

Sacred Heart Catholic College



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS 2009



'Caring & Achieving Excellence within a Christian Community'

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Sacred Heart's Sixth Form Information Evening.

We hope this evening and booklet will enable you to consider the Post 16 choices available for you to follow, within Sacred Heart's Sixth Form Curriculum, starting September 2009.

Format of Evening

7.00 pm	Introduction in St. Edward Hall Welcome by Head Teacher Guidance on Post 16 reforms Sacred Heart's Post 16 curriculum Evening Arrangements
7.30 pm to 9.05 pm	Individual subject presentations. Parents and students choose to attend various subject briefings.
	Please see the timetable of presentations. (Separate handout)
7.30 pm onwards	Refreshments and General Information available in Room G17.

Contact Names

The following staff will be available throughout the evening to provide individual advice. Please go to G17 to seek advice on courses, or when you need help to find a room.

Mr Summerfield	Head Teacher
Mr McBride	Deputy Headteacher
Mr. Harrison	Director of Sixth Form

Contact names of tutors responsible for AS/A2, Applied A-levels and National Certificate – Level 2 courses are listed against the subjects in the section on two year and one year courses.

Rooms

Rooms are numbered for each level of the building.

G is ground floor F is the first floor (Go to G17 if you require help.)

Refreshments and Advice

Available in G17. (Go to main entrance then follow signposting.)

Toilets

Female toilets are to be found on the ground floor near main entrance.

Male toilets are to be found on the ground floor at the end of the main corridor.

(Go to main entrance then follow signposting.)

CURRICULUM

Post 16 Curriculum reform is outlined in the Government document, 'Qualifying for Success'.

The main recommendations are:

- to give greater breadth of knowledge to students before they specialise in their chosen subjects
- to follow a modular system of examination with progression and high standards
- to have a flexible system which enables students to mix between vocational (Applied A-level) and non-vocational (AS/A2) courses

Sacred Heart's Post 16 Curriculum

Sacred Heart's Sixth Form Curriculum has been designed to allow students to follow a curriculum that meets their individual needs.

Outlined below are the possible ways students may wish to access the new curriculum.

Two Year Courses

AS/A2 Level Route

- a traditional 'A' Level student would now be expected to choose 4 AS levels in Year 1 then reduce this to 3 A2 levels in Year 2.
or
- follow 3 AS levels in Year 1 plus an Applied AS level course (e.g. IT) and then reduce this to 3 A2s in Year 2.

Applied A-level Route

- a traditional vocational advanced student will follow a Double Applied A-level course in Business or Health and Social Care then add breadth to their studies by following an AS level course in Year 1 and, in Year 2, follow another AS level course or follow the A2 level course for their Year 1 subject. Applied AS level IT combines well with the Double Award Route.
- Some students may also consider taking a fourth AS level or Applied AS level.

One Year Course

The school operates within the Crosby **Sixth Form Consortium** to offer Level 2 (GCSE equivalent courses) in **Business, Health and Social Care, IT, Sport, Art.**

Students need to choose any two courses from those mentioned above. Each course gives the equivalent qualification of 4 GCSEs at Grades C or above, so a student would end the year with 8 GCSEs at Grade C or above. These courses are aimed at students who obtain GCSE grades below Grade C and do not gain sufficient GCSEs to move onto the A Level Route.

A separate information event will take place to inform students and parents on this route. You may also wish to see Mr. Harrison in G17 sometime during this evening.

General

There will be provision made in all routes for GCSE resits in Mathematics and English. All 2 year courses will also involve following General Studies units which will provide opportunities to record Key Skills.

Adding Breadth to the Curricular Routes

Wider Choice of subjects

The two main routes for a two year course will involve the students taking a greater number of subjects before they specialise.

Combining Vocational and Non-vocational courses

The curriculum is blocked to allow students to opt for a combination of AS level and Applied A-level units, as well as resit GCSEs in Maths and English.

General Studies to AS or A2 Level

The General Studies programme enables the students to be entered for an extra AS level, which may be converted to a full A-level on completion of an A2 course.

AS level provides a maximum 60 UCAS points.

A2 level provides a maximum of 120 UCAS points.

PSHE Course

Students are given career advice and are engaged in work which encourages techniques which will improve their own learning and recording achievement. Support is given in the UCAS application through a planned programme. Cross curricular themes and religious education form part of the PSHE course.

Work Experience

Applied A-level students will have a two week work experience during their course.

Religious Dimension

The importance of being part of a Catholic Sixth Form permeates all our work. Religious education is integrated into the PSHE periods. Students can be part of the SVP, Justice and Peace and Chaplaincy Groups. Assemblies reflect the Gospel of the Week. Regular contact is maintained with the Mass and religious festivals. Retreats are arranged to allow students to reflect on their faith.

Citizenship and Cross Curricular Themes

Students are able to be active citizens sharing their talents within the school and local community. Leadership and responsibility is encouraged through prefect duty, school council, mentoring students, paired reading scheme, links with partner primary schools and links with industry.

Other whole school activities can be accessed such as Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and the Sport Leadership Scheme.

We seek to meet individual student needs in order to enhance each student's opportunities within the Sixth Form. This has included a support program for Oxbridge candidates and arrangements for Special Needs students.

Sixth Form Collaboration

In order to ensure that Post-16 students have the widest range of courses and the most appropriate provision, there is a need to consider forms of collaboration with other sixth form institutions.

Presently, we have links with other Crosby sixth forms for the 1 year courses and A specialist music college for Music Technology.

Course Contact Names

The following members of staff are the main contacts available to offer support and advice on course selection.

Course	Main Contact Name for Course Details
Art	Mr Daley
Biology	Mrs Allday
Business	Mrs Smith
Chemistry	Miss Rekhi
English	Mrs Fraser
Ethics and Philosophy	Mr Moorhead
French	Mr Barwise
Geography	Mr Kennedy
Health and Social Care	Mrs Mellor
History	Ms Garner
Information Technology	Mrs Giblin
Mathematics/Further Maths	Mr Pye
Music	Mr Foy
Music Technology	Mr Foy
Physical Education	Mrs Hewlett
Physics	Mr Radford
Product Design : Textiles	Ms Gamble
Product Design : 3D	Mr Langton
Psychology	Mrs Rice
Science in Society	Mr Radford
Sociology	Mrs Power
Spanish	Ms Kinsella
Systems and Control	Mr Gordon
Theatre Studies	Ms Walsh

General Entry Requirements

Entry into the 6th Form is dependent on having a good student profile at KS4. The profile focuses upon attendance, punctuality, attitude to work and attitude to others.

Specific Entry Requirements for Two Year Courses

Students who wish to follow a predominantly *Traditional A-level Route*, taking 4 AS levels in the Lower Sixth and 3 A2s in Upper Sixth will require 5 A* - C grade GCSEs

with at least two being at grade B or above. Some subjects will have specific grade criteria for entry.

Students who wish to take a predominantly *Applied A-level Route*, will be expected to have 5 A* - C grade GCSEs.

Specific Entry Requirements for One Year Course

Students who do not achieve 4 Cs and above at GCSE. Students likely to have gained mostly Ds at GCSE.

Assessment of Progress

Students are set challenging target grades for each subject and are assessed against these targets each term.

Assessment of progress is reported to students and parents.

The student is then supported within school by adopting an individual action plan, this is likely to involve following a supervised study programme.

Study Support

Students are supported throughout their course within a study support programme.

Personalised study can take place in a variety of environments and is supported by a Resource Centre and Library with IT facilities. Students can extend their study after 3.30 pm. Seminars are integrated into the course to encourage student awareness of their learning habits and to develop the skills and techniques to improve their own learning.

UCAS Points

UCAS points are awarded for AS/A2 and Applied A-level courses, and the 3 Key Skills.

AS Level (Applied AS Level eg. IT)	A grade	60 points
	B grade	50 points
	C grade	40 points
	D grade	30 points
	E grade	20 points
A2 Level (Applied A2 Level eg. IT)	A grade	120 points
	B grade	100 points
	C grade	80 points
	D grade	60 points
	E grade	40 points
Applied A-level (Double) (equivalent to 2 A-levels)	A grade	240 points
	B grade	200 points
	C grade	160 points
	D grade	120 points
	E grade	80 points

Key Skills	Level 3	A grade	20 points
		B grade	17 points
		C grade	13 points

Art A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

A level Art and Design provides opportunities for creative young people to express their ideas in an environment which supports, encourages and stimulates. Candidates will look at the work of established artists and be inspired to demonstrate their own individual creativity.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

AQA fine Art (6200)

The AS (one year) comprises one coursework assignment and one controlled test.

The A2 (two years) comprises the above AS Examination with one further coursework unit and a controlled test.

What Are The Entry Requirements?

You need to show ability in art. You should have achieved a GCSE grade C or above in art and design or a design subject.

How Will I Be Assessed?

The AS (one year) comprises one coursework assignment and one controlled test.

The A2 (two years) comprises the above AS Examination with one further coursework unit and a controlled test.

The coursework assignment will include written work based on gallery visits and research. Assessment is at the end of each year.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

During the course students will be expected to visit art galleries or sites of artistic interest.

Future Opportunities?

Most students will want to pursue a degree course in art. The type of courses varies from fine art to graphical design and many combined art courses including fashion design, interior design and architecture.

The students will often need to take a foundation degree course first.

Careers in art range from the specialist artists to commercial artists involved in advertising and the media

Biology A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

Biology at Sacred Heart is a popular choice. The department has very good facilities and links well with the local universities.

The A Level Biology course is designed to encourage candidates to develop essential knowledge and understanding of concepts of biology, to understand scientific methods, and awareness of advances in technology through a variety of theoretical and practical models.

The AS course may be taken as a qualification in its own right or as the first half of an A2 course.

The AS course may be taken as a qualification in its own right or as the first half of an A2 course.

The AS and A2 courses are modular, each comprising of three units, two theoretical and one unit of practical and investigative skills.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

AQA GCE in Biology

AS Unit 1 Biology & Disease

How digestive and gas exchange systems may be affected by communicable and non-communicable diseases.

How knowledge of basic biology allows us to understand the symptoms of disease and interpret data relating to risk factors

AS Unit 2 the variety of living organisms

The influence of genetic and environmental factors on intra specific variation.

How the variety of life is reflected in the similarities and differences in its biochemical basis and cellular organisation.

How size and metabolic rate affect an organisms requirements and give rise to adaptations.

AS Unit 3 practical and investigative skills

Practical work in the contexts of units 1 and 2

Assessment of implementing skills on practical work as a whole

Assessment by AQA - set tasks

A2 Unit 4 populations and environment

How living organisms form ecosystems through which energy is transferred and chemical elements cycled.

How human activity affects ecological balance in a variety of ways.

How genetic variation and isolation may lead to the formation of new species.

A2 Unit 5 control in cells and in organisms

Stimulus and responses - the biology of the nervous and endocrine systems.
Homeostasis and the maintenance of a constant internal environment
Genes and genetic expression

A2 Unit 6 practical and investigative skills

Practical work in the contexts of units 4 and 5.
Assessment of implementing skills on practical work as a whole.
Assessment by AQA - set tasks.

What Are The Entry Requirements?

At least Biology grade B or double award BB at GCSE is recommended. It is essential to have a good working knowledge of Chemistry and Physics to understand aspects of the AS and A2 level syllabuses. This is particularly important in areas such as the chemistry of the cell which includes the structure and properties of carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, DNA and RNA. Topics from Chemistry such as acids, bases, pH, oxidation and reduction are frequently mentioned. In Physics topics such as the distinction between solids, liquids, gases, change of state, evaporation, humidity, the gas laws, energy change, and the electromagnetic spectrum are important. A degree of mathematical and statistical knowledge is required such as the ability to plot graphs, calculation of arithmetic mean and mode, calculation of percentages, and the estimation of populations by random sampling techniques.

How Will I Be Assessed?

AS UNIT 1 Biology and disease

Written paper: 1 hour 15 mins
Weighting: 33% of the total AS marks - 16% of the total A level marks.

Five, seven short answer questions plus two longer questions (a short comprehension and a short structured essay).

AS UNIT 2 The variety of living organisms

Written paper: 1 hour 45 mins
Weighting: 46% of the total AS marks - 23% of the total A Level marks.

AS UNIT 3 Practical and investigative skills

Internal assessment
Weighting: 20% of the total AS marks - 10% of the total A Level marks

Practical Skills Assignment (PSA)

Investigative Skills Assignment (ISA)

A2 UNIT 4 Populations and environment

Written paper: 1hour 30 mins.

Weighting: 16% of the total A Level marks.

Six, nine short answer questions plus two longer questions (a short comprehension and a short structured essay).

A2 UNIT 5 Control in cells and in organisms

Written paper: 2hour 15 mins

Weighting: 23% of the total A level marks.

Eight, ten short answer questions plus two longer questions (a data handling question and a synoptic essay - choice of one out of two).

A2 UNIT 6 Practical and investigative skills

Internal assessment

Weighting: 10% of the total A Level marks

Practical Skills Assignment (PSA)

Investigative Skills Assignment (ISA)

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Biology is a practical based science so students need to be aware of the importance of all experiments and research work. Links with universities helps support revision of the course content.

Future Opportunities?

Success at A Level could result in admission to any of the following courses/careers:

Biochemistry which is a broad based scientific degree giving good grounding in scientific techniques. This would offer opportunities for employment in the scientific laboratories of, e.g. the pharmaceutical industry, the food manufacturing industry or hospital laboratories.

There are opportunities for careers in environmental work following qualifications in specialised areas such as marine biology, freshwater biology or ecology.

Qualifications in Cellular Biology, Microbiology or Biomedical Sciences are now offering careers in the rapidly developing field of Biotechnology.

There are the more traditional courses in which A Level Biology is important, e.g. Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Environmental Health Care, Pharmacy, Pharmacology, Physiotherapy and Nursing.

Business Studies A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

Business studies is a popular sixth form option as it combines well with other subjects and has a vocational pathway.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

GCE Advanced Business (AS and A2)

The revised GCE Business Studies is to be implemented in September 2008. The main revision is to reduce the number of units taught from six to four. To this end, the AS specification has 2 units:

Unit 1 Planning and Financing a Business.

Topics include:

- Starting a business
- Financial planning

Stimulus Response Paper (1 hour 15 mins)

This unit is assessed by two stimulus response questions, worth 20 and 40 marks respectively. Question 1 focuses on knowledge and understanding based on short questions. Question 2 has 3 longer questions which include the higher level skills of analysis and evaluation. Both questions involve financial calculations.

This unit is assessed by a 1 hour external examination comprising of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and a data response question.

Unit 2 Managing a Business

Topics include:

- People
- Operations Management
- Finance
- Marketing and Competition
- This unit is assessed by a 1 hour 30 minute examination comprising of 2 compulsory data response questions.

The A2 specification has 2 units:

Unit 3 Strategies for Success

Topics include:

- Financial Strategies and Accounts
- Marketing Strategies

- Operations Strategy
- Human Resource Strategies

There is a 1 hour 30 minute unseen case study with a range of numerical data attached. Five questions are used to assess the data.

Unit 4 The Business Environment and Change

- Topics include:
- External Influences
- Leadership, Corporate Culture and Business Ethics
- Managing Change

The assessment of this unit is in two parts:

Section A will contain questions based upon prior personal research.
Section B will be one essay question from a choice of three. This is a synoptic paper and will, therefore, draw on the whole specification.

What Are The Entry Requirements?

5 GCSE grades A* - C (2 being at grade B). Preferably GCSE Grade C or above in Business.

How Will I Be Assessed?

See, 'What will I learn'.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Business studies students are encouraged to have some work experience.

Future Opportunities?

Business Studies is an increasingly popular choice in higher education. It is a sound basis for career progression into a wide range of professions including accountancy, law, financial services, marketing and advertising, and retailing.

Chemistry A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

A Level Chemistry builds upon the ideas taught in Years 10 and 11.

Topics covered include:

Atomic structure
Trends in the periodic table
Rates of reaction
Shapes of molecules
Energy
Hydrocarbons
Aromatic compounds

There is an emphasis on acquiring practical and analytical skills.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

AQA (1421)

AS (Year 12)

Unit 1 Foundation Chemistry

Examination paper (70 raw marks/100 UMS). 4-5 short answer questions plus 1 longer structured question.

1 hour 45 minutes

33 1/3% of the total AS marks

16 2/3% of the total A-level marks

Unit 2 Chemistry in Action

Examination paper (100 raw marks/140 UMS) 6-8 short answer questions plus 2 longer structured questions.

1 hour 45 minutes

46 2/3% of the total AS marks

23 1/3% of the total A-level marks

Unit 3 Investigative and Practical Skills in AS Chemistry

AS Centre-Assesses Unit (50 raw marks/60UMS)

Investigative Skills Assignment (ISA - 38 raw marks)

Practical Skills Assessment (PSA - 12 raw marks)

20% of total AS marks

10% of total A-level marks

AQA (2421)

A2 (Year 13)

Unit 4 - Kinetics, equilibria and organic chemistry

Examination paper (100 raw marks/120 UMS). 6-8 short answer questions plus 2 structured questions. Some of the questions will have synoptic elements.

1 hour 45 minutes

20% of the total A-level marks

Unit 5 - Energetics, Redox and Inorganic Chemistry

Examination paper (100 raw marks/120 UMS). 5-7 short answer questions plus 2-3 longer structured questions. Some of the questions will have synoptic elements.

1 hour 45 minutes

20% of the total A level marks

Unit 6 - Investigative and Practical Skills in A2 Chemistry

A2 Centre-Assessed Unit (50 raw marks/60 UMS)

Investigative Skills Assignment (ISA - 38 raw marks)

Practical Skills Assessment (PSA - 12 raw marks)

10% of total A-level marks

What Are The Entry Requirements?

Grade A or B at GCSE Chemistry or grade A/B at Additional Science. (You must score at least a grade B in the Chemistry section)

A good level of mathematical competence is also desirable.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Assessment is by module tests. Practical coursework will also be completed.

Year 12. Modules 1 and 2 are completed along with practical coursework.

Year 13. Modules 3 and 4 are completed along with practical coursework.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

The study of Chemistry will also involve visiting the University of Liverpool to attend revision lectures, as well as the opportunity to enter the Young Analyst of the Year competition - also held at the University of Liverpool and run by the Royal Society of Chemistry

Future Opportunities?

Chemistry is an essential subject for a wide range of university degree courses including Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Chemical Engineering, as well as Chemistry itself. It is highly recommended that A level maths is taken if you wish to undertake a degree in Chemistry.

Chemistry links well with the other scientific subjects. Chemistry is also chosen by students who find the subject interesting and challenging but who may want to follow non-scientific careers. In recent years some students have been very successful studying Chemistry as well as languages.

Design Technology A Level - Product Design: 3D Design at Sacred Heart Catholic College

The distinguishing feature of any design and technology course is its practical nature. Knowledge and Understanding is not therefore to be acquired purely for its own sake, but in order to apply it to the solution of practical problems which arise in everyday life and in industrial and commercial contexts.

Underpinning all learning are the designing and making skills which make use of Knowledge and Understanding in order to produce outcomes which satisfy a design brief.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:

General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

AQA specification (2550)

During the course, students will experience product analysis, materials, mechanisms, structures, electronics, computer aided design (CAD), computer aided manufacturing (CAM).

AS Year

The ability to work at a very high level is developed in the first year. Students will be involved in a range of carefully structured projects in which they will research, design, model or manufacture and evaluate their own and other students' work. Successful students will be awarded an AS level certificate in 3D Product Design.

A2 Year

On successful completion of the AS level in Year 12, students can then study for the full advanced level certificate in Year 13. During this year, students will demonstrate their expertise through a coursework project of their own choice. Example projects could be design an educational toy, design a new range of concept furniture for a leading manufacture, design a portable personal communications system, etc.

What Are The Entry Requirements?

It is helpful, but not necessary, for candidates to have studied GCSE Graphic Products or Product Design.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Y12 AS Unit 1 Written Paper 50% AS (25% A Level) 2 hours.

All questions are based on the study of materials and components.
(CAD, CAM, life cycle of products, sustainability of products, health and safety issues, ergonomics and anthropometrics)

Y12 AS Unit 2 Coursework 50% AS (25% A Level) Approx 50 hours.

Written or electronic design portfolio

This project/portfolio of coursework may take the form of a single design and make project, two smaller projects and/or a portfolio of work

Y13 A2 Unit 3 Written Paper 25% A Level 2 hours.

(classifying materials and identifying, testing and comparing their application to a product, health and safety, alternative designs, use of natural resources – conservation and waste disposal, responsibilities of the designer, the planning process)

Y13 A2 Unit 4 Product Study 25% of A Level Approximately 60 hours.

This is an in-depth study of a single design making activity. The ability to analyse, synthesise and draw conclusions will be assessed in this unit.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

- It is helpful, but not necessary, for candidates to have studied GCSE Graphic Products or Product Design.
- Students cannot study 3D Design and Textiles Technology

Future Opportunities?

Most students will continue their studies to degree level. There are opportunities for suitably qualified students to join design companies in all areas of product design e.g. car manufacturing.

Design Technology A Level - Product Design: Textiles at Sacred Heart Catholic College

Product Design Textiles offers students the exciting opportunity to develop modern technological skills through design and manufacturing of quality products. The practical and theoretical problem solving process undertaken throughout the 2 year course encourages independent learning, creativity and innovation. The course aims to promote the development of student's capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

AQA specification (6550)

Students will study the following units over 2 years
Section A Materials and components

- Fibre types
- Yarns
- Fabric manufacture
- Surface decoration
- Product components

Section B Design and Market Influences

- History of Design.
- Product evolution/analysis
- The role of the designer
- Marketing
- Product life cycle
- Copyright production laws

Section C Process and Manufacture

- Industrial and commercial practice
- ICT applications
- Product manufacturing and maintenance
- Environmental concerns
- Pattern drafting

Systems and Control Over the last two years of your A level course there are four main study units and you will take two of the study units each year.

AS Units

Unit 1

Materials, components and application

Source and classification of the main fibre groups
Yarn types and properties and the blending and mixing of fibres
Fabric manufacture: woven, knitted, nonwovens and smart materials created to provide specific properties
Fabric finishes and surface decoration
Product components
Industrial and commercial practice, manufacturing systems, ICT application, pattern drafting, product manufacture and environmental concerns
Development of designs, design in practice, communication methods and design in the human context

Unit 2 Coursework: Learning through designing and making

Approximately 50 hours

This project/portfolio of coursework will take the form of a single design and make project, two smaller projects and/or a portfolio of work

A2 Units

Unit 3

Design and Manufacture

Testing and comparing the relative merits of fabrics in relation to their intended use

Manipulating and combining fabrics

Major developments in textiles technology

Product life cycle and fashion cycles

Design in the human context

Industrial and commercial practice, fabric manufacture and product manufacture

Unit 4

Coursework: Design and Making in Practice

Approximately 60 hours. A written or electronic design folder. This major project is a single, integrated coursework project, which involves a designing and making activity.

What Are The Entry Requirements?

Candidates must have studied GCSE Textiles and obtained a grade of C or above.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Year 12 Advanced Subsidiary (AS)

Unit 1 - Text 1 Materials, Components and Application

50% of AS, 25% of A Level

2 hour written paper

Unit 2 - Text 2 Learning Through Designing and Making

50% of AS, 25% of A Level

Coursework - approx 50 hours

Written design folder - Manufactured outcome(s)

Coursework may take a number of forms: a single design-and-make project, two smaller projects and/or a portfolio of work

A2 Examinations

Unit 3 - Text 3 Design and Manufacture

25% of A Level

2 hour written paper

Includes synoptic assessment

Unit 4 - Text 4 Design and Making Practice

25% of A Level

Coursework - approx 60 hours

Written or electronic folder - Manufactured outcome

Candidates submit evidence of a single, substantial designing and making activity

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Students cannot study 3D Design and Textiles Technology

Future Opportunities?

On successful completion of the course several options are open to students, both in industry and higher education.

Degree and other courses in art, textiles, management, media (i.e. press, television, journalism, marketing) and business studies.

Careers: designer, buyer, management, marketing, quality control, manufacturing, teaching, product development, sales, etc.

Design Technology A Level - Systems & Control Technology at Sacred Heart Catholic College

The distinguishing feature of any design and technology course is its practical nature. Knowledge and Understanding is not therefore to be acquired purely for its own sake, but in order to apply it to the solution of practical problems which arise in everyday life and in industrial and commercial contexts.

Underpinning all learning are the designing and making skills which make use of Knowledge and Understanding in order to produce outcomes which satisfy a design brief.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:

General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

AQA specification (2555)

This exciting course, suitable for both sexes, will allow students the opportunity to study many specialist areas of technology such as;

Materials technology, electronics, micro-electronics, logic, pneumatics, mechanisms, the development of design, computer aided design (CAD), computer aided manufacturing

(CAM), design processes, modelling, communication techniques, design in the human context and safety.

The first year

The ability to work to a very high level is developed in the first year. Students will be involved in a range of carefully structured projects in which they will research, design, model or manufacture and evaluate a range of products. Successful students will be awarded an AS level certificate in Design and Technology: Systems and Control.

The second year

On successful completion of the AS level in year 12 students can then study for the full advanced level certificate in year 13. Students can demonstrate their expertise through a substantial coursework project of their own choice. The project will consist of a design folder and the associated outcome. Students will be expected to develop a project that exploits one or more of the technologies studied throughout the course. Example projects: Motorised bicycle, alternative energy transport, lifting aid for the elderly, teaching aid for a disabled child, computer controlled drilling machine, electronic drinks dispenser, solar powered water heater, robotic explosive disarming device. Students can write their own project outlines or choose from examples in the specification.

What Are The Entry Requirements?

Students should have taken GCSE Systems and Control or electronic products and achieved a grade C or above.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Year 12 Advanced Subsidiary (AS)

Unit 1 Written Paper 50% AS (25% A Level)

2 hours. All questions are based on the study of materials and components. (basic elements of design, concept of input-process-output, modelling methods manufacture methods, industrial and commercial practices, appraisal of products)

Unit 2 Coursework 50% AS (25% A Level) Approximately 50 hours.

This project/portfolio of coursework will take the form of a single design and make project, two smaller projects and/or a portfolio of work

Year 13 Advanced Level (A2)

Unit 3 25% A Level 2 hour written examination

(processing systems, computer simulation, use of ICT for stock control and ordering, role of the designer, ergonomics and anthropometrics, methods of harnessing alternative power)

Unit 4 Coursework Project 25% A Level

Approximately 60 hours. A written or electronic design folder. This major project is a single, integrated coursework project, which involves a designing and manufacturing activity.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Students following this course need to spend time in the DT area outside those timetabled in order to complete their assignments.

Future Opportunities?

Students with this qualification can enter higher education and study for a degree in Industrial Design and Technology, Civil Engineering, Structural Engineering, etc.

English Literature A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

A Level English Literature is an enjoyable and culturally stimulating course. It covers a wide range of texts, dating from the Middle Ages to the present day. Apart from close study of set texts, students are taught critical appreciation of a variety of genres. As teachers we are concerned to encourage enjoyment of and a sensitive response to the written word, which students will continue to take pleasure from once they have completed their studies at Sacred Heart Catholic College.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

AQA A Level English Literature Specification A

New specification starting in September 2008 for first examination in 2009.

This specification encourages students to become informed, independent readers through the close study of three set texts - prose, poetry and drama - and wider reading on the topic of World War One. (Alternative topics are Victorian Literature and The Struggle for Identity in the Modern World). Three further texts are to read as wider reading.

This topic links all the texts that will be read for the AS course. At A2, the overarching topic is Love Through the Ages. Assessment is by examination (60%) and coursework (40%).

What Are The Entry Requirements?

Requirements for this course are grades A-C in both English and English Literature at GCSE, but equally important are an enthusiasm for reading and the ability to study privately.

How Will I Be Assessed?

AS:

Unit 1 Texts in Context

2 hour closed book examinations. Two questions:

Section A - a compulsory question based on analysis of an unseen non-fiction prose passage. The answer will link the printed text with wider reading (some of this is specified and it must include a range of genres) done during the year.

Section B poetry - based on a set text: one of Up the Line to Death/Scars Upon My Heart/The Oxford Book of War Poetry

Unit 2 Creative study

Coursework based on the study of one prose text; 'regeneration' by Pat Barker and one drama text; 'journeys end' by R.C. Sheriff .

Two pieces (total 2,000-2,500 words in total): one will be a personal interpretation of the prose text or a creative rewriting of an aspect of the prose text. The other is a comparison of one drama text and one or more other texts (the texts for comparison do not have to be drama texts, but they can be. It is also permitted to compare the drama text to the prose text used in Unit 1. There is a suggested reading list.

To sum up: the reading requirement for this specification at AS is six texts, one of each genre studied in detail in class with wider reading texts from different genres. These are selected by students from a suggested reading list.

A2

Unit 3 Reading for Meaning (Synoptic)

2 hour 30 minute examination. This will require the comparison of three previously unseen texts on the theme of Love Through the Ages.

Question 1 requires comparison of two texts of the same genre (the genre will differ from year to year). They should closely compare the two printed texts and refer to their own wider reading of love poetry.

Question 2 invites candidates to compare two more texts of the remaining two genres. Assessment will focus on understanding of contextual issues and different interpretations of texts.

Preparation for this unit is to be the reading of at least three texts of different genres, by both men and women, from Chaucer to the present day and include some non-fiction.

Unit 4 Extended Essay and Shakespeare Study

Coursework Extended comparative essay (3,000 words) on three texts one of which must be a Shakespeare play, the other two from any genre. Texts must not be any of those studied at AS. They must be linked thematically and the theme can be Love Through The Ages or a theme of their own choice. Analysis of language, form and structure is paramount.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Visits to the theatre, attendance at lectures arranged by other institutions, such as Liverpool University and, when available, in school workshops, will be an important part of this A Level subject.

Future Opportunities?

A Level English Literature combines with almost any other A Level, not just other arts subjects. Many students opt for English for sheer enjoyment.

It is particularly good preparation for a career in Law, the media, public relations or teaching (especially primary), but the skills acquired form a useful preparation for many other careers.

Ethics & Philosophy A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

The study of Ethics and Philosophy is a branch of Religious Studies. However, A Level Religious Studies is completely different to GCSE. There is a considerable move away from the traditional study of the Bible and the sacramental worship in Church to the realms and religious and moral thinking, concepts and ideas.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

Religious Studies OCR

Ethics - The Study of Morality,
The Science of Right and Wrong

Students will explore key issues in today's society and identify moral behaviour.

Euthanasia, The Environment, Do we invent Right and Wrong? , War&Peace, What makes a good person?, Sexuality, Conscience, Genetic Engineering
Abortion

Philosophy - The Study of Wisdom

Students will explore key fundamental issues that are relevant for any generation:

Why is there suffering?, Science v Religion, The Psychology of Religion
Does God exist?, Creation, The problem of evil, Is There an After-Life?
The sociology of Religion, Do miracles really happen? , Is morality a product of God or man?

The A Level consists of 4 modules taken throughout the Sixth Form.

What Are The Entry Requirements?

Students need to have achieved a GCSE grade B or above in Religious Studies and a grade C in English.

How Will I Be Assessed?

AS Year 12

Ethics

1 AS module exam (90 minutes)

Philosophy of Religion

1 AS module exam (90 minutes)

A2 Year 13

Ethics

1 A2 module exam (90 minutes)

Philosophy of Religion

1 A2 module exam (90 minutes)

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Ethics and philosophy involves class based debates and the opportunity to have guest speakers across the course.

Future Opportunities?

Key Skills

Communication

Abstract Thinking

Working with Others

Problem Solving

Suitable Careers

Journalism

Social Work

Medicine

Politics

Science

Teaching

Law

Public Relations

French A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

A level French is a demanding and intellectually stimulating course which aims to provide students with the foreign language skills necessary in the modern world, especially in a commercial, European context. Students learn to communicate confidently and effectively in the language which is taught through study of a range of topics designed to provide an insight into contemporary society and cultural background of France and French - speaking countries. The study of A level French should be an enjoyable experience, developing in the students an awareness of how the language works and is intended to be both challenging and intellectually rewarding.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:

General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

Language is learnt in the context of a range of settings.

Students study two units of work at AS Level in the first year of study, followed by a further two unit sat A2.

The subject content for the AS units include: The Media (television, advertising etc), Popular Culture (cinema, music), Healthy Lifestyle (sport, exercise, health and well-being) and Family/Relationships (friendships, marriage/partnerships).

At A2, candidates study the Environment (pollution, energy), Multicultural Society (immigration, racism) and Contemporary Social Issues (wealth and poverty, law and order).

They also study two cultural topics which might include a period of 20th Century French History, the work of a French Author, director, musician or painter or the work of a French dramatist or poet.

What Are The Entry Requirements?

At least a Grade B in French at GCSE, although students achieving Grade C will be considered providing they show the enthusiasm and determination to succeed.

How Will I Be Assessed?

AS Level is qualification in itself and also carries 50% of the marks for the A Level qualification.

AS Units

Unit 1:

Listening, Reading and Writing exam - 2hour written examination (AS 70% - A2 35%)

Unit 2: Speaking test - 20 minute preparation + 15 minute test (AS 30% - A2 15%).

A2 Units

Unit 3: Listening Reading and Writing exam - 2hour 30min written examination (A2 35%)

Unit 4: Speaking test - 20 minute preparation + 15 minute test (A2 15%)

AS + A2 = A Level

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Students make use of a wide range of resources in French including books, newspapers, magazines, radio, television, DVD recordings and music.

They are expected to complete personal research and make use of the internet where appropriate.

Aims of the course:

- to enable students to attain a high level of competence in the language
- to broaden opportunities for leisure and travel
- to enhance employment prospects both in the UK and abroad
- to provide an insight into another culture and society
- to provide students with a sound basis for further study

Future Opportunities?

An A-level pass will lead to a degree course in a wide range of subject areas. Alongside the traditional courses in modern languages, there are a large number of options combining French or Spanish with law, business studies, media studies or science. Demand for people skilled in such areas is great and is increasing.

A-level French is a distinct advantage for those seeking a career in travel and tourism, the media, the EU, translating and interpreting, foreign trade and banking and many more.

Competence in foreign language skills is certain to enhance career prospects in general.

General Studies A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

The main focus in Years 12 and 13 is undoubtedly the specific subjects chosen to study. However, a wider view of the educational world can be helpful in ensuring that all students have an appreciation of the variety of skills and disciplines that make up our modern world. General Studies helps to do this by providing an opportunity to experience a wider range of topics and issues than the formal teaching of particular subjects can facilitate. General Studies can widen the horizons and develop the skills that other subjects cannot reach.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

Integral Elements:

- Understanding the nature of knowledge, truth and belief and the distinction between them
- Analysis of data, information, ideas, opinions and arguments
- Use of the above to examine questions, form values, make judgements and draw conclusions
- Understanding different kinds of knowledge, appreciating their strengths and limitations
- Use of language to impart knowledge and understanding and present opinions and arguments

Core Themes:

- Culture and Society
- Science and Society

What Are The Entry Requirements?

Students are considered for entry based on their GCSE point score. Some may take the AS level only. English and Mathematics GCSEs at grade C are usually required.

How Will I Be Assessed?

AS Level:

UNIT 1 – GENA1 / 1 Hour 30 min written examination

- objective test questions
- source based questions

UNIT 2 – GENA2/ 1 Hour 30 min written examination

- objective test questions
- source based questions

A2 Level:

UNIT 3 – GENA3 / 2 Hour written examination

- source evaluation exercise
- two essays

UNIT 4 – GENA4/ 2 Hour written examination

- questions on pre-release Case Study
- one essay

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

General Studies is taught as part of the PSHE programme. Some universities do not accept qualifications in General Studies as entry on to degree courses.

Future Opportunities?

Will support the wider development of students and may be accepted as points or grades for a degree course.

Geography A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

The AS/A2 Geography course follows AQA Specification. The course includes an even balance of physical and human geography. A range of case studies near and far, are incorporated into the course. The course provides a good base for a range of degree courses and employment.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

Year 12 –AS Level

The Year 12 course includes both physical and human geography topics. The topics are:

- Rivers, folds and management (physical)
- Desert Environments (physical)
- Population change (human)
- Energy issues (human)

Year 13 – Advanced Level

In Year 13 there is also a balance of human and physical geography. The topics studied will be:

- Plate tectonics and associated hazards (physical)
- Weather and climate and associated hazards (physical)
- World cities (human)
- Development and globalisation (human)

What Are The Entry Requirements?

A GCSE (Grade C minimum) is normally required from pupils studying Geography at a higher level.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Altogether for the full A Level, there are four assessment units and they are split so that there are two assessments in each year.

Year 12

There are two assessments near the end of Year 12 in June.

Unit 1: The assessment for Unit 1 is a 2 hour written examination which includes structured short and extended response questions about each of the four topics studied in Year 12. (70% of total AS marks [35% of the total A Level marks])

Unit 2: The assessment for Unit 2 is a one hour written paper that examines geographical skills (working with ICT, maps, graphs, fieldwork, statistics, etc) on the topics from Year 12. (30% of the total AS marks [15% of the total A Level marks])

Year 13

There are two assessments at the end of Year 13 in June

Unit 3: This is a 2½ hours written examination that consists of structured short and extended questions on one physical topic and one human topic from the Year 13 course. It also includes one essay. (30% of total A Level marks)

Unit 4: Following the three day field course at the end of Year 12, students can complete a written fieldwork investigation during Year 13. Students are examined on their own fieldwork investigation during a 1½ hour written examination in January of Year 13. (20% of total A Level marks).

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Fieldwork

In Year 12, in March, there is a two day field course. The fieldwork supplements topics in the Year 12 course and provides useful revision before the June examination and it is also the beginning of a fieldwork project for Assessment Unit 4 in Year 13. The location is Coniston in the Lake District. The cost should be approximately £30. Students may be able to obtain funding from the LEA Support Fund for part or all of the cost.

Additional Support

In the past, students have had the opportunity to attend additional geography workshops at Edge Hill University and Liverpool John Moores University.

Future Opportunities?

Geography is a very versatile subject. Pupils intending to study Geography as a degree subject are advised to choose Maths/Science combinations. Careers with Geography as a component include – Local Government, Civil Service, Surveying, Civil Engineering, land/estate management, Local Authority Planning Departments and tourism.

History A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced level (A2) History offer students the opportunity to study two of the most interesting periods in European and British history. Russia during the 19th and 20th centuries is the focus of the European course whilst the British history course deals with the Yorkists and Tudors and centres on the 15th and 16th century British history.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:

General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

Course Content

The course is divided into European and British History.

European History

European AS

HIS2L: The Impact of Stalin's Leadership in the USSR, 1924-1941

This gives students the opportunities to investigate the impact of Stalin's rule on the USSR during this key period of its political, economic and social development.

The main emphasis is on the impact of Stalin's aims, actions and influence on important developments in the USSR. Students will focus on Stalin's consolidation of his political regime and his economic revolution designed to implement 'socialism in one country' and transform the USSR into a modern, strong, industrial state. The topics that will be studied are collectivisation, the development of a planned industrial economy and the development of a totalitarian state.

European - A2

(HIS4X) - Historical Enquiry – Tsarist and Leninist Russia 1824-1924

This unit involves a taught overview of Russian history under the last four Romanov Tsars (Nicholas I, Alexander II, Alexander III and Nicholas II), the Bolshevik Revolution and the rule of Lenin.

The focus will be on factors bringing about change, the impact of social and economic developments, the growth of opposition to the Tsarist regime and the establishment of the first Bolshevik state under Lenin after the October Revolution 1917.

Students will be required to produce a 3,500 word personal study on an aspect of this period which will show understanding of change and continuity in the context of 100 years of Russian social, economic and political development.

British History

British - AS

(HIS1B) - Britain, 1483-1529

This unit provides an overview of developments in England between 1483 and 1529, taking as its major focus the growth of political stability, from the instability of the region of Richard III to the establishment of secure government by Henry VII and the development of Tudor rule under Henry VIII until the fall of Wolsey in 1529.

British A2
(His3B) - The Triumph of Elizabeth: Britain 1547-1603

This unit focuses on change and continuity over a period of 60 years. It involves a depth study of the reigns of Edward VI, Mary Tudor and particularly Elizabeth I and the consolidation of Tudor political power in the face of changes and challenges with regard to religious, economic, social and foreign policy.

Students will develop their understanding of key individuals such as Somerset, Northumberland, Burghley, Leicester and the Tudor Monarchs themselves in their exercise of political power and how their ideas and actions shaped the relationship between the state and the people.

What Are The Entry Requirements?

Whilst it is not necessary to have studied GCSE History to pursue AS/A-level History, students should be aware that competent writing skills would be an advantage as well as a desire to read about the coursework content in depth and a willingness to engage in independent learning.

Grade B in History recommended.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Year 12

AS Examination

Module 1- Britain 1483 – 1529 – Written Examination – 1 hour 30 minutes Marks: 50% of AS level, 25% of A level

Module 2 – The Impact of Stalin’s Leadership in Russia 1924 – 41 – Written Examination
1 hour 30 minutes Marks: 50% AS level, 25% A level

Year 13

A2 Examination

Module 3 - The Triumph of Elizabeth: Britain 1547-1603 - **Written Examination 1 hour 30 minutes** Marks: 30% of A Level

Module 4 – Tsarist and Leninist Russia 1824 – 1924 **Personal Study of approx 3,500 words** Marks 20% of A Level

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Students have the opportunity to attend externally provided lectures to supplement their A Level courses and there is a possibility of a trip to Moscow and St Petersburg in Year 13.

Future Opportunities?

As well as being an interesting subject in itself, History encourages independent thought, and a critical and questioning mind, qualities which are highly prized by employers in industry and business, and in higher education.

History is a versatile and well respected subject and combines well with most other AS/ A level subjects. An advanced qualification in History will facilitate entry to most Arts and Social Science courses in higher education.

As a traditional academic discipline, History is highly regarded by most employers and can lead to a career in law, journalism, politics, marketing, management and the Civil Service.

IT A Level Single Award - 6 Units at Sacred Heart Catholic College

Sacred Heart is a Mathematics and Computing Specialist College. The Applied A level course is a practical skill based course. The department has outstanding IT facilities.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

Year 12

UNIT 1

ICT and Society

Students consider how developments in technology influence individuals and society. This involves a case study which will be presented using either Publisher (for example, to create a newsletter) or Frontpage (to create a website).

UNIT 2

ICT and Organisations

In this unit, students look at the structure of organisations and how information is collected and presented. It considers specific examples to demonstrate how ICT is used, its effectiveness and its impact both on the organisation itself and on the working styles of employees.

UNIT 3

Data Handling

Students use Microsoft Access to demonstrate skills in manipulating large amounts of data. The foundation for this unit is that students are required to create an easy to use database system to assist a specific client with their data handling requirements.

Year 13

UNIT 8

Project Management

This unit requires students to work as part of a team to plan a project. Students will consider a complex problem requiring the co-operation of several people, for example to produce a training package. Knowledge of specialist software is required to co-ordinate individual activities and timescales.

What Are The Entry Requirements?

Students should preferably achieve a GCSE Grade C in IT and have ability in the subject. 5 GCSE grades A* - C with at least 2 at B are the general requirements.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Assessment for these units is through the production of a portfolio. There is no formal examination.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Sacred Heart is a Mathematics and IT Specialist College and has up to date facilities for the use of IT within class and in study areas.

Future Opportunities?

It is a skill that is required in everyday life and in most career routes. Specific degree courses can be taken in IT or as a combination with other subjects

Mathematics A level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

Sacred Heart is a specialist college for Mathematics and Computing. There is a well equipped specialist mathematics block.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

AQA (6360)

YEAR 12: AS LEVEL

Three modules are done leading to the AS qualification:

Core 1: This unit includes: algebra, co-ordinates of circles, basic calculus and circle properties.

Core 2: This unit includes: further algebra, sequences, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms as well as further calculus.

Statistics 1: Numerical measures, probability, binomial distribution, normal distribution, estimation correlation and regression.

YEAR 13: A2 LEVEL

A further three modules are done:

Core 3: Further trigonometry, much more substantial calculus, numerical integration and further study of algebra and logarithms.

Core 4: Vectors, growth and decay, differential equations, algebra and further study of sequences.

Decision 1: Algorithms, Networks, Matchings, Linear Programming, Travelling Salesperson problem.

What Are The Entry Requirements?

Students need to have achieved a grade A at GCSE.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Each module is worth 1/3rd of the marks for the AS qualification. The marks are earned by exam for Core 1 & Core 2 and for Statistics 1 by a mixture of exam (70% of the marks for the module) and coursework (30% of the marks for the module).

A2 assessment follows the same model as AS, with coursework completed in Mechanics 1.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Features of the Course

- It has good continuity with the GCSE.
- The texts that we use in support are '*user friendly*'. However, additional notes will also be given where necessary.
- It is designed to encourage *active* rather than *passive* learning.
- It makes use of *calculators* in a sensible way to aid understanding.
- The AS will be taken after one year and may or may not be followed by the A2
- Key Skills are developed throughout the course.

Future Opportunities?

A pass in AS or A2 mathematics is an ideal qualification for entry to higher education in many fields of study including: Mathematics itself, all Science subjects, Medicine and Veterinary Science, Engineering, Accountancy and Computer Science.

Further Mathematics A level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

Further Mathematics is open to students who have GCSE A/A* grades in mathematics and wish to have a degree and career involving mathematics.

The school is a specialist college for Mathematics and Computing and has well equipped designated areas for mathematics

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

AQA specification (6360)

YEAR 12: AS LEVEL

Three modules are done leading to the AS qualification:

Further Pure Mathematics 1:

Algebra and Graphs, Complex Numbers, Roots and coefficients of a Quadratic Equation, Series, Calculus, Numerical Methods, Trigonometry, matrices and Transformations.

Mechanics 1:

Newton's laws of motion, Projectiles, Statistics, Forces, Momentum and Mathematical Modelling.

Mechanics 2: Moments and Centres of Mass, Kinematics, Uniform Circular Motion, Work and Energy, Vertical Circular Motion.

YEAR 13: A2 LEVEL

A further three modules are done:

Further Pure 4: Vectors and 3D Coordinate Geometry, Matrix Algebra, Determinants and Linear Independence.

Statistics 2: Discrete Random Variables, Poisson Distribution, Continuous Random Variables, Hypothesis Testing and Contingency Tables Test.

Decision 2: Critical Path Analysis, Allocation, Dynamic Programming, Network Flows, Linear Programming and Game Theory

What Are The Entry Requirements?

Grade A* GCSE mathematics. Students should also be taking A level mathematics.

How Will I Be Assessed?

AS has 3 modules. Each module represents a third of the marks.

A2 has a further 3 modules. Each module represents a third of the marks

AS and A2 modules are combined to give a full A level grade in Further Mathematics.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Further mathematics may also include students from other sixth forms who wish to make use of the teaching provided by the specialist college.

Future Opportunities?

A pass in AS or A2 Further Mathematics is an ideal qualification for entry to higher education in many fields of study including: Mathematics itself, all Science subjects, Medicine and Veterinary Science, Engineering, Accountancy and Computer Science. It is especially useful in applying to some of the more traditional universities.

Music A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

The course encourages candidates to:

- * extend the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to communicate through music and to take part in music-making;
- * engage in, and extend their appreciation of, the diverse and dynamic heritage of music, promoting their spiritual and cultural development;
- * develop particular strengths and interests, encouraging life-long learning and providing access to music-related careers.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

- an exploration of the musical language;
- detailed analysis of two areas of study drawn from different cultures/traditions;
- composition;

- solo and ensemble performance.
- EDEXCEL specification (9501)

What Are The Entry Requirements?

Students need to have ability in music, able to play an instrument and read music. Students should have achieved a grade B in music.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Assessment is through internal coursework and external examination.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Music students are involved in school productions and perform outside school, including trips abroad.

Future Opportunities?

Music can be taken as a profession in all areas of production, performing and recording.

Music Technology A level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

Music Technology is a vocationally linked course. Students are taught by active musicians and ex students from LIPA. The course is flexible in its curriculum time in order to be able to access the professional musicians and recording studio technicians. The course is run with the involvement of Notre Dame Specialist College for the Performing Arts.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

EDEXCEL (9511)

During this course of study students will:

- Learn to use music technology as an area of study in its own right;
- Examine performance techniques using technology
- Learn about the influence of music technology as a tool for composing arranging and scoring;
- Gain a thorough grounding in sequencing and recording skills;
- Acquire skills via practical and theoretical means.

The following units will be studied and examined:

- Practical Sequencing and recording
 Arranging and improvisation using technology
- Written Listening and analysis

What Are The Entry Requirements?

Ability to read music and play an instrument is desirable.

5 GCSEs grade C or above with at least 2 being at grade B are the general entry requirements.

How Will I Be Assessed?

The 3 AS units include 1 practical recording and a sequencing task which are internally assessed and 1 written paper which are externally assessed.

The A2 units follow the same assessment system.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Music Technology is taught at Notre Dame Catholic College in Year 13. This is a Performing Arts Specialist College. All transport to the site is provided free.

Future Opportunities?

Future applications include all aspects of work in the music industry, internet publishing, theatre and media work, studio and technical careers.

Physical Education A level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

Sacred Heart PE department has an excellent record in team sports. The achievements have placed it as one of the most successful providers in the area. There have been major advances in the facilities available to students linked to the building of an impressive new sports hall and teaching block.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

AQA (6580)

There are three main areas of study:

- Anatomical and Physiological aspects of Sport
- Psychological aspects of Sport and Physical Education
- Historical, Social and Cultural Aspects of Physical Activity.

AS

Unit 1

Opportunities for, and the effects of, leading a healthy lifestyle.

1 written paper - 2 hours 60% total AS mark - 30% of total A Level mark.

Will require candidates to answer questions on applied physiology, skill acquisition and opportunities for participation.

Section B will examine the application of theoretical knowledge to a practical situation.

Unit 2

Analysis and evaluation of physical activity as performer and/or in an adopted role(s).
Internal assessment with external moderation - 40% of total AS Marks - 20% of total A Level marks.

Candidates are assessed on their ability to perform, analyse and evaluate the execution of core skills/techniques in isolation and a structured practice as either a player/performer and in an adopted role or in two roles.

A2

Unit 3

Optimising performance and evaluating contemporary issues within sport.

Written paper - 2hours 30% of total A Level mark

Section A looks at how the application of physiological factors can optimise performance.

Section B looks at how the application of psychological theories can optimise performance.

Section C evaluates contemporary influences in sport and their impact on the performer.

Unit 4

Internal assessment with external moderation - 20% of total A Level marks candidates are assessed on their ability to perform, analyse and evaluate their own performance of the core skills/techniques in a competitive situation as either a player/performer or in an adopted role.

Evaluate performances and identify weakness and suggest appropriate corrective measures.

Assessment objectives

A01 Candidates should demonstrate knowledge and understanding of physical activity.

A02 Candidates should demonstrate the ability to apply skills, knowledge and understanding in physical activity

A03 Candidates should demonstrate the ability to analyse and evaluate, critically, physical activity.

What Are The Entry Requirements?

It is not a pre-requisite to have studied GCSE PE in order to study A-level PE, however, it does give candidates a foundational advantage. A-level PE splits into two sections. The theory section is worth 60% whilst the practical section is worth 40% of the overall marks.

A grade B or higher is recommended in PE and a good ability in Biology.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Students are encouraged to take on coaching qualifications alongside their studies e.g. Sports Leadership.

Future Opportunities?

On completion of the A-level PE course, students have an ever-growing number of Higher Education and career choices open to them relating to the field of Physical Education and Sport. There are university courses ranging from Sports Science to Sports Equipment Technology and careers available as a Sport Coach, Sports Psychologist, Dietician or many other jobs in the Leisure industry.

Physics A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

Sacred Heart Physics department has well equipped labs and students have opportunities to carry out investigations and observe demonstrations that support the content of the course. The new specifications introduce new topics as well as building on previous studies in Physics.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

AS Modules (Year 12)

- AS Unit 1 - Particles, Quantum Phenomena and Electricity.
- AS Unit 2 - Mechanics, Materials and Waves
- AS Unit 3 - Investigative and Practical Skill in AS Physics.

A2 Modules (Year 13)

- A2 Unit 4 - Fields and Further Mechanics
- A2 Unit 5 - Nuclear and Thermal Physics (and one optional topic from);

5 .Astrophysics
6 .Medical Physics
7 .Applied Physics
8 .Turning Points

What Are The Entry Requirements?

AQA (the examining body) assume that candidates have achieved grade C or better in GCSE Physics or grade CC or better in GCSE Science/Additional Science, however the department policy is to ask students to obtain B in GCSE Physics or BB in GCSE Science/Additional Science.

How Will I Be Assessed?

AQA Specification A (2450)

AS Level

- Unit 1 - 1 hour 45 minute written paper (20%)
- Unit 2 - 1 hour 15 minute written paper (20%)

Unit 3 - Investigative Skill Assessment (10%)

A2 Level

Unit 4 - 1 hour 45 minute written paper (20%)

Unit 5 - 1 hour 45 minute written paper (20%)

Unit 6 - Investigative Skills Assessment (10%)

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Students have access to a lot of material on the school shared drive to encourage self study techniques.

Future Opportunities?

A pass at AS or A-level, in Physics, is a stepping stone to any career in Science and to many in the Commercial, Arts and Language fields. A high proportion of universities are now offering a combined degree in both Sciences and Languages.

Physics is required for courses in Engineering and for admission to most Medical Schools, and would be an advantage for such careers as Surveying, Architecture, etc. There are plenty of career opportunities for females in the scientific and engineering professions. Nano technology will be a major contributor to the future of Science and re-cycling.

Psychology A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

The Psychology course emphasises the practical research methodology. It allows students to develop real skills which will be invaluable at degree level and in future careers.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

Year 12: The AS qualification (H168) is made up of two written papers that focus on the following:

G541 Psychological Investigations

Candidates become familiar with four techniques for collecting and analysing data. Self Report, Observation, Experiment and Correlation.

G542 Core Studies

Candidates build knowledge and understanding of 15 core studies that provide insight into how Psychology is carried out. The studies are categorised under five core areas of Psychology (*Cognitive, Developmental, Physiological, Social and the Psychology of Individual Differences*)

Year 13: A2 (H568) builds on the work of the AS and focuses mainly on the ways that Psychology has been applied. Candidates have two areas to study:

G543

The students will study:

Forensic Psychology which incorporates *Turning to Crime, Making a case, Researching a verdict, After a guilty verdict*

Health and Clinical Psychology which incorporates *Healthy Living, Stress, Dysfunctional Behaviour, Disorders*

G544

This section of the course deals with Approaches and Research Methods in Psychology.

What Are The Entry Requirements?

A good general level of performance at GCSE level.

GCSE Grade C or above in Mathematics and English.

How Will I Be Assessed?

G541	1 hour	30% (AS)	15% (A2)
G542	1 hour	70% (AS)	35% (A2)
G543 Forensic	1.5 hour		30% (A2)
Health	1.5 hour		
G544	1.5 hour		20% (A2)

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Psychology involves trips to Chester Zoo and lectures at universities.

Future Opportunities?

The course is suitable

For those who wish to study an academic path in Psychology at degree level.

For those who want to explore Psychology in order to further their understanding of human processes

For both a professional interest and a lay person's interest in Psychology.

Careers include Child psychology, criminal psychology (police), social work, media, teaching, advertising, recruitment and management particularly, personnel departments.

Science in Society A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

If you would like to know why things happen, you'll find Science in Society a fascinating course. During the course you will unearth information on a diverse range of issues, like infectious diseases, evolution, the universe, climate change and much more. It all results in a greater understanding of nature and scientific issues.

Science in Society is designed to:

- broaden the curriculum for those students who are mainly following an Arts or Humanities course.
- give students following science an opportunity to reflect on their specialist studies in a wider context.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

Year 12 AS

Unit 1 Exploring Key Scientific Issues

(Germ Theory of Disease, Infectious Diseases Now, Transport Issues, Medicines, Ethical Issues in Medicine, Reproductive Choices, Radiation – Risk of Uses, Lifestyle and Health, Evolution, The Universe, Are We Alone?)

Unit 2 Reading and Writing about Science

(Research on a topical issue and review some scientific literature)

Year 13 A2

Unit 3 Exploring Key Scientific Issues

(Cells, Chemicals of the Mind, Nature and Nurture, Watching the Brain Working, Responding to Global Climate Change, Energy Futures, Sustaining the Variety of Life on Earth)

Unit 4 Case Study of a Scientific Issue

What Are The Entry Requirements?

AQA assume that the candidates have achieved grade C or better in GCSE Separate Sciences or Additional Science. Due to the nature of the assessment it is important that students have at least obtained a grade C in English Language

How Will I Be Assessed?

AS Level	-	Unit 1 Unit 2	2 hr. examination. Written paper, Mark; 30% Internal Assessment Mark:20%
A2 Level	-	Unit 3 Unit 4	2 hr. examination. Written paper. Mark 30% 1 hr. 30 mins. Written paper Mark: 20%

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Students will have opportunities to visit universities for revision lectures.

Science in society helps students develop a number of skills:

- how to research information and evaluate it
- how to investigate facts and use deduction
- how to argue your point of view fluently
- how to take responsibility for your own learning

Future Opportunities?

The subject is definitely for scientists and non scientists, so think about it supporting your ambition. Media, journalism, science, medicine, engineering, management, politics ...

they are just some of the careers that students taking this course can aspire to.

Sociology A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

Students will be required to study the origins, development and nature of a variety of sociological approaches (perspectives). These perspectives will be used to critically analyse society at both an institutional and an individual level.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

UNIT 1: SCLY1 - Wealth, Poverty and Welfare:

UNIT 2: SCLY2 - Education and Sociological Methods:

UNIT 3: SCYL3 - Beliefs in Society:

UNIT 4: SCYL4 - Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods:

What Are The Entry Requirements?

GCSE Sociology is not a prerequisite, however, all pupils must have shown themselves to be capable of advanced study.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Both AS and A2 are assessed by written examination.

AS Level:

- UNIT 1 - 1 Hour (40% of AS / 20% of A2)
- UNIT 2 - 2 Hours (60% of AS / 30% of A2)

A2 Level:

- UNIT 3 - 1 Hour 30 minutes (20% of A2)
- UNIT 4 - 2 Hours (30% of A2)

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Students will have opportunities to visit universities for revision lectures.

Future Opportunities?

Sociology, as an academic discipline is complementary to a wide variety of subjects, in particular, Ethics, History, English and Advanced VCE Health & Social Care and is a useful contrast to Science subjects; supporting many university courses, eg. Physiotherapy, Medicine and Environmental Studies.

University courses in Sociology, Social Science, Social Work, Social Administration and Law. Also suitable for Economic and Social History, Politics, Media, Criminology and Management courses.

Above degrees frequently lead on to work within Legal and Political careers, Welfare Services, the Police Force, Teaching at various levels, or careers such as Town

Planning, Management, Mass Communication (Press, Television, Journalism), Marketing and so on.

Spanish A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

A level Spanish is a demanding and intellectually stimulating course which aims to provide students with the foreign language skills necessary in the modern world, especially in a commercial, European context. Students learn to communicate confidently and effectively in the language which is taught through study of a range of topics designed to provide an insight into contemporary society and cultural background of France and French - speaking countries. The study of A level French should be an enjoyable experience, developing in the students an awareness of how the language works and is intended to be both challenging and intellectually rewarding.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

Language is learnt in the context of a range of settings.
Students study two units of work at AS Level in the first year of study, followed by a further two units at A2.

The subject content for the AS units include: The Media (television, advertising etc), Popular Culture (cinema, music), Healthy Lifestyle (sport, exercise, health and well-being) and Family/Relationships (friendships, marriage/partnerships).

At A2, candidates study the Environment (pollution, energy), Multicultural Society (immigration, racism) and Contemporary Social Issues (wealth and poverty, law and order).
They also study two cultural topics which might include a period of 20th Century Spanish History, the work of a Spanish Author, director, musician or painter or the work of a Spanish dramatist or poet.

What Are The Entry Requirements?

At least a Grade B in French at GCSE, although students achieving Grade C will be considered providing they show the enthusiasm and determination to succeed.

How Will I Be Assessed?

AS Level is qualification in itself and also carries 50% of the marks for the A Level qualification.

AS Units

Unit 1:

Listening, Reading and Writing exam - 2hour written examination (AS 70% - A2 35%)

Unit 2: Speaking test - 20 minute preparation + 15 minute test (AS 30% - A2 15%).

A2 Units

Unit 3: Listening Reading and Writing exam - 2hour 30min written examination (A2 35%)

Unit 4: Speaking test - 20 minute preparation + 15 minute test (A2 15%)

AS + A2 = A Level

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Students make use of a wide range of resources in Spanish including books, newspapers, magazines, radio, television, DVD recordings and music.

They are expected to complete personal research and make use of the internet where appropriate.

Aims of the course:

- to enable students to attain a high level of competence in the language
- to broaden opportunities for leisure and travel
- to enhance employment prospects both in the UK and abroad
- to provide an insight into another culture and society
- to provide students with a sound basis for further study

Future Opportunities?

An A-level pass in modern languages can lead to a degree course in a wide range of subject areas. Alongside the traditional courses in modern languages, there are a large number of options combining Spanish with law, business studies, media studies or science. Demand for people skilled in such areas is great and is increasing.

A-level in a modern foreign language is a distinct advantage for those seeking a career in travel and tourism, the media, the EU, translating and interpreting, foreign trade and banking and many more.

Competence in foreign language skills is certain to enhance career prospects in general.

Theatre Studies A Level at Sacred Heart Catholic College

This lively and demanding course involves an interesting mixture of theory and practice. Its aim is to encourage in pupils the development of appropriate theatre skills; extend the pupils' knowledge and understanding of theatre; foster in pupils a critical and sensitive response to the complexities of theatre.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:

What Will I Learn?

AS Unit 1

- You will study a play and work on ways of staging it. In particular you will consider how you would perform the various roles or how you would direct the play to create an effective performance for an audience. You will learn the principles of set design and the technical aspects of theatre such as sound and lighting.
- You will develop your own practical skills. Much of the teaching is practically based so that pupils practice various acting and performance techniques and work on other practical elements of drama such as operating lighting systems.

A2 Unit 2

- You will study two more plays, one which will have been written pre-twentieth century. You will learn about the contextual background to the pre-twentieth century play and work on ways of interpreting this play on stage. You will work on ways of staging the contemporary play.
- Practical work at A2 focuses on developing your skills and creating your own devised piece of theatre.

What Are The Entry Requirements?

Although it is not necessary that pupils have studied GCSE Drama, it is essential that pupils demonstrate an interest and enthusiasm for drama and theatre. It is advisable for students to have A-C grades in English as there is a significant amount of written work, including analysis of plays and performance in the course.

How Will I Be Assessed?

AQA Drama and Theatre Studies New Specification starting in September 2008 for first examination in 2009

This specification encourages students to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of practical theatre and plays. Assessment is both written (60%) and practical (40%).

AS

UNIT 1: Live Theatre Production seen and Prescribed Play

1 hour 30 minutes written examination. 100 marks

Section A - Candidates must answer one question from a choice of four which requires a personal response to a performance seen during the course. Where it is possible, they should have studied the text and the background to the play.

Section B - Candidates must choose one of two questions on a set text. They need to be able to write about how they would interpret this text on stage.

UNIT 2: Presentation of an extract from a play

This is a practical unit. It also includes assessment of a written portfolio and marks are given for preparation work. Students work in groups of 2 to 8 to present an extract from a published play of their choice. They must use the working methods of a practitioner to inform their work. They are assessed for one of the following skills: acting, design (costume, masks, set), or technical elements (lighting and/or sound) or directing. 80 marks.

A2

UNIT 3: Further prescribed Plays including Pre-Twentieth Century.

2 hour written paper. 100 marks

Candidates are required to answer two questions each on a separate text, one of which must be pre-twentieth century. Candidates will need to be aware of the social, historical and cultural contexts of their chosen plays.

Section A - Pre-Twentieth century. Candidates must answer one question from a choice of two on their chosen set text. They should be able to write about their interpretation of the text from a performance point of view.

Section B - The Twentieth Century or Contemporary Drama. This question is based on a short extract from the chosen play for which the candidate must offer suggestions for a complete stage realisation.

Unit 4: Presentation of Devised Drama

Practical assessment 80 marks

This is a practical unit. It also includes assessment of a written portfolio and marks are given for preparation work. Students work in groups of 2 to 8 to produce a piece of devised drama in a theatrical style of their choice. They are assessed for one of the following skills: acting design (costume, masks, set), or technical elements (lighting and/or sound) or directing.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Critical appreciation of live theatre is an integral part of the course. Pupils will be required to see a minimum of three plays during each year.

Future Opportunities?

Pupils who have taken Theatre Studies have gone on to University to study a range of courses including; Drama, English, Journalism, History, P.E., Media Studies. A-level Theatre Studies develops not only a knowledge and experience of theatre but communication skills essential for life.

Business Studies A Level Applied at Sacred Heart Catholic College

The fundamental philosophy of this course is that, in order to understand the nature of Business, students must actively experience the business environment.

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

Applied Business (Dual Award)

Applied Business has been designed to form qualifications which provide knowledge and understanding of this vocational area. It is an ideal qualification for those students who want a broad background in business which will allow them to progress to Further or Higher Education, training or employment. It is particularly suitable as a sound basis for further study in business related subjects at university such as Accounts, Marketing, Management and Administrative courses.

The fundamental philosophy of Applied Business is that, in order to understand the nature of business, students must actively experience the business environment. This can be achieved through a variety of approaches including work experience, links with local employers, part-time work, case studies and independent research.

Course Content

The full Applied award is the equivalent to two A-levels. Grading is identical to A-level (A-E). The course comprises of a mixture of compulsory and optional units.

Year 12

Students study six units of which three are externally examined: Finance, Meeting Customer Needs and Business and Information Systems. The three portfolio units are: Investigating Business, People in Business and careers Planning.

Year 13

Students study six further units of study that include further traditional business areas or amplify and expand upon areas already studied. Examined units include: The Marketing Environment, Managing People and Financial Accounting for Managers. The three portfolio units are: Marketing Strategy, Promotional Activities and Business Planning..

What Are The Entry Requirements?

5 GCSEs at Grade C or above.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Assessment is designed to give credit for what candidates can do as well as what they know and understand. It is based both on portfolio evidence which is marked by the school and moderated by AQA. There are also external assessments that are marked by AQA.

Grading is identical to the traditional A-level route, ie A-E. For a dual award, students will receive two grades at the end of Year 13.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Work experience is an integral part of this course.

Future Opportunities?

Business Studies is an increasingly popular choice in higher education. It is a sound basis for career progression into a wide range of professions including accountancy, law, financial services, marketing and advertising, and retailing.

Health & Social Care A Level Double Award at Sacred Heart Catholic College

Applied A Levels (Double Award)

Qualifications

The following qualification(s) can be gained from this opportunity:
General Certificate of Education A Level

What Will I Learn?

AQA Double Award (8750)

To obtain the award, students must take a combination of the following units:

The 6 units covered in Year 12 are:

- Effective Caring
- Effective Communication
- Health, Illness and Disease
- Child Development
- Common Diseases and Disorders
- Complementary Therapies

Units marked with an asterisk will be assessed externally. All other units will be assessed internally through portfolio evidence.

The 6 units covered in Year 13 are:

- Clients with Disabilities
- Understanding Mental Disorder
- Human Development, Factors and Theories
- Working in Health & Social Care
- The role of Exercising in maintaining Health and Well-being
- Research Methods

As before, units marked with an asterisk will be externally assessed.

What Are The Entry Requirements?

Entry to the dual award Health & Social Care is a minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade C or above.

How Will I Be Assessed?

The 6 units covered in Year 12 are assessed internally through student portfolios except for those marked with an asterisk. These will be examined externally.

- Effective Caring *
- Effective Communication
- Health, Illness and Disease
- Child Development *
- Common Diseases and Disorders *
- Complementary Therapies

Examinations last 1hr. 30 mins. and consist of structured questions. all units are equally weighted.

The 6 units covered in Year 13 are internally assessed through student portfolios except those marked with an asterisk. These will be examined externally.

- Clients with Disabilities
- Understanding Mental Disorder
- Human Development, Factors and Theories *
- Working in Health & Social Care
- The role of Exercising in maintaining Health and Well-being *
- Research Methods

Examinations last 1hr. 30 mins. and are in the form of structured questions. Portfolios are extended pieces of work often based on individual case studies.

Is There Anything Else I Need To Know?

Work experience is a requirement of this course.

Future Opportunities?

The qualification allows for a number of progression routes:

Higher Education – a useful basis for progression to health, nursing, social care, social work and education eg. primary teaching.