wishing to study in Higher Education.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 2161

What will I learn?

You will learn about Criminal Law including the law of homicide and the law of non-fatal offences. You will also study Tort Law including negligence, nuisance and the Occupiers' Liability Acts. There will also an examination of some of the key concepts of law including the relationships between law and justice and law and morality and you will also learn how the law attempts to balance the competing interests of different parties.

What Units will I study?

A2 Unit 3: Criminal Law (Offences against the Person) or Contract

A2 Unit 4: Criminal Law (Offences against Property) or Tort, and Concepts of Law

How will I learn?

You will continue to learn through similar methodologies to the AS Level course. However written tasks and exam questions will be more challenging to allow access to the A* grade and you will be expected to engage in more independent learning to prepare you for university education.

How will I be assessed?

- Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.
- Summative assessment will be by way of 2 exams, each worth 25 % of the A Level. Unit 3 (1 ½ hours) will be taken in January and Unit 4 (2 hours) will be taken in June.
- The remaining 50 % of the marks comes from the AS Level course.

How can I progress with this qualification?

You can progress to University or employment. A Level Law provides exemption from certain exams offered by the Institute of Legal Executives.

Is there any other information I need to know?

A grade 'D' at AS-level in this subject is required to progress from the AS Level to the A Level.

Subject: Mathematics

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who enjoy a structured process of problem solving and a logical way of thinking. You will have successfully achieved grade B, or higher, at GCSE Mathematics and wish to pursue Mathematics beyond GCSE.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 8371

What will I learn?

You will develop an understanding of mathematics in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment. You will develop skills to reason logically, problem solve, model and generalise as well as constructing mathematical proofs. You will learn to extend your range of mathematical skills and use them in more difficult unstructured problems. You will recognise how a situation may be represented mathematically and understand the relationship between 'real world' problems and standard and other mathematical models and how these can be refined and improved. You will develop an awareness of the relevance mathematics to other fields of study, the world of work, advancing technologies and to society in general.

What Units will I study?

Core 1
Core 2
Statistics 1

How will I learn?

Ten one hour lessons per fortnight. You will learn in teacher led lessons, problem solving activities and individual tasks as well as independent learning.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment will be through three externally set one and a half hour exams.

How can I progress with this qualification?

Students who achieve a grade 'D' or better can progress to A2 Mathematics.

Is there any other information I need to know?

Although a grade 'B' or better at GCSE Maths is required for entry onto this course, it is recommended that students have a grade 'A' or better.

Subject: Mathematics

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who have done well in AS Level Mathematics, having achieved a grade 'D' or better, and who wish to further develop their skills in mathematics.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 9371

What will I learn?

You will learn further skills in Pure Mathematics including algebra, trigonometry and calculus. You will also learn skills in Decision Mathematics.

What Units will I study?

Core 3

Core 4

Decision Mathematics 1

How will I learn?

You will continue to learn through similar methodologies to the AS-level course. However problems and exam questions will be more challenging to allow access to the new A* grade and you will be expected to engage in more independent learning to prepare you for University education.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment will be through three externally set one and a half hour exams.

The remaining 50 % of the marks will come from the AS-Level course.

How can I progress with this qualification?

A-Level mathematics will be useful for progression to a wide range of Further and Higher Education courses or for employment.

Is there any other information I need to know?

A grade 'D' at AS Level in this subject is required to progress from the AS Level to the A Level.

Subject: Media Studies

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The course is for students who may be contemplating a career in the media, or are simply interested in any of the media sectors. The course is stimulating and enjoyable and would suit students who enjoy a creative as well as theoretical challenge. It also compliments many of the core subjects you may study at A-level, offering you transferable and practical skills.

Awarding Body: OCR

Specification Number: H140

What will I learn?

- Students will be given the opportunity to develop critical understanding of the media, learn creative and technical skills and production processes.
- You will learn about Film and Magazine production through the analysis of Representation, Audiences and the Industries themselves.
- You will work in groups to develop and present the opening of a Film. You will also study how meaning is created, communicated and can be challenged.

What Units will I study?

Unit 1: Foundation Portfolio in Media (G321)

Unit 2: Key Media Concepts (G322)

How will I learn?

You will have 5 hours allocated teaching time per week. The lessons will consist of practical training in filming and editing techniques, exploration of Media production processes and technologies, and exploration into the impact the Media has on its audience.

How will I be assessed?

- Unit 1: This is a coursework unit where candidate produce two media products supported by Research, Evidence and Evaluation document - 50% of AS marks.
- Unit 2: two hour written paper on TV Drama, Magazine Institutions and Audiences. 50% of AS marks.

How can I progress with this qualification?

Typical Media Studies students might eventually find employment in the following industries: Advertising, Marketing, Publishing, Journalism, Television, Popular Music, Film, Radio and Public Relations. The A Level Media Studies course offers an excellent preparation for any one of the very wide range of Media or Film Studies courses available in higher education. Media Studies graduates have a very good rate of employment after university, many within the creative industries.

Is there any other information I need to know?

Good communication and team work skills are essential. Candidates must have an interest in Media and be prepared for independent research and study.

Subject: Media Studies

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The course is for students who may be contemplating a career in the Media, or are simply interested in any of the Media sectors. The course is stimulating and enjoyable and would suit students who enjoy a creative as well as theoretical challenge. It also compliments the AS course and many of the core subjects you may study at A Level, offering you transferable and practical skills.

Awarding Body: OCR

Specification Number: H540

What will I learn?

- Students will be given the opportunity to plan and construct two or more Media products from a choice of Video, Print, Web-based, Audio and Games software.
- Theoretical evaluation will focus on Digital Technology, Creativity, Research and Planning, Post-Production and Media Conventions.
- Research on a contemporary Media topic will focus on a choice of Media Regulations, Global media, Media and Collective Identity and Media in the Online Age.

What Units will I study?

Unit 3: Advanced Portfolio in Media (G324)

Unit 4: Critical Perspectives in Media (G325)

How will I learn?

You will have 5 hours allocated teaching time per week. The lessons will consist of practical training in the construction of two Media products, exploration of the Media in the modern age, and exploration into the impact regulation and global influences have on Media production and content.

How will I be assessed?

- Unit 3: This is a coursework unit where candidate produce two media products supported by Research, Evidence and Evaluation document - 50% of A2 marks.
- Unit 4: two hour written paper on Theoretical Evaluation of Production and Contemporary Media issues.

How can I progress with this qualification?

Typical Media Studies students might eventually find employment in the following industries: Advertising, Marketing, Publishing, Journalism, Television, Popular Music, Film, Radio and Public Relations. The A Level Media Studies course offers an excellent preparation for any one of the very wide range of Media or Film Studies courses available in higher education. Media Studies graduates have a very good rate of employment after university, many within the creative industries.

Is there any other information I need to know?

Good communication and team work skills are essential. Candidates must have an interest in Media and be prepared for independent research and study.

Subject: Music Technology (production) **Qualification:** BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School and NW City Learning Centre.

Who is the course for?

Students who are able to make music and who are also interested in the technical side of music: recording, sequencing and music production techniques.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: YJ822

What will I learn?

You are encouraged (including those who do not play a traditional instrument), to explore your musicality and to create original material using technology. You will learn about the development of music technology. You will also gain knowledge and experience learning production techniques in the recording studio.

What Units will I study?

Mandatory unit: Music Production Techniques:

Specialist Unit: Delivering a Music Product
Sequencing systems and Techniques

How will I learn?

You will learn in class, in groups and individually. You will be expected to develop your understanding and skills through independent learning as well as shared study sessions. When possible, knowledge will be linked to practical activities. You will develop your practical understanding at the local City Learning Centre.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is done through the completion of various practical and written assignments. All work is internally moderated and then checked externally. Students are not required to sit a written exam at the end of the course, all assessments take place during the running of the course.

How can I progress with this qualification?

Progress to vocational qualifications such as the Edexcel Btec Higher Nationals in Music and Music Technology.

Is there any other information I need to know?

A grade 'B' or better at GCSE Music or a suitable subject is required for entry onto this course. An interest in music production and how the whole process of utilising the equipment in a studio setting. Some lessons will take place at the NW City Learning Centre.

Subject: Performing Arts

Qualification: BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The course is for students who have studied Drama or Performing Arts at level 2 and achieved a grade Merit or above. Students who have achieved grade C or higher in English will also be considered following an audition. The course is for pupils who are interested in a career in Performing Arts or studying the subject at a higher level. Students need to be committed to this two year course.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: Dependent upon units

What will I learn? The BTEC course is vocational and looks to train the learner in all areas of Performance Art. Students will have the opportunity to create and perform original and scripted theatre. They will be asked to analyse theatre as both directors and writers of creative work. Students will be trained in technical aspects of theatre, including lighting, sound and film production. For those interested in a teaching career there will be instances when students are asked to deliver workshops to young people using their performance knowledge. In doing so students will develop skills that can be applied directly to the workplace.

What Units will I study?

Mandatory unit: Unit 7: Performing to an audience

Specialist units: Theatre for children; Film and TV acting; The Practice of Directing Theatre; Script writing; Developing physical theatre.

How will I learn? Students will have 5 hours allocated teaching time per week. These will consist of practical workshops, analysis of ideas and developing creativity in a variety of styles and places. Emphasis will be on working as a team as part of a theatre company. Students will have the opportunity to visit outside theatre companies, see plays and share their creative work both inside and outside of school. They will develop the technical and interpretive skills necessary to work within the theatre by exploring the means and processes of characterisation, interpreting texts, vocal techniques and skills for acting and creating, before developing material and taking part in rehearsal and performances. They also have the opportunity to find out more about the ways in which the Performing Arts sector works in the areas that they already have a vested interest in.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests. The BTEC course is assessed through several written assignments and performance work. All work is internally moderated and then checked externally. Students are not required to sit a written exam at the end of the course, all assessments take place during the running of the course.

How can I progress with this qualification? This course provides students an opportunity to prepare them for a possible career within the Performing Arts sector. Having studied this course you may go on to the following pathways: BTEC National Higher in Performing Arts, BTEC National Higher, Degree in Drama Degree in Performing Arts, working in the performing arts sector, work in live entertainment.

Is there any other information I need to know? It would be useful for applicants to have a degree of confidence in public speaking as there is a performance element to the course. Good communication and team work skills are essential. Candidates must have an interest in theatre and live performance as attending plays is a key part of the course.

Subject: Physics

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The course is for students who may enjoy exploring and justifying what we observe around us. It involves linking the (macroscopic) properties of an object or substance as a whole to the (microscopic) properties of its constituents, and also trying to explain the interaction between particles.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 1451

What will I learn? You will learn about Particles, Quantum Phenomena, Electricity, Mechanics, Materials and Waves. The students will gain an awareness of the on-going development of new ideas in physics and of the application of in-depth knowledge of well-established topics such as electricity. Particle physics introduces students to the fundamental properties and nature of matter, radiation and quantum phenomena. Materials are studied in terms of their bulk properties and tensile strength. The properties and applications of waves, including refraction, diffraction, superposition and interference. Unit 3 focuses on developing investigative and practical skills of potential Physicists.

What Units will I study?

AS Unit 1: Particles, quantum phenomena and electricity

AS Unit 2: Mechanics, materials and waves

AS Unit 3: Investigative and practical skills in AS Physics

How will I learn?

You will learn through a wide range of methodologies including:

- practical work /educational visits
- teacher exposition and demonstration
- individual tasks / group-work / problem solving
- homework / past exam questions / research
- personal study through the press, internet and specialist publications such as New Scientist.

How will I be assessed?

- Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.
- Summative assessment will be through two (1 hour and 15 minutes) module tests of compulsory questions, each worth 40% of the total AS mark.
- 20% is awarded internally on a student's practical ability.

How can I progress with this qualification?

Students who achieve a grade 'D' or better can progress to A2 Physics. As a consequence of its direct and indirect relevance to so many areas, a study of AS Physics will assist access to a range of degree courses and careers ranging from Engineering to Optometry and from Computer Science to Medicine.

Is there any other information I need to know? A grade 'B' or better at GCSE Physics or GCSE Additional Science is required for entry onto this course. A sound mathematical ability will help a student to progress in this course.

Subject: Physics

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who have successfully achieved grade D, or higher in the AS Level Physics course.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 2451

What will I learn?

You will learn about Fields and Further Mechanics, Nuclear Physics and Thermal Physics. In Mechanics you will study oscillatory motion and effects of gravitation. Electric and magnetic fields are also covered, together with basic electromagnetic induction. In Nuclear Physics, the nucleus, the properties of unstable nuclei and how energy is obtained from the nucleus are studied including the thermal properties of materials and the properties and nature of gases.

What Units will I study?

A2 Unit 4: Fields and further mechanics

A2 Unit 5: Nuclear Physics, Thermal Physics and a Physics Option

A2 Unit 6: Investigative and Practical Skills in A2 Physics

How will I learn?

You will continue to learn through similar methodologies to the AS Level course. However written tasks, problems and exam questions will be more challenging to allow access to the A* grade and you will be expected to engage in more independent learning to prepare for university education.

How will I be assessed?

- Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.
- Summative assessment is by means of two (1 hour 45 minutes) module tests of compulsory questions. These are each worth 20% of the total mark.
- 10% of the total mark is based on the Year 13 internally assessed practical work.
- The remaining 50 % of marks come from the AS Level course.

How can I progress with this qualification?

As a consequence of its direct and indirect relevance to so many areas, a study of A Level Physics will assist access to a range of degree courses and careers ranging from Engineering to Optometry and from Computer Science to Medicine.

Is there any other information I need to know?

A grade 'D' at AS Level in this subject is required to progress from the AS Level to the A Level.

Subject: Psychology

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The course is for students who are interested in the processes, motives, reactions and nature of the human mind. Students should be well motivated and prepared to work independently as this is an independent learning course requiring students to have significant self-motivation.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 1181

What will I learn? You will learn to understand why people behave the way they do and how psychologists analyse and theorise about human behaviour. Subjects you will study include Cognitive psychology, (including memory and eyewitness testimony), Developmental psychology, (including early social development, attachment and the effects of day care). You will learn about Research methods in the context of the topic areas. You will also learn about Biological psychology (including stress, factors affecting stress, coping with stress and managing stress) and Social psychology (including majority and minority influence, obedience and independent behaviour).

What Units will I study?

AS Unit 1: Cognitive Psychology, Development Psychology and Research Methods

AS Unit 2: Biological Psychology, Social Psychology and Individual Differences

How will I learn?

You will learn through a wide range of methodologies including:

- practical work / field studies / educational visits
- teacher exposition and demonstration
- individual tasks / group-work / problem solving
- homework / past exam questions / research

How will I be assessed?

- Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework, and regular tests.
- Summative assessment will occur through two external exams to be sat in May. Each written examination is 1 ½ hours in length and contributes 50 % of the marks for the AS-Level. (NB. This is the Psychology A specification).

How can I progress with this qualification?

Students who achieve a grade 'D' or better can progress to A2 Psychology.

Is there any other information I need to know?

At least a grade B at GCSE is required for students to access this course.

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who have successfully achieved grade 'D', or higher, in the AS Level Psychology who wish to carry on their study of the subject.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 2181

What will I learn?

Your study of the A2 course will expand on the AS topics which bring together explanations from different psychological approaches and will engage you in issues and debates in psychology.

What Units will I study?

A2 Unit 3: Topics in Psychology

A2 Unit 4: Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods

How will I learn?

You will learn through a wide range of methodologies including:

- practical work / field studies / educational visits
- teacher exposition and demonstration
- individual tasks / group-work / problem solving
- homework / past exam questions / research

How will I be assessed?

- Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through the students class work and homework and through weekly tests.
- Summative assessment will be through two external exams with PYA3 (1 ½ hours) sat in January and PYA4 (2 hours) sat in June – each are worth 25 % of the A Level marks.
- The remaining 50 % of marks are obtained from the AS Level course.

How can I progress with this qualification? Universities accept A Level Psychology as a Science subject and is an excellent foundation for a very wide range of degree courses. It is also an asset to careers in health/welfare, medicine, law, teaching, marketing, human resources, general management, the police and the media. Indeed, there is hardly a career that would not benefit from some knowledge of psychology.

Is there any other information I need to know?

A grade 'D' at AS Level in this subject is required to progress from the AS Level to the A Level.

Subject: Religious Studies

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

It is for students who want to develop their understanding of how religion influences modern society and thought, or wish to study Religious Studies out of personal interest or who feel it will help them in the future. It is a course well-respected by Universities, and a knowledge of Religious Studies is an advantage in many career paths.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 8RS01

What will I learn?

Designed to encourage an interest in and enthusiasm for a rigorous study of religion, our GCE RS specification will enable students to develop an insight into areas of knowledge, belief and thought, central to an understanding of the modern world. Through a study of philosophy and two of the world's major religions, students will gain a range of knowledge and skills that will help them make sense of contemporary events.

What Units will I study?

AS Unit 1: **Foundations:** Philosophy of Religion, Sikhism and Islam.

AS Unit 2: **Investigations:** Students research in depth from a range of topics.

How will I learn?

- Teacher-led classroom teaching including lectures and Power Point presentations
- Visits to places of worship
- Individual tasks / group-work / problem solving
- Homework / past exam questions / research
- Personal study through the internet and published materials

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment will be through two externally set examinations:

- Unit 1: One written paper of 1 ¾ hours (50 % of AS-Level marks)
- Unit 2: One written paper of 1 ¼ hours (50 % of AS-Level marks)

How can I progress with this qualification?

A grade 'D' or better at AS level allows progression onto the A2 Course. If you choose not to study this at A2 level it will still be a valuable resource for study of other Degree level subjects such as Philosophy, Ethics and Sociology.

Is there any other information I need to know?

A minimum grade 'C' in English at GCSE is required to study this course.

Subject: Religious Studies

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who have successfully achieved grade 'D' or higher in the AS-Level Religious Studies course and who wish to continue their studies further to gain a deeper understanding of the topics.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 9RS01

What will I learn?

Philosophy of Religion in this unit comprises further study of philosophical arguments about the existence of God and selected problems in the philosophy of religion. This includes beliefs about life after death: reincarnation; rebirth; resurrection; immortality of the soul; a study of religious language: analogy; language games; myth and symbol; verification and falsification debates. In Sikhism and Islam students will study from selected texts developing a deeper understanding of religious belief and expression. Students will also study a related topic of their choice in the Implication unit.

What Units will I study?

A2 Unit 3: Developments Philosophy of Religion, Sikhism and Islam.

A2 Unit 4: Implications An in-depth study of a related topic

How will I learn?

Students will continue to learn through similar methodologies to the AS-level course. However written tasks and exam questions will be more challenging to allow access to the A* grade and you will be expected to engage in more independent learning to prepare for university education. Unit 4 involves more independent study and will strengthen your research skills.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment will be through two externally set examination papers:

- Unit 3: One written paper of 1 ¾ hours (25 % of A-Level marks).
- Unit 4: One written paper of 1 ¼ hours (25 % of A-Level marks).
- The remaining 50 % of the marks come from the AS-Level course.

How can I progress with this qualification?

Whilst providing a basis for those who wish to continue Religious Studies at degree level, the skills developed in this qualification will also be useful for most academic courses and recognised by all employers.

Is there any other information I need to know?

The Implications unit gives you the opportunity to explore a topic independently under the supervision of a teacher. A grade D is required to progress onto this course from AS Level Religious Studies.

Subject: Science

Qualification: BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

This two year course is for students wish to carry on with their study of Science in the Sixth Form, but who prefer a more vocational, work-related approach to learning than occurs in the A Levels. This course is entirely coursework based and requires students to be consistently hard working and meeting assessment deadlines to be successful. Students should have achieved at least a MERIT int their L2 BTEC Applied Science or equivalent qualification. Students will need to be committed to their two year course.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 500/6725/4

What will I learn? The BTEC course is vocational and looks to train the learner in a number of areas of applied science. Learners will develop vocational practical skills and knowledge of techniques and the subject through carrying out practical investigations.

What Units will I study?

Core units:

Unit 1: Fundamentals of Science;

Unit 2: Working in the Science Industry;

Unit 4: Scientific Practical Techniques

3 optional units

Unit:11 Physiology of the human body system

Unit:12 Physiology of Human Regulation and reproduction

Unit:15 Microbiological techniques

How will I learn?

- Doing research
Practical work and educational visits
- Teacher demonstration
- Individual tasks / group-work / problem solving
- Homework to complete the tasks set
- Personal study through the press, textbooks and the Internet.

How will I be assessed?

This is based on continuous Practical assessments, with deadlines.

How can I progress with this qualification?

Learners wishing to pursue a career in science will gain a general understanding of all the main sciences, including basic practical techniques.

Is there any other information I need to know?

This course is equivalent to 1 A Level and is a two year course. Minimum entry requirement is a merit at level 2 Science BTEC Diploma or a Grade C in GCSE Additional Science. Grade C at GCSE English is also required.

Subject: Sociology

Qualification: AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? This course is for students who have an interest in studying the individual and society. It is an appropriate course for those who wish to broaden their horizons and develop skills that will be applicable and useful across the range of Arts and Sciences.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 1191

What will I learn?

You will learn about the impact of social groups including whole societies and international and global groups. Examples of areas you will consider include the relationship of the family to the social structure, domestic labour and power relationships, the nature of childhood, demographic trends, the role and purpose of education, differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society, relationships and processes in schools (with particular reference to teacher / pupil relationships, educational policies, application of sociological research to the study of education).

What Units will I study?

Unit 1: Families and Households

Unit 2: Education plus research methods

How will I learn?

- Teacher-led classroom teaching including lectures and Power Point presentations
- Visits to places of worship
- Individual tasks / group-work / problem solving
- Homework / past exam questions / research
- Personal study through the internet and published materials

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment will be through two externally set examination papers:

- Unit 1: One written paper of 1 hour (40 % of AS-Level marks).
- Unit 2: One written paper of 2 hours (60 % of AS-Level marks).

How can I progress with this qualification?

A grade D at AS-Level will permit continuation of the course through to A Level. Sociology develops skills and knowledge that will be appropriate to most university course and all careers.

Is there any other information I need to know?

A grade C English Language is the minimum entry requirement for this course.

Subject: Sociology

Qualification: A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? This course is for students who have achieved at least a grade D in their AS-Level Sociology course and wish to find out more about this vibrant and stimulating area of academic study.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 2191

What will I learn?

You will learn about different theories of ideology, science and religion. You will consider the relationship between religious beliefs and social change and stability. Within your studies you will look at a range of religious organisations, including sects, cults, denominations, churches and the New Age movement and their relationship to religious and spiritual belief and practice. You will also find out about different theories of crime, deviance, social order and social control with analysis of the social distribution of crime by age, ethnicity, gender, locality and social class. Crime control, prevention and punishment along with sociological studies of suicide are topics that will provide further academic consideration.

What Units will I study?

Unit 3: Beliefs in Society

Unit 4: Crime and Deviance plus Theory and Methods

How will I learn? Students will continue to learn through similar methodologies to the AS-level course. However written tasks and exam questions will be more challenging to allow access to the new A* grade and you will be expected to engage in more independent learning to prepare for university education. Unit 4 involves more independent study and will strengthen your research skills.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment will be through two externally set examination papers:

- Unit 3: One written paper of 1 ½ hours (20 % of A-Level marks).
- Unit 4: One written paper of 2 hours (30 % of AS-Level marks).
- The remaining 50 % of marks are provided from the AS-Level.

How can I progress with this qualification?

Sociology develops skills and knowledge that are applicable in all careers and can be relevant to most university courses. It has particularly strong links in Academic Research, Advertising, Law, Politics, Criminology, police, Probation, Teaching, Social Work, Youth Services, Media and Journalism.

Is there any other information I need to know?

A grade D from the AS-Level is the minimum entry requirement for this course.

Subject: Sport

Qualification: BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

This course is for students who have successfully achieved a MERIT or higher at level 2 BTEC Sport or equivalent courses. Students must have an interest in Practical Sport, sports business/ management, working in the leisure industry. Students must have a commitment to a two year course.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 500/6751/5

What will I learn?

The BTEC course is a vocational course that looks at providing students with specialist work-related qualifications. Students will have the opportunity to develop a range of techniques, personal skills and attributes that are necessary for performing successfully in one of the occupational areas of sport. These include exercise and fitness, coaching and leadership and sports development depending on which specific specialist pathway you chose.

What Units will I study?

Compulsory Units: Unit 1: Principles of Anatomy and Physiology in Sport; Unit 2: The Physiology of Fitness; Unit 3: Assessing Risk in Sport Mandatory Specialist Units: Unit 7 Fitness Testing For Sport and Exercise. Plus 3 optional Units.

How will I learn?

Students will receive 5 hours allocated teaching time per week. These will consist of practical sessions so requiring FULL PE KIT, investigations, research, lectures, presentations, videos/DVD's, worksheets and visits depending on the unit being studied. There will be a great emphasis on working as a team which will involve observations, analysis, evaluations and feedback.

How will I be assessed?

The BTEC course is assessed through several pieces of written work in various forms such as reports/ presentations, evidence of practical performance through observations, DVD, VIDEON and photographs and group discussions. The work is internally moderated and then checked externally. Students will not be required to sit an examination at the end of the course as assessments take place throughout the course.

How can I progress with this qualification?

This course provides students with the opportunity to prepare them for a career in sport either in exercise and fitness industry, coaching and leadership, management/business and sports development. Students will learn about safe practice through risk assessment, researching health + safety procedures and measuring fitness levels. Development of skills and techniques which can be used to coach.

Is there any other information I need to know?

Applicants must have FULL PE KIT, enjoy practical sport, have a good level of performance in sport, good communication skills, confident and have good team work skills and be interested in all aspects of sport

Subject: Urdu

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The course is for students who have an interest in developing their competence in the Urdu language. You should have achieved a GCSE pass at grade A* - C or equivalent although if you do not have the relevant level of qualification, we can assess your knowledge and understanding and make a decision based on that information.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 8UR01

What will I learn? You will concentrate on the following four skills:

1. Listening - listen to and demonstrate an understanding of the spoken word either directly in class or through the use of tapes.
2. Speaking - speak in the language, responding orally to questions asked and taking part in a variety of role-play situations.
3. Reading - read and show understanding of the language in a number of ways.
4. Writing - write in response to a variety of stimuli, including form filling and letter writing.

What Units will I study?

Unit 1 – Spoken Expression and Response in Urdu. Students must demonstrate that they can engage in a discussion in Urdu that relates to a general topic area chosen in advance from the following either (i) Youth culture and concerns; (ii) Lifestyle: health and fitness (iii) The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Urdu-speaking world (iv) Education and employment.

Unit 2 – Understanding and Written Response in Urdu. This unit requires students to understand and convey their understanding of Urdu texts and recordings, and demonstrate an ability to manipulate the Urdu language in continuous writing, using the topic areas listed in Unit 1

How will I learn? You will be involved in a variety of activities including discussion, essay-writing, translating, delivering presentations and listening to a range of authentic recorded Urdu-language material to retrieve and convey information.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment will be through two externally set examinations:

- Unit 1 – Spoken assessment: response to questions and discussion.
- Unit 2 – 2.5 hour paper: listening, reading and writing.

How can I progress with this qualification?

Students who achieve a grade 'D' or better can progress to A2 Urdu.

Is there any other information I need to know?

A grade 'B' or better at GCSE Urdu will usually be required for entry onto this course.

Subject: Urdu

Qualification: GCE A Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who have successfully achieved grade 'D' or higher in the AS-Level Urdu course and who wish to continue their studies of the Urdu language further.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 9UR01

What will I learn? You will concentrate on developing the following four skills further:

1. Listening - listen to and demonstrate an understanding of the spoken word either directly in class or through the use of tapes.
2. Speaking - speak in the language, responding orally to questions asked and taking part in a variety of role-play situations.
3. Reading - read and show understanding of the language in a number of ways.
4. Writing - write in response to a variety of stimuli, including form filling and letter writing.

What Units will I study?

Unit 3 – Understanding and Spoken Response in Urdu

This unit requires students to demonstrate the effectiveness of their Urdu-language skills by presenting and taking a clear stance on any issue of their choice.

Unit 4 – Research, Understanding and Written Response in Urdu

This unit requires students to demonstrate advanced level Urdu writing skills and translation from English into Urdu. Students must also demonstrate evidence of independent reading and research of a chosen text, play, film or topic area that links to the culture of an Urdu-speaking country or community. The content of the unit is linked to the topic areas listed in Unit 1 plus the following:-

How will I learn?

You will be involved in a variety of activities including discussion, essay-writing, translating, delivering presentations and listening to a range of authentic recorded Urdu-language material to retrieve and convey information.

How will I be assessed? Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment will be through two externally set examination papers:

- Unit 3 – Spoken assessment: discussion.
- Unit 4 – 2.5 hour paper: translation and essay-writing.
- The remaining 50 % of the marks come from the AS Level course.

How can I progress with this qualification? Language skills open up many interesting career opportunities. Traditionally, language specialists have worked as translators, interpreters and teachers, but there are many other fields in which their skills are highly valued. These include business (eg export sales, bilingual PA), journalism, travel and transport (eg tour guide, air cabin crew, freight forwarder), civil service.

Is there any other information I need to know? A grade 'D' at AS-level in this subject is required to progress from the AS-level to the A-level. This A Level is recognised for university entry, as well as for the Institute of Linguists Bilingual Certificate for Translation and Interpretation.

Collaborative Courses at Level 3

Handsworth Wood Girls' School is working with a number of partner schools and colleges to offer a range of courses in addition to the ones on site. Transport will be provided by the school to get to the other course locations, and to return at the end of the session. The additional courses known to be available now are listed below and further information will be available on these later in the year. Courses offered at HWGS may also be available at another centre if the combination you wish is not possible at HWGS alone. More courses may be available at a later date. If you have any queries or courses that you would be keen to see run, please speak to Dr. Hylands.

A Level Economics

A Level Geography (Co-taught by Handsworth Wood Girls' School and Holyhead School)

A Level Engineering

A Level French (Co-taught by Handsworth Wood Girls' School and Holyhead School)

A Level Music Technology (Co-taught by Handsworth Wood Girls' School and NW CLC)

CORE SUBJECTS – Level 2

The Level 2 subjects we offer, dependent upon staffing and student numbers, from September 2010 are:

GCSEs (One year course for each)

Additional Science	Grade E GCSE Science / GCSE Additional Science
Art	Proven ability from portfolio of three pieces
English Language	Grade E GCSE English
Functional Skills English	Grade G GCSE English
Mathematics	Grade E GCSE Maths
Urdu	Proven ability

Level 2 BTECs

Art	Grade B GCSE Art / Grade Merit BTEC Art
Child Development	Grade E GCSE English.
Health and Social Care	Grade E GCSE English
Science	Grade E GCSE Science / GCSE Additional Science
WorkSkills	Grade E English

All courses are offered conditional upon groups having viable numbers, and governors reserve the right to withdraw groups / subjects without notice.

Subject: GCSE Additional Science

Qualification: GCSE

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

This course is for students who have not achieved GCSE Additional Science at grade 'C' or above.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: GCSE 4460

What will I learn?

You will learn key aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics which would provide a good grounding to progress onto an A-Level course of study in a Science.

What Units will I study?

B2: Biology
C2: Chemistry
P2: Physics
An Investigative Skills Unit.

How will I learn? You will learn through a wide range of methodologies including:

- practical work
- teacher exposition and demonstration
- individual tasks / group-work / problem solving
- homework / past exam questions / research
- personal study through the press, internet and specialist publications such as New Scientist.

How will I be assessed?

B2: One 45 minute written paper: 25 % of GCSE marks.

C2: One 45 minute written paper: 25 % of GCSE marks.

P2: One 45 minute written paper: 25 % of GCSE marks.

Centre Assesses Unit: Practical work followed by an assessed 45 minute written test. Also a holistic practical skills assessment.

How can I progress with this qualification?

GCSE Additional Science provides a pathway for Level 3 qualifications in Science such as A-Level Biology, Chemistry or Physics or BTEC Applied Science.

Is there any other information I need to know?

You will need either a grade 'E' at GCSE or a pass at L2 BTEC Applied Science to access this course.

Subject: Art and Design

Qualification: BTEC Level 2 First

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

For full time learners to gain a better understanding of the art and design sector which can help you obtain employment in this sector or to progress to a Level 3 vocational qualification, such as BTEC Level 3 National in Art & Design.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number:

What will I learn?

This course will give you the opportunity to develop a range of skills, techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for the successful performance of working life.

What Units will I study?

The BTEC Level 2 First Art & Design structure gives you the flexibility to select specialist units where you can build a programme that will best meet the requirements, your needs and interests.

How will I learn?

You will complete one of the following structures.

Certificate	Extended certificate	Diploma
15 credits	30 credits.	60 credits.
One mandatory unit. Two optional units	Three mandatory units. Optional units that provide a total of 10 credits .	Six mandatory units. Optional units that provide a total of 20 credits .
Equivalent to one GCSE.	Equivalent to two GCSE	Equivalent to four GCSE

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by a series of assignments that you will complete throughout your course. Evidence submitted by you for assessment must adhere to Handsworth Wood Girls' School and Edexcel verification processes.

How can I progress with this qualification?

For full time learners who will gain a better understanding of the art and design sector which can help you obtain employment in this sector or to progress to a Level 3 vocational qualification, such as BTEC Level 3 National in Art & Design.

Is there any other information I need to know?

You will be encouraged to take responsibility for your learning and achievement

Subject: Art and Design

Qualification: GCSE

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who wish to develop their creative skills who have no previous experience of Art and Design at Key Stage 4. A minimum of 3 pieces of well-completed Art work showing 3 different disciplines will need to be submitted in time for interview. This will be used to assess student ability and suitability to the course.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 2AD01

What will I learn?

Students will learn how to generate and develop ideas whilst refining, experimenting and developing creative skills. Students will be expected to research, record, analyse and review their own work and the work of others as well as creating, realising and presenting their own personally developed outcomes.

What Units will I study?

GCSE Unit 1: Personal Portfolio in Art and Design.

GCSE Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment in Art and Design.

How will I learn?

Learning and attainment in art is achieved through the creative development of process, production, reflection and evaluation, leading towards skills, knowledge and understanding.

How will I be assessed?

- Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through assessed tasks.
- Summative assessment will be through:
 - The production of portfolio of work during the course (worth 60% of the overall grade) internally assessed.
 - A controlled 10 hour assignment from Edexcel (worth 40% of the overall grade).

How can I progress with this qualification?

Completion of the GCSE Art and Design course will prepare students for AS/Advanced GCE, BTEC nationals and other Art and Design qualifications.

Is there any other information I need to know?

Subject: Early learning and Child Care **Qualification:** CACHE Level 2 Certificate for the Children and young people's workforce

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School and workplace settings

Who is the course for? The level 2 certificate for CYPW is for students who wish to work with children and young people in a variety of settings and environments within the sector of children's services. This qualification will prepare you to work in a supervised capacity. The course will also provide students opportunities to link theory to practice by carrying out practical training in appropriate settings.

Awarding Body: CACHE

Specification Number: 500/9623/0

What will I learn? You will gain knowledge, understanding and skills that you will need to enter employment and work with young children and their families or it will help you progress onto a Level 3 study pathway. Some of these are listed below:

Communication

Health and safety

Personal development

supporting children and young people

Equality and inclusion

positive environments for children

Children's and young people development

partnership working in services

Safeguarding the welfare of children

paediatric – first aid

Maintain and support relationships with children

paediatric- illness and injury

Supporting positive behaviour

What Units will I study? You will need to study units with a total value of at least 35 credits.

- 10 mandatory units worth a credit value of 31 credits.
- 2 optional units worth a credit value of at least 4 credits.

How will I learn? You will be involved in a variety of activities including discussions, assignment writing and presentations. You will learn through a range of methods,

- Practical work experience in care settings
- Individual task / group work
- Research and personal study

How will I be assessed?

- Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework.
- You will be assessed through written assignments set by CACHE and also in real work environments by qualified vocational assessors.

How can I progress with this qualification? On completion of this course students will have the opportunity to progress to a level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young people's workforce qualification.

This course also allows students to progress into various job roles such as;

Assistant playgroup workers

Assistants in children's centres

Assistants in day nurseries, nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools.

Registered child-minders and nannies

Is there any other information I need to know? You will need to complete a CRB check before you begin your placement and should apply for this by July 2012. The cost of your CRB check will be refunded to you once you have started the course.

Subject: English Language

Qualification: GCSE

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? This course is for students who have not achieved GCSE English Language at grade 'C' or above. This is an essential qualification for students wishing to achieve employment or who wish to study at FE or University.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: GCSE 4707

What will I learn?

This course allows students to demonstrate their ability to use English in real life contexts. Students focus on investigative and analytical approaches to language, themes and issues presented in a range of genres. Moreover, they make apt comments based on personal experience. Students will learn to listen and speak confidently, in a range of contexts. They will also learn to write imaginatively and persuasively, by experimenting with language, to create texts that are fitting to audience, purpose and format. Students are introduced to the analysis of spoken language; they learn to investigate how spoken language works to persuade and inform others of a particular viewpoint.

What Units will I study?

GCSE Unit 1: Understanding and producing non-fiction texts — [External Examination]

GCSE Unit 2: Speaking and Listening — [Controlled Assessment]

GCSE Unit 3: Understanding spoken and written texts and writing creatively — [Con. Ass.]

How will I learn?

UNIT 1: Students will learn to develop an understanding of a range of non-fiction texts. They learn to identify the writers' craft and apply these skills to their own writing (in a variety of genres), for different audiences and purposes. **UNIT 2:** Students will be assessed on three speaking and listening activities; one task in each of the following categories: Presenting, Discussing and Listening and role play. **UNIT 3:** This unit contains three parts: Part 'A' — Understanding written texts (extended reading); Part 'B' — Producing creative texts (creative writing) and, Part 'C' — Demonstration of knowledge of how spoken and written language evolve, in response to changes in society / technology.

How will I be assessed?

UNIT 1: (*Worth 40% of GCSE*) 2 hours written examination, [80 marks]. At Higher Tier, students answer four compulsory questions based on three reading sources. At Foundation Tier, students answer five compulsory questions, based on three shorter reading sources. **UNIT 2:** (*Worth 20% of GCSE*) Oral [45 marks]. Students are assessed on three oral activities. **UNIT 3:** (*40% of GCSE*) 3 - 4 hours written examination [80 marks]. Part 'A' — Students choose one extended text, they must analyse and comment on key ideas in detail. Part 'B' — Students choose two tasks for writing creatively. Part 'C' — Spoken language study: Choose one task from a bank of titles.

How can I progress with this qualification?

GCSE is an essential qualification for progression to employment, further education and university. GCSE English Language specifically provides a route to progress to A-Level studies.

Is there any other information I need to know? To gain a GCSE, Grade 'C' in this subject, prepares students for, and provides access to a wide range of 'A' Level courses. It is an entrance requirement for most University courses.

Subject: Health and Social Care **Qualification:** BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School and workplace settings.

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who have an interest in the care industry, such as working with children, adults with learning difficulties, disabled people, old people and people who are vulnerable and need care, either in their own home or in a care home. The course is also ideal for those following a career path into the health sector.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 500/8217/6

What will I learn? You will learn:

- Key knowledge and practical skills required in the Health and Social Care sector.
- To be able to communicate and interact effectively.
- To know the factors that contribute to a diverse and equal society and the principles and values which underpin support given to individuals.
- To understand the factors that influence the health and wellbeing needs of individuals.
- To know the main principles of health and safety legislation for health and social care environments.
- To understand factors that influence the equality of opportunity for individuals in society.
- To have basic knowledge and understanding of the human body and how it works.
- To understand the different care needs of individuals at different life stages.

What Units will I study?

You will study 2 mandatory units plus 2 optional units to provide a total of 30 credits:

Unit 1 Communication in Health and Social Care.

Unit 4 Ensuring Safe Environments in Health and Social Care

Unit 7 Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care.

Unit 8 Human Lifespan Development.

How will I learn? You will learn through a range of methods:

Individual task / group work

Research and personal study.

How will I be assessed?

In BTEC, all units are internally assessed. All assessment is criterion referenced based on the achievement of specified learning outcomes. A summative unit grade can be awarded at Pass, Merit or Distinction.

How can I progress with this qualification?

You can progress onto the Level 3 programme; BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Health and Social Care or the BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Health and Social Care.

Is there any other information I need to know?

The qualification prepares learners for employment in the appropriate vocational sectors.

Subject: ICT

Qualification: L2 OCR National in ICT

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

This course is for students who would like to obtain a Level 2 qualification in ICT or continue their previous learning in the subject. Some students respond better to continual assessment rather than exams and the OCR Nationals let students of every ability gain qualifications that represent their true understanding and ability. Continual assessment and learning support gives students clear ongoing indications of their progress, which will help them to achieve real success.

Awarding Body: OCR

Specification Number: 06324

What will I learn?

Students develop skills, knowledge and understanding in contexts that are directly relevant to employment situations, thereby enhancing their employability within the Information and Communication Technology sector.

What Units will I study?

Unit 1 ICT Skills for Business

Unit 2 Web page creation.

Unit 4 Multimedia products.

Unit 20 Creating Animation using ICT

Unit 21 Creating Computer Graphics

Unit 23 Creating Video

How will I learn?

OCR Nationals ICT is an eportfolio based course with an emphasis on practical skills. Assessment is entirely through coursework. Students are expected to work to the set deadlines and to work at home when required. You will acquire the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding to create, develop and present high-quality work.

How and when will I be assessed?

Units are first internally assessed and standardised then an OCR Visiting Moderator will externally moderate a sample during a visit. **There are no external tests or exams**, and ongoing assessments and moderations can take place at any time. Units are graded Pass, Merit or Distinction. Awards and Certificates are graded in the same way. Each unit is certificated individually and full award certificates are issued automatically when the candidate completes the required number of units.

How can I progress with this qualification?

The OCR Nationals ICT qualification is very well suited to developing broader opportunities for students to progress into higher education or employment. It prepares students for further study of ICT at AS and A2 level.

Is there any other information I need to know?

In the age we live in, ICT capabilities are essential to success in all areas of life. For this reason OCR Nationals ICT sits well with almost all other subjects chosen at Level 2.

Subject: Mathematics

Qualification: GCSE

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

The course is for students who have achieved grade E, or higher, at GCSE Mathematics who wish to re-sit their Mathematics GCSE to improve on their previous grade.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 1MA0

What will I learn?

You will learn skills in Mathematics including number, algebra, Shape space & measures and Handling data.

What Units will I study?

Edexcel Linear GCSE Higher Syllabus

How will I learn?

Ten one hour lessons per fortnight. You will learn in teacher led lessons, paired/group work, problem solving activities and individual tasks as well as independent learning.

How will I be assessed?

- Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.
- Summative assessment will be through internally set mock exam. The external exam will consist of two 1h 45mins papers (one calculator and one non calculator paper).

How can I progress with this qualification?

Students who achieve a grade 'B' or better can progress to AS Mathematics. GCSE Mathematics is a requirement of many jobs and for accessing a majority of Higher Education courses.

Is there any other information I need to know?

A grade E at GCSE is required to access this course.

Subject: Urdu

Qualification: GCSE

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? This course is offered to those who already have some knowledge of the spoken language and who wish to improve by learning the written aspects of the subject. It is also ideal for those wanting to improve their previous GCSE grade. An individual assessment of a potential student's abilities in reading, writing, listening and speaking Urdu will determine their suitability for the course.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: 2UR01

What will I learn?

You will derive enjoyment and benefit from language learning, and be inspired, moved and changed by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study.

You will learn to:

- develop understanding of the language in a variety of contexts
- develop knowledge of the language and language learning skills
- develop the ability to communicate effectively in the language
- develop awareness and understanding of countries and communities where the language is spoken.

What Units will I study?

- Speaking
- Listening
- Writing
- Reading

How will I learn? You will be involved in a variety of activities including discussion, essay-writing, translating, delivering presentations and listening to a range of authentic recorded Urdu-language material to retrieve and convey information.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment will be through:

1. Listening and understanding in Urdu – 40 minutes external exam – 20 %
2. Speaking in Urdu – 2 x 4-6 minute internal assessments – externally moderated – 30 %.
3. Reading and understanding in Urdu - 50 minute external exam – 20 %.
4. Writing in Urdu – Two controlled assessments – 1 hour each – 30 %.

How can I progress with this qualification?

Students who achieve a grade 'B' or better can progress to AS-Level Urdu.

Is there any other information I need to know?

This course is for students who have significant experience of the Urdu language. It is unsuitable for learners who wish to start learning Urdu.

Subject: WorkSkills

Qualification: Level 2 / 3 BTEC

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The course is for students who wish to develop a range of employability skills, techniques, personal qualities and attributes that are essential for successful performance in working life. The course will also provide many opportunities for students to focus on developing their functional skills in English, Mathematics and ICT which will support their learning on other courses. The course will help students to progress from a Level 2 to a Level 3 level of learning and study.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification Number: N/A

What will I learn? You will gain knowledge, understanding and skills that you will need to enter employment or that will help you progress onto a Level 3 study pathway. Your learning will include how to research and apply for jobs in different ways, how to develop your personal skills such as working in a team, how to summarise documents, how to solve work-related problems and much more. Your learning will be structured in such a way as to support you in moving from a Level 2 to a Level 3 approach to study.

What Units will I study?

Units for your course will be chosen from 30 available at Level 2 and 20 at Level 3. The number of units and level at which they are taken will affect the level and type of award that you get. This is a personalised approach to learning that will help students to maximise their potential whilst on this course. Students will be able to achieve a qualification which might range in value from one to four GCSEs, or the equivalent of an AS-Level.

How will I learn?

You will be involved in a variety of activities including discussion, essay-writing, group-work, interviews, presentations, event preparation.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework.

Summative assessment is through completion of a range of assessed tasks that are done throughout the course. All assessments have clear criteria that need to be met in order to pass the assessment. There are no formal exams in this course although some assessment criteria can be met through setting of tests.

How can I progress with this qualification? Completion of this course will provide skills that will be useful in all careers and study. Completion of an Award or Certificate in WorkSkills provides UCAS points towards University entrance.

Is there any other information I need to know?

WorkSkills will be a **compulsory** element of the Level 2 pathways unless students are studying for a Level 2 CACHE qualification.

ENRICHMENT SUBJECTS

Whilst the academic or vocational subjects already presented in this guide are crucial in providing preparation for university, further education or employment they are in themselves often not enough, especially in the challenging times we are now in. It is important to broaden the post-16 curriculum to include social, recreational, technological and community based aspects of education – so that every student has the opportunity to present themselves as well-rounded individuals. Within the Sixth Form enrichment curriculum you will be expected to study one of the subjects below or one's yet to be announced or to take part in a school or community based activity. The breadth for which we strive reflects Government intentions. When making subject choices, a student should remember that many Universities are looking for *breadth* of study especially in Year 12.

Many of the courses below attract UCAS points for entry onto University courses or in the case of the YASS or HEMiS Level 4 courses are likely to lead to lower offers. The list below is not a final list and additional courses are likely to be available.

Details follow for:

Level 3 Certificate in Personal Education (COPE)

Ipswich Level 3 Certificate in Financial Studies

AS Level Extended Project

Cambridge Pre-U Level 3 Certificate in Global Perspectives and Independent Research

European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL)

HEMiS Level 4 University Modules at Wolverhampton University

YASS Level 4 University Modules through the Open University

In addition we are considering the extent of the inclusion of the following enrichment courses and activities and will provide further information at a later date on courses or activities that we are able to offer:

Sporting Activities

First Aid

Community work in and out of school

Mentoring

Young International Leaders Award

Junior Arts Leader Award

Speech and Drama Qualifications (LAMDA)

Subject: Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (COPE)

Qualification: Level 3 COPE

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for?

CoPE Level 3 is primarily intended for students in post-16 education and offers an ideal solution to the accreditation of the wider activities frequently undertaken as a central part of the post-16 experience. It is most appropriate for students in Year 12 as it is likely completion of the challenges will require two years.

Awarding Body: ASDAN

Specification Number:

What will I learn?

CoPE provides a framework for the development, assessment and accreditation of generic and wider key skills and wider activities, through a nationally recognised qualification at Level 3. The qualification offers imaginative ways of accrediting young people's activities. They promote, and allow centres to record, a wide range of personal qualities, abilities and achievements of young people, as well as introducing them to new activities and challenges.

What Units will I study? Students choose challenges from the following six modules:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Active Citizenship | 4. Work Related Activities |
| 2. Career Planning | 5. Global Awareness |
| 3. Enrichment Activities | 6. Extended Project |

How will I learn?

Students gain credits for challenges completed, with two credits awarded for 20 hours of activity, three credits for 30 hours and five credits for 50 hours. Students must gain a minimum of 15 credits to complete the full qualification, choosing challenges from at least three modules. Challenges may be very diverse: examples might include learning to drive, organising an event, presentations at a parents evening or running a Young Enterprise company.

How will I be assessed?

Students produce a portfolio of evidence, which should demonstrate competence in the Wider Key Skills (Working with Others, Improving Own Learning and Performance and Problem Solving) at Level 3 and the units Planning and Carrying Out Research, Communicating through Discussion and Planning and Giving an Oral Presentation at Level 3.

How can I progress with this qualification?

CoPE is a well recognised qualification for university entrance which contributes 70 UCAS points – the equivalent of A* for a half-A-Level.

Is there any other information I need to know?

Students embarking on this course should be prepared to spend a substantial amount of time outside of lessons working on challenges, including during their vacations!

Subject: Financial Studies

Qualification: L3 Certificate in Financial Studies

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? The Certificate in Financial Studies (CeFS) has been designed to encourage individuals to be inspired to meet their lifetime aspirations. This will be achieved by teaching them to apply the appropriate solution(s) from the wide range available within the evolving financial services marketplace. The qualification will enable students to make informed and confident decisions regarding their finances. It will help students to become responsible borrowers, sensible savers and have an appreciation of the need for financial planning throughout their life.

Awarding Body: IFS (School of Finance)

Specification Number: 100/3360/9

What will I learn? You will develop key financial capability skills that are relevant to everyday life/ situations as well as to develop core personal skills including communication, numeracy, IT and the ability to analyse and evaluate. You will become a more confident, informed and responsible financial services consumer and have the opportunity to take ownership of the planning of your own personal finances. You will have the opportunity to understand how external factors and the financial services industry impact on individuals' personal financial management.

What Units will I study? There are three modules to study, two of which are examined online and a third written exam taken later in the year. Unit 1 studies aspects of money, Unit 2 considers personal finance and Unit 3 involves making financial judgements.

How will I learn?

This course is designed to be predominantly a self study course with two periods of tuition on Wednesday afternoons and potential students must recognise that there can be considerable reading involved. Students will be provided with significant support material including:

online access to learning materials, **my ifslearning** and **ifs Knowledgebank** (virtual library), online activities to help consolidate learning, unit syllabuses and revision guide, specimen papers, feedback on objective tests.

How will I be assessed?

Both unit 1 & 2 are objectively tested. Each item will require students to choose the correct answer (key) from a choice of four possible answers. Students should attempt all items. The unit 3 examination is a written paper, based on unseen case study material, students are required to answer 1 four part question from a choice of 2.

How can I progress with this qualification?

Students who successfully complete the Certificate in Financial Studies (CeFS) in Year 12 may study the related Diploma in Financial Studies (DiFS) in the in Year 13 for June 2012. The qualification provides a good grounding for entry into the financial services or financial degrees. Both the CeFS and DiFS are each worth up to 60 points on the UCAS tariff.

Is there any other information I need to know?

Students embarking on this course should be prepared to spend a substantial amount of time outside of lessons working independently using the online resources. The cost of this course to the school is very substantial and students are required to pay a deposit of £50 at the start of the academic year which will be refunded upon completion of the course.

Subject: Extended Project

Qualification: GCE AS Level

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? This is a required course if you are studying for an Advanced Diploma, it is also a standalone AS Level. If you have an interest or subject that you would like to study in more detail and wish to develop your skills in planning, designing, researching, problem solving, evaluating and communicating then this could also be the qualification for you. The extended project replaced the Advanced Extension Award from June 2009 as a vehicle for testing extended learning at Level 3.

Awarding Body: AQA

Specification Number: 9990

What will I learn? You will learn a broad range of transferable skills which you will find useful at University in helping you to study. You will also learn how to plan, develop, analyse and evaluate a significant body of your own work. Through this process you will develop many Personal Learning and Thinking Skills.

What Units will I study?

Extended Project – this can be a dissertation, a scientific study, a piece of art work or a performance piece.

How will I learn? You will spend about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the course learning transferable skills. You will develop ideas for your project and after some consideration make a choice which you will discuss with your project tutor as to its suitability. If you agree that it is a suitable project you will plan your project, applying and developing your organisational skills and strategies in the process. You will research and select information from a range of sources and use the skills that you develop to solve problems and take decisions critically, creatively and flexibly using new technologies wherever possible. You will also evaluate your own learning and performance.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through the students class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment of the report will occur through a written report of between 1000 – 6000 words depending upon what you do. Further evidence of the project is required which could be an artefact, recording or performance. There will also be a presentation.

How can I progress with this qualification? Universities value this qualification as it helps develop a range of skills that will be useful in Higher Education study.

Is there any other information I need to know? This qualification must be taken for the student to be eligible for the Advanced Diploma. Students may choose this as one of their enrichment options. Successful completion of the extended project may contribute up to 70 points on the UCAS tariff (for an A*).

Subject: Global Perspectives and Independent Research **Qualification:** Cambridge Pre-U Diploma

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? This enrichment subject is necessary for students wishing to complete the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma and will be studied over a period of two years. You will expand your creative, critical and responsible awareness through the tackling of global issues in the Global Perspectives course in Year 12. You will be encouraged to have a focussed personal exploration and increased depth of study through the Independent Research Project in Year 13.

Awarding Body: Cambridge International (CIE)

Specification Number: 9777

What will I learn? In Global Perspectives you will research and explore a range of issues challenging people across the globe. You will place your personal perspectives in a global context finding new inspiration and challenges for your studies and will develop your critical/analytical, research and problem solving skills which are essential to higher education. In the Independent Research Project you will be able to dig deeper into a particular subject or cross boundaries by doing interdisciplinary work in an area of real interest to you. You will study Ethics (Genetic Engineering, Medical Ethics and Priorities, Standard of Living or Quality of Life, Ethical Foreign Policies, The Religious Secular Divide), Economics (Globalisation of economic activity, Migration and Work, Impact of the Internet, The Speed of Change in technology and global trade, The ethics and economics of food,, The Economic Role of Women), Environment (Global Climate Change: Science and Politics, Industrial Pollution, Biodiversity and threats to the worlds natural heritage, The Challenge of GM Crops, Urbanisation and the Countryside).

What Units will I study?

- Global Perspectives
- Independent Research Project

How will I learn?

You will learn through seminar style learning, independent learning and research.

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment during the course will occur informally in class, through your class work and homework and through topic tests.

Summative assessment will be as follows:

- 01: One externally set written paper (25 % Global Perspectives (GP) marks)
- 02: One coursework essay of 1500 words marked by CIE (30 % (GP) marks).
- 03: Presentation of up to 15 minutes using PowerPoint, video, weblog or webpages based on a stimulus pack released by CIE (45 % Global Perspective marks).
Independent Research Report of between 4,500 to 5000 words.
This is certificated with 50 % of marks each from the Global Perspectives and the Independent Research Project.

How can I progress with this qualification? Universities value this qualification as it helps develop a range of skills that will be useful in Higher Education study.

Is there any other information I need to know? This enrichment course is required if you wish to take a Cambridge Pre-U Diploma. You may also study it as a course itself. Successful completion of this course may contribute in excess* of 140 points on the UCAS tariff (140 points for a D2, equivalent of an A* at A-Level). (*The UCAS points for a D1 which is above the standard of an A* at A-Level has not yet been published.)

Subject: European Computer Driving License **Qualification:** ECDL (Level 2)

Where will I learn? Handsworth Wood Girls' School

Who is the course for? For those who seek real world certification programme for general computer usage in business. It has been developed by the European Commission after considerable research and testing across Europe. A similar system works in other European countries. It is highly regarded by employers and universities (and also contributes UCAS points for university entrance.)

Awarding Body: BCS

Specification Number: H161

What will I learn? You will learn the key functions of how to write documents using word processing software, how to create and use spreadsheets and how to produce high quality presentations that would be useful in a business. You will also look at using tools to help save time and effort when producing word-processed documents, presentations and spreadsheets.

What Units will I study? The ECDL Level 2 certificate consists of four units:

- Module 1: Word Processing Software
- Module 2: Spreadsheet Software
- Module 3: Presentation Software
- Module 4: Improving Productivity Using ICT.

How will I learn?

You will study for these modules within an ICT environment using a mixture of theory and practical work.

How will I be assessed?

Units are assessed electronically using automated on-line tests. The pass mark is 75 %.

How can I progress with this qualification? You may progress onto the BCS ECDL Advanced Level 3 certificates and ECDL Expert.

Is there any other information I need to know? A pass at 80 % minimum is required in electronic screening tests for progression onto units within this course. The ECDL qualification is highly valued by employers.

HEMiS Level 4 University Modules at Wolverhampton University

Do you wonder what it is like to study at University?
 Do you want to stand out from the crowd?
 Do you want to study something different?
 Do you want a challenge?

If the answers to the above questions is an emphatic 'Yes' then HEMiS (Higher Education Modules in Schools) could be for you. Wolverhampton University are working with us to provide a tailored programme of courses that will give you a taste of university level study. You get direct experience of Level 4 undergraduate courses and have an opportunity to hone your study skills. Plus your UCAS application shows evidence of personal drive and high achievement.

All HEMiS courses run from 2.00 p.m. until 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons at Wolverhampton University. You will be responsible for making your own way to and from the University and must be prepared for the significant extra work required to complete this module successfully. An application to Wolverhampton University submitted via the school is required by 18th September. The school will be prepared to pay module costs for suitable students as long as a £50 deposit, refundable upon full attendance of the course is paid.

Young Applicants in Schools and Colleges Scheme (or YASS)

YASS gives you the opportunity to study at university level (Level 4), encourages independent learning, builds confidence and has the added bonus of differentiating you from other students when it comes to applying to traditional universities.

YASS students study from home. Students are sent study materials and contact their Open University tutors or study advisers by email or phone. Other modules are studied wholly or partly online. The school will also support and advise you via a named coordinator – currently Dr. Hylands.

Open University modules provide additional breadth and/or depth of study: students taking arts-based subjects at AS/A2 level, for example, can study *Open Mathematics* (MU120) or *Beyond Google: working with information online* (TU120) providing extremely useful skills for the future. Alternatively, students can opt for a related OU module - so if they were taking science subjects, for example, they could take *Human genetics and health issues* (SK195) or the more intensive *Discovering Science* (S104) module. The full list is given at <http://www.open.ac.uk/yass/modules-available.php>

Studying a university module by independent study is both demanding and rewarding and requires a great deal of commitment from the student. If you wish to study a YASS module you should be committed to hard work and prepared to go the extra mile to work independently. Applications to study a OU module will be considered carefully by the school and financial support given based on student commitment and merit. Students will be expected to pay a £50 deposit which will be returned once the module has been completed and all assignments handed in.

Many OU YASS students enjoy their OU study so much though that an increasing number are continuing to full degree study with them. The credit points you gain for your OU YASS module will count towards your OU degree too! Alternatively universities are likely to offer a lower UCAS tariff for students who have completed an OU course.

APPENDIX 1: UCAS Points Tariffs

GCE A Level and AS Level Compared to Cambridge Pre-U Certificates*

Tariff points	GCE		Grade	Principal Subject	Global Perspectives and Research
	AS-Level	A-Level			
			D1	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
A*		140	D2	145	140
A	60	120	D3	130	126
			M1	115	112
B	50	100	M2	101	98
C	40	80	M3	87	84
			P1	73	70
D	30	60	P2	59	56
E	20	40	P3	46	42

The grades for the Cambridge Pre-U qualifications have been benchmarked as suggested above with the Grade 'E' students achieving a 'P3'. The grade A at A level is considered equivalent to the grade at D3.

Thus a student who had achieved a Grade D2 in all three Principal Subjects and the Global Perspectives and Research would achieve 575 UCAS points. If a student were to do an additional AS Level in Year 12 they could achieve 635 UCAS points. An A Level student who studied a comparable three full A Levels, an AS Level in Year 12, a Critical Thinking AS Level in Year 12 and the Extended Project AS Level in Year 13 and who achieved top grades in all of them would achieve 610 UCAS points.

Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (COPE)*

Grade	Tariff points
Pass	70

Extended Project (Stand alone)*

Grade	Tariff points
A*	70
A	60
B	50
C	40
D	30
E	20

Higher Sports Leader Award*

Grade	Tariff points
Pass	30

Institute of Financial Services

Grade		Tariff points
Certificate in Financial Studies*	Diploma in Financial Studies**	
A	A	60
B	B	50
C	C	40
D	D	30
E	E	20

Level 3 BTECs

Tariff Point		Grade
Certificate	Subsidiary Diploma	
70	140	D*
60	120	D
40	80	M
20	40	P