

supportive learning maturity
learning thrilling adventure
enriching the talents nurtured
sixth caring success embrace
learning form creative energy
ambitions goals commitment
reward achievement cultural



IPSWICH SCHOOL

Co-Educational Day and Boarding School

The Sixth Form at Ipswich School

The Ipswich School Sixth Form offers a special combination of features, giving its students an excellent preparation for university and beyond:

- teachers who are specialists in their subjects and who have an excellent track record of success
- small classes ensuring individual attention and a constructive partnership between students and teachers
- excellent facilities for study and relaxation
- a wide choice of A level and AS level subjects
- an Enrichment Programme which offers students the opportunity to put together a portfolio that gives the breadth of the International Baccalaureate but without the compulsory elements
- close contact with leading universities and a high rate of successful entry to them
- extensive experience of preparing students for Oxbridge, law, medicine and other areas which have special entry requirements
- tuition in Critical Thinking
- frequent opportunities for participation in high quality sport, music and drama
- opportunities for Personal Development which give Ipswich School students 'added value' when applying for university. These include a Leadership Programme validated by the Institute for Leadership and Management.

To applicants from other schools

We hope that our Information Evening will help you to choose your A levels and it is also an opportunity to find out about the other things which are available in our Sixth Form - the Enrichment Programme, sport, music, drama, the International Leadership Programme and so on. You may also wish to find out more about the Scholarships and the Means-Tested Bursaries that are available; these involve a short written test, a report from your school and an informal meeting with staff in November. However, there is no substitute for visiting the School on an ordinary working day and we will be very pleased to arrange for you to look round individually (with or without parents), to meet students and teachers, to ask your own particular questions, and to catch the 'flavour' of Ipswich School.



Entry to the Sixth Form

Each year there are about 110 Lower Sixth Formers at Ipswich School, about 25 of them new to the School. Our Sixth Form is large enough to offer a good choice of subjects, a wide range of activities and a variety of friends, but not so large that individuals become just 'another student'. Class sizes are usually around 10 or 12 and never rise above 16, and we are fortunate in having high quality resources and teaching staff with considerable expertise in Sixth Form teaching. Pupils follow courses at AS level in Year 12 and A2 level in Year 13. Almost all of our Sixth Form students study four subjects in Year 12 (to AS level) and either reduce to three in Year 13, or continue all four subjects through to a full A level. Most acquire an additional qualification through the Enrichment Programme. Ours is an academic Sixth Form and our pupils have an excellent record of A level results and entry to prestigious universities. We also attach great importance to an all-round education, to the pursuit of sporting and cultural interests, and to personal development. We have found from experience that you will be successful in your A levels if you have achieved at least A grades at GCSE in the subjects you wish to study, or in related subjects, and at least six B grades overall in your GCSEs. We do accept pupils into the Sixth Form with lower grades than this, as long as they are above an absolute minimum of six C grades with Bs in relevant subjects; in these cases we will discuss your choices very carefully with you to determine whether our Sixth Form is a place where you will be able to best fulfil your potential.

The choice of AS/A levels should not be made hastily. Discover as much as you can about what is involved in studying particular subjects at A level. This booklet is a start and you and your parents should find attendance at our Information Evening for prospective sixth formers in November very useful. Talk with your teachers, consider your strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes and look ahead to possible Higher Education courses and careers. Your decision should be as well informed as possible. If you change your mind later, this should again be a considered decision - not,

for example, a quick reaction to a surprisingly good (or poor) GCSE result in August. Late changes are sometimes possible, but may be difficult to timetable, particularly if they include subjects in lesser demand. One of the distinguishing features of our Sixth Form, other than its academic reputation and real sense of purpose, is the importance we attach to supporting and advising our AS/A level students. In some Sixth Forms, students are left to 'sink or swim'; we believe that sixth formers should be given considerable scope for independence and responsibility but that they appreciate the sympathetic guidance of members of staff. Sixth Form tutor groups consist of students from both years of the Sixth Form and are grouped by Houses. Under the guidance of the Head of Sixth Form, Louis d'Arcy, his deputy Zos Austin, and the Housemasters/mistresses, sixth formers are helped to adapt to their AS/A2 level work and guided through the processes of thinking about, and applying to, higher education. We are convinced of the importance of thorough advice and support as sixth formers move towards full independence and the worlds of university and employment.

In their final years at the School, pupils are encouraged to assume responsibility for various areas of school life and many sixth formers gain considerable confidence and enjoyment by taking on leadership roles within the School.

Reading this booklet you will see that an AS/A2 level course is demanding and the commitment we require is considerable. The potential rewards of two happy and successful years in the Sixth Form are well worth the effort.



Nicholas Weaver
Headmaster, September 2013



The Sixth Form Years

Sixth formers enjoy greater independence and responsibility than pupils in lower year groups. They have a dress code rather than school uniform. They have much more scope to organise their time, and they are encouraged to use that time to the best advantage. Sixth formers by arrangement with members of staff are able to access the art studios, DT workshops, music rooms and other facilities. Sixth formers also enjoy a wide choice of games and cultural activities that provide variety and complement study time. You will lead a very full life. The Sixth Form Centre on Henley Road is naturally the focus of a great deal of Sixth Form life, and ours has facilities for work and relaxation. As important as the facilities, however, is the 'buzz' that comes from a lively group of people who enjoy each other's company. There is a Sixth Form Committee whose traditional function has been social, but which now discusses a wide range of issues affecting Sixth Form life in general. Sixth formers also organise and run some of the weekly clubs and societies. Every year, sixth formers make a huge contribution to school music and drama productions, and in the Upper Sixth pupils produce a play, sometimes two, by themselves. Many sixth formers also gain a great deal of enjoyment from sport, whether played recreationally or at the highest competitive level.

Whilst the Sixth Form enjoys an energetic life of its own, it also plays a leading role within the School. Senior pupils help out in the Preparatory School with Parents' Evenings and assemblies, act as guides and help to run certain fun events. Sixth formers have set up and run clubs for pupils in Years 7 and 8, and others have assisted teachers in coaching games with younger pupils. In the Sixth Form, pupils are encouraged to assume responsibility for various areas of school life: the Lower Sixth share some prefecting

duties with the Upper Sixth, and there are opportunities to develop skills of leadership, communication and organisation at many levels, for instance in the House system or in the Combined Cadet Force (CCF). A group of Senior Prefects attends a leadership weekend at the end of the summer term. The School has a Peer Tutoring system in which pupils from the Upper Sixth are linked with specific forms or tutor groups in Years 6 to 9. There is a member of staff co-ordinating the training and running of the scheme which has proved enjoyable and beneficial for peer tutors and tutees alike. The School would find it hard to function without the energy and wide ranging commitment of its Sixth Form. At the same time, there are numerous rewards for sixth formers who participate in the co-curricular life of the school. By engaging in such activities students can build a personal profile that will enhance applications for university and beyond. Employers look not just for academic success, but for transferable communication, teamwork and interpersonal skills.

Opportunities for personal development at Ipswich School are numerous, and can be just as valuable to students as academic qualifications. The Sixth Form years are special: there is certainly a more adult, perhaps more informal relationship between pupil and teacher as subjects are explored in depth. Our sixth formers have a very full two years, academically and in co-curricular terms. Almost all go on to higher education and they leave us well-prepared to make the most of their university careers.

Advanced level subjects

AS/A2 level Choices

The following subjects are available at AS/A2 level in the main 'blocks' (with additional subjects available in the Enrichment Programme):

Art
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Classical Civilisation
Design and Technology
Economics
English Literature
French
Geography
German
History
Latin
Mathematics
Further Mathematics
Music
Philosophy, Religion and Ethics
Physical Education
Physics
Psychology
Russian
Spanish

Making your Choice

Your choice of AS/A level subjects will be determined by several factors. You will have personal preferences and enthusiasms and these are important. Your predicted GCSE results will be a useful, but by no means infallible, guide to your academic strengths and weaknesses. If you have definite plans about careers or university courses, your choice of AS/A

levels must take these into account. For example, if you are considering Medicine, you are strongly advised to study Chemistry to A level and Biology to at least AS level, and many medical schools suggest that one of your four subjects should be a non-science subject, preferably one that will help to develop your communication skills.

Sometimes new lower sixth formers have been swayed in their choice of subjects by the latest batch of A level results. The study of these results can be misleading. Some subjects, because of their nature, attract small numbers of very able candidates. Other subjects attract large numbers of pupils of differing abilities. Results fluctuate from year to year, and it would be foolish to choose your subjects on the basis of a single set of A level or AS level results. The aggregate figures for the past few years show that the results in all subjects over that period have been very good. It is also important to remember that those who work hard throughout the two years of the Sixth Form do well.

Please ask, of course, if you would like any further advice.



Louis d'Arcy
Head of Sixth Form
September 2013

Art and Design

Ipswich School's Art and Design course provides an opportunity for personal expression, encouraging conceptual thinking and improving skills of observation and imagination. It will present the student with an exciting and challenging opportunity to learn what it means to be a creative and imaginative visual artist. In addition to personal development, the study of art allows us to better understand the world which we inhabit. In a world so shaped by art, it is rewarding and illuminating to study the pieces and artefacts which are not only historical accounts but intimate expressions of emotion.

The Art and Design course is designed to build on observational skills and provides a varied and comprehensive opportunity for studying a complete experience of art, based upon personal experiences and

investigations. It is carefully structured, enabling students to learn new and appropriate techniques and approaches to explore and manipulate their own ideas and passion for this subject. Work can be traditional or abstract. Students are encouraged to explore ideas with reference to works of other artists and to approach a fluent level of creative independence and personal identity in their work. Gallery visits and contact with working artists form an integral part of the student's journey towards achieving a greater contextual understanding of their own work and ideas. Ipswich School Art Department has four visually exciting studios with four specialist teachers, an art library, computer suite and print room. We also have two technical support staff. Students can specialise in Fine Art, Textiles and Sculpture.

Biology

Biology has been at the cutting edge of scientific research since the middle of the 20th century, and the rate of progress is accelerating in the 21st century, as research into genomes provides ever more powerful insights into life on Earth. The consequences of this work for medicine and agriculture are ever expanding, and promise radical changes in the next few decades. If work in molecular biology, genetics, medicine, medical research, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, agriculture, food science, or one of dozens of other different biological careers does not appeal, then biologists, with their training in studying complex systems, are highly successful in many other walks of life.

Sixth form Biology students fall into two main categories. The first group intends to study some form of biological science after leaving school. Included here are medical, veterinary and dental candidates. Students in the second group take Biology because they enjoyed the subject at GCSE,

and want to include some science in their sixth form studies. They do not intend further biological study on leaving school. This is often a successful option, providing a valuable science qualification.

There is strong evidence to show that studying Chemistry alongside Biology will improve your eventual grade, and both qualifications will be required for some university courses. However, students successfully combine studying Biology with a wide range of other disciplines, and then apply for a huge diversity of different degrees.

Here at Ipswich School we offer an insight into current developments in the exciting world of 21st century biological science. We use practical work extensively to help develop ideas and to provide a real feel for the way that scientific ideas are developed. Students find that their time in the sixth form is exciting, challenging and prepares them well for university.

Business Studies

Business Studies is an introduction to key economic and business principles and concepts. Everyone will be affected by the national and global economy – Young people need to be prepared to face the future in a flexible manner. Business Studies is highly valuable as it delivers an understanding of the ways organisations and economies work.

Business Studies is a subject that has a wide number of possible subject combinations. For example, the language student may see a need for an understanding of business as a result of the ever-increasing globalisation of business activity. Equally the science student may want an appreciation of how business might affect him/her when they begin their career.

Teaching is contemporary and uses many different approaches. Students will be heavily involved in all lessons and a good Business Studies student is often given the task of using business theory to solve a

problem. Students gain high marks in exams by analysing a given situation, then making decisions and backing them up with logical and often innovative explanations. We use business simulations as well as more conventional class discussions, exercises and note taking. This real world orientation provides much of the natural interest and excitement. You will also develop a range of key inter-personal skills that are increasingly sought by universities and employers.

Whilst the focus of the course is on problem solving, decision making and communication, you will develop a critical understanding of the main functional areas of business behaviour and the wider context within which firms operate.

Classwork will give you a firm grasp of business principles and help you to apply these principles to real-life issues. This will involve case studies, data response, essays and visits to local companies.

Chemistry

Chemistry is at the very centre of our existence on this planet. Human life is a marvellous sequence of chemical reactions. The high quality of food and water we enjoy, the medicines we expect to cure our illness and the dazzling pyrotechnics in films that entertain us - all these, to name only a few, are the result of carefully controlled chemical reactions underpinned by a full understanding of the way chemicals react together.

The rapid development of materials science, including the millions of pounds being committed by the UK government to the research into applications of graphene, present exciting opportunities for well qualified chemists.

Studying Chemistry is an exciting privilege. Naturally, if you are to understand some of the most important and fundamental processes which occur on earth, you will need to draw on, and extend to the full, all your academic powers.

Despite its factual base, Chemistry requires insight, flair and imagination, particularly in the design of new drugs and medicines (pharmacology). The course promotes the study of contemporary Chemistry including pharmaceuticals, spectroscopy, environmental chemistry and reaction mechanisms as well as the expansion of essential GCSE topics such as bonding, equilibrium and rates. Practical tasks are used to help explain concepts and to develop the skills required to succeed in the assessed practical exercises.

The wide range of skills developed and the challenging nature of much of the material make Chemistry an excellent preparation for university study - in any subject. All science courses, including medicine, veterinary science and dentistry will draw on skills acquired during the course. Law, accountancy and patents are other areas where expertise in Chemistry is valued.

Design and Technology

The proportion of people who can fully appreciate the influence that design has on the world around us is far too small. We are surrounded by design every moment of our life.

Studying AS and A2 level Design and Technology at Ipswich School will provide you with the opportunity to absorb an advanced level of understanding. The experiences and knowledge gained within the subject will be of great benefit to all candidates.

The course encourages an awareness and knowledge of economic, social, aesthetic, cultural, health and environmental factors relevant to the subject area. You will take many of the skills learnt during your GCSE studies and push them towards a professional standard. The use of CAD/CAM, creative drawing, graphic communication, materials knowledge and manufacturing processes are all major components

for the study of AS and A2 Design Technology.

If you decide to pursue the subject at a higher level, you will discover that the course provides a foundation for all areas of commercial and industrial design. Many of our students go on to study courses in architecture, engineering, product, graphics and other forms of design. The OCR syllabus offers the flexibility for the individual pupil to choose the focus for their study, following their own personal direction and work to their strengths.

The Design and Technology Department has continued to flourish, facilitating a modern approach to teaching and keeping up to date with the rapidly changing world of design. Studying Design Technology will complement all your subjects and, we hope, develop, stimulate and sustain your interests.

Economics

Economics is about choice and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms.

With only the occasional exception, everyone taking Economics at Ipswich is studying a subject new to them. No prior knowledge of Economics is therefore expected or required, however the successful economist will tend to exhibit an interest in current issues in the UK and on a global scale. Economics is an ever-changing discipline and its content changes to reflect events in the modern economy; recent areas of focus have been the implications for the UK economy of EU enlargement, the impact of China's recent industrial development on the UK economy, and the effectiveness of Quantitative Easing.

The subject helps pupils to develop clear and logical thinking and an analytical approach to problem-solving, as well as to look for the wider implications of any event. Economics provides you with a good combination of essays and analytical maths that will help you study any course at university.

Economics teaching at Ipswich is contemporary and rooted in the real world, but at the same time it is always closely related to a clearly explained set of economic theory. Students always feel that their views are valued, and lessons are based around student input – student examples, ideas and arguments all form an integral part of developing a collective understanding of the work covered.

Our approach is one which will involve and stimulate the student who will therefore be able to benefit from their study of a vibrant and dynamic subject.

English Literature

If you choose English Literature at A level, you will undoubtedly be stimulated, certainly challenged, we hope inspired and we guarantee you will never be bored.

The study of this subject invites you to engage with the most profound questions that any art form poses. How do we make sense of what it is to be a conscious, thinking human being? What is the relationship between the individual and society? Not only will you be encouraged to participate in lively discussions concerning individual texts, in addition you will evaluate the ways in which film and theatre directors have adapted literary works. Moreover, you will consider the ways in which other readers have responded to literature and be introduced to Marxist, feminist and Freudian critical perspectives. The syllabus is embracing, rigorous and therefore an excellent preparation for degree-level study, not least

because of the opportunities you will be given to develop an independent and original response.

At A level, in seminar-style lessons, the relationship between teacher and pupil is consciously less formal; we therefore attract pupils who enjoy exchanging ideas within a rigorous, supportive and good-humoured environment. We welcome enthusiasm and repay it generously: the department has a reputation for subject specialism and a genuine passion for literature, film and theatre which we are always keen to share. Ask us about what we think of the Orange Prize shortlist or whether the latest adaptation of a canonical work is a success and you'll never get away....

Geography

Studying Geography is important as it enhances your knowledge of the world around us. It helps us to explain the human and physical landscape and also shows how man interacts with his environment often causing significant problems. The subject is uniquely placed to raise our awareness of our world and in doing so develop students' abilities to weigh up arguments and put forward solutions to some of the most important issues facing this generation.

Geography is often viewed as a unique bridge between the social sciences and the earth sciences. In teaching the topics we use many different techniques which will develop a pupil's numeracy, graphical and communication skills. An A level in the subject is highly prized by universities and the qualification opens the doors to many careers, from architect to business analyst, travel agent to teacher.

In teaching A level we offer a number of opportunities to tackle the practical nature of the subject through residential and non-residential field work. Sixth formers are given the opportunity to travel to Cumbria and North Norfolk as well as join foreign field trips that take place every two years. Past trips have recently visited China and Iceland.

History

History is a fascinating, challenging subject. This is the strongest reason for studying it at A level. There are no 'right' answers. You will be expected to look at issues from a variety of perspectives to develop a point of view. You will be expected to present arguments based on evidence and evaluation both in writing and from debate. In class you will find yourself learning from others and challenging others - including your teachers. The Department believes very strongly in 'active learning'; the best sixth form lessons are arenas for lively discussion and critical thought and this is what we aim for. Groups develop a strong rapport during study which is often one of the most satisfying aspects of the course.

Studying History is an excellent way to develop skills which are much in demand. Historians learn to evaluate evidence and develop logical arguments. Essays and source evaluation require precise writing

skills. Some of the reading you will be given will be demanding. All of this is good preparation for study at university and so a History A level is highly valued by the best universities.

We can guarantee that you will be taught by people who are passionate about History. We will expect you to aim high. Whether your interests lie in politics, economics, literature, military strategy or social behaviour, studying History will enrich your understanding and equip you well for the next stage of your career.

Latin and Classical Civilisation

Aeschylus, Aristotle, Alexander the Great, Homer, Julius Caesar, Virgil, Hypatia, Rome, Athens, Alexandria, Oscar Wilde, Barak Obama, Boris Johnson, - the lives, philosophies, languages and cultures of the ancient world permeate and percolate through western society and are evident today in all areas of modern life. So why would you not want to study a set of disciplines that are not only intrinsically interesting but also provide you with a valuable education in their own right?

At Ipswich School no prior knowledge is required for A level Classical Civilisation. To study Latin we would expect an A*, A or occasionally B grade at GCSE but in certain circumstances a personal programme can be worked out for those keen to pick up Latin again after a break at GCSE. Classical Civilisation and Latin combine well with other subjects and leave many doors open for studies at university. Even if you do

not go on to study classical subjects further, you will have acquired transferable skills as well as the ability to work productively on your own. Classical training remains attractive and Classics graduates are sought after by employers. Want to learn more? Try browsing through 'An Intelligent Person's Guide to the Classics' by Peter Jones or 'A Very Brief Introduction to Classics' by Mary Beard and John Henderson.

The department constantly update both the physical and virtual Classics library to include delights such as the recent Rome series by the captivating Cambridge Classics lecturer Mary Beard. Feed your Classics curiosity by dropping into the department and our specialist teachers will assist you in selecting from the best in Classics reading and viewing.

Mathematics and Further Maths

Studying Mathematics at AS and A level will be a challenging yet highly rewarding experience. You will develop and build upon your problem solving skills, logical thought and analytical processes that will also serve to benefit you across the wider curriculum as a whole. If you enjoy the subject and find satisfaction and pride in finding solutions to problems, then you will have much to gain from studying Mathematics at this level.

The Mathematics Department at Ipswich School offers the OCR AS level, A level and Further Mathematics A level. The course is taught by highly qualified and experienced mathematicians, all of whom are passionate and skilled exponents of the subject matter.

The learning environment is relaxed yet purposeful. In addition to learning the theory and practising

associated methods and techniques, students are encouraged to question the material and discuss their ideas thereby benefiting the group dynamics. The school has a site licence for the mathematical software 'Autograph' which is a valuable tool that helps bring the subject to life, especially when things are difficult to visualise.

Mathematics is one of the most popular subjects to study in the Sixth Form and pupils with drive and commitment can expect to be very successful. As well as ensuring that very able pupils are stretched and challenged, support is also readily available for the occasions when difficulties occur. We prepare students thoroughly for examinations and pride ourselves on our outstanding results at AS, A level and at Further Maths.

Modern Foreign Languages

French, German, Russian and Spanish

Pupils enter the AS level course in Year 12 either as an end in itself, examined at the end of that year, or as a gateway to the full A2 level examined at the end of Year 13.

The content of the AS level course is entirely language based, and tests proficiency in the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing. The course aims to develop in students the ability to discuss issues at a broader level than at GCSE, and this necessarily entails the development of oral confidence in the target language. Students will also learn more complex aspects of grammar, in order to allow them to express a more sophisticated level of thought. The topics of study all have a significant impact on the lives of young people, for example how to solve disputes with parents, or the role of alcohol in a healthy lifestyle, and they are delivered through recent textbooks, supported by bespoke online

materials or other authentic language sources. There are also weekly individual or paired speaking classes with the Language Assistant in order to build oral competence. The focus of the course is on the practical use of the language in the modern world.

The A2 level course in Year 13 provides the opportunity for more personal, research-based study on aspects of the history, geography or culture of the target-language countries. This may be based, for example, upon a literary text or a film in the target language, and leads to a substantial essay being written in the final exam. At the same time, students continue to study issues of great contemporary significance, for example environmental problems, technological advances and social issues, as well as further extending their understanding of advanced grammar. Students' oral skills will continue to develop in terms of both conversational spontaneity and the ability to sustain an argument.

Both AS and A2 levels are assessed through two units: an oral exam, as well as an exam which combines Listening, Reading and Writing skills. The minimum qualification for entry to the course is a Grade A at GCSE, and a firm grasp of Higher Level GCSE material is recommended in order to permit continuous progress through AS level. All students are encouraged to spend as much time as possible in an environment where their language is spoken, and school contacts, trips and exchanges can sometimes help make this possible. The enhanced level of linguistic skill which can be achieved after one or two years' post-GCSE study is a valuable complement to many other specialisms across the whole spectrum of Arts and Science studies.

Non specialist languages

In response to the calls of business, finance and industry for increased linguistic proficiency among the national

workforce, we have always tried to encourage students to develop their foreign language skills as far as possible:

- A two-year GCSE beginner's course in Spanish or French forms part of the Enrichment programme, as does a beginner's course in Mandarin.
- The study of four AS subjects in Year 12 has encouraged many proficient linguists to develop their language skill in French, German, Spanish or Russian for at least one more year, alongside the subjects which they already see as their own particular academic specialisms.

Music

There is a lot of choice in AS/A2 Music. This means that it may appeal to you whether you are a member of an orchestra or a rock musician. However, you will need to listen to, and study the techniques of, a considerable amount of 'classical' music. Whatever your preferred musical style, there is a lot of opportunity for practical music-making as part of the course. In fact you will need to be able to perform to a high standard if you are going to do well in Music. You will also need a good musical ear and a good sense of harmony.

For AS Music you will prepare solo and/or ensemble performances, which can take place in class, but the more adventurous could include part of a concert at Snape or even a rock festival! You will also produce a three-minute composition (score and recording) and sleeve note to a brief chosen from four briefs published by Edexcel. The third part concerns listening

to music and understanding how it works, making use of set works from the *New Anthology of Music* and putting them into historical context.

A2 Music has a similar structure, but performances are more extended and there are more options when it comes to composition and technical study.

To succeed in AS/A2 Music it is usually necessary to have a pass in GCSE Music at grade B or above, but it has been known for some good performers to take up the subject without having done GCSE Music. The course combines well with other Arts subjects, but may also be taken to complement Maths and the Sciences. Music AS/A2 is a worthwhile course in its own right, but can also lead to a music course at university or music college, to teaching, arts administration, music and instrument sales, performing and composing.

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

For a large proportion of the world's population, religion plays an integral part in their thinking and day to day lives. Whether you have your own faith or not, a study of the various philosophies and religious teachings can give you a broader outlook on life, increase your skills in abstract thinking, and help you to understand the motivations and personal perspectives of believers.

Are you interested in religious thought? How do religion and ethics interact? Can our beliefs influence our actions? Every religion, regardless of its cultural basis, has as its foundation a fundamental philosophy and set of beliefs. Exploring these can make for an absorbing study, and provide food for thought that can be applied to your own life, regardless of your personal beliefs.

In Philosophy of Religion and Religious Ethics we delve into the philosophies that underlie religious thought and its application in everyday life. We examine the role of ethics in religion, and consider how religious values impact issues such as equality, free will, medical ethics and sexual ethics. The case for the existence of God will be explored, as will the ways in which psychology approaches the religious experience.

We also discuss atheism in today's society, and the differences between libertarianism, free will and determinism. Just how much of a role religion plays in human interaction and behaviour will be addressed, as will the role of religion in our technological age. Finally, the concepts of life, death and beyond will be debated, giving you the opportunity to examine a variety of beliefs on the meaning behind our existence.

Physical Education

Thinking about A level PE? It is important that you should have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in physical education, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively. It is not necessary to have studied PE at GCSE.

If you enjoy sporting activities, the course will broaden your all round knowledge of physical education. At the same time it will develop your understanding of the related theory.

The course is designed to:

- develop your knowledge and skills in selected sporting activities
- explore sociological issues in modern sport
- examine the effects of exercise and the relationships between training and performance

- analyse the ways we learn to be skilful
- compare and contrast sport in different cultures
- find ways to improve your own performance through greater understanding of the subject

At AS level students sit one exam in May on all aspects of anatomy, physiology, movement skills and socio-cultural issues. Two practical sports are also assessed. At A2 level students continue with exercise physiology, history of sport and sports psychology and specialise in one sporting performance and movement analysis. As this is a sports-based exam it is recommended that students should be able to perform sports to at least first team school standard. It is also an advantage to have studied Biology at GCSE and have achieved at least a B grade before starting the course.

Physics

Physics is the study of the properties and interactions of matter and energy. Our understanding of many features of the everyday world relies on knowledge drawn from the ideas and methods of Physics. The Advancing Physics AS and A2 level course has been designed to look at Physics as it is practised now. The course includes some new approaches to familiar topics and material that is new to A level. It is designed to make Physics exciting and relevant to a wide range of students.

In this course the basic principles of Physics are introduced and, through example, placed in the context of the world in which Physics is used. At a later stage you will be considering the different scales of physicists' interests, from planets to atoms. Advancing Physics is a modern course supported by text books, revision guides and CD-ROMs. A level

Physics is a science course and therefore has a large practical component. Students taking Physics should be happy to use a computer for research, display and analysis of experimental data and for presentation of information to others.

Before starting this course you should have studied Double Award Science GCSE or Physics to GCSE (or their equivalents) and have a good grade in Mathematics. A level Mathematics is strongly recommended to complement the Physics course. With a qualification in Physics you could go onto further or higher education, studying Physics, Engineering or Medicine, one of the other sciences or a variety of other subjects; or you could go on to work in a science-based industry or business.

Psychology

What could be more fascinating and important than developing an understanding of human behaviour? In the Psychology department we guarantee to challenge your preconceptions, deepen your understanding of human behaviour and open your eyes to the fundamental importance of careful, scientific study of the origins of both typical and atypical behaviour.

Psychology A level will give you a solid foundation in theoretical perspectives on human behaviour. It will enable you to develop skills of analysis, evaluation and evidence based assessment, as well as a thorough grounding in the scientific methods used in psychological research. The skills gained through studying Psychology, from essay and report writing to data analysis, will directly benefit your study of other A levels, both within the sciences and humanities.

Psychology lessons are lively and interactive, relationships with teachers and fellow pupils are relaxed and supportive. The Psychology department prides itself on both its academic excellence and co-curricular development. As subject specialists the Psychology teachers bring passion and expertise to their teaching and encourage wider education through attendance at public lectures, departmental book/film club and the annual 'Brain Day'. The large numbers of our students going on to study Psychology at university is testament to the continuing fascination with this subject developed by our students.



The International Leadership Programme

The combined effects of rapid advances in technology and fundamental changes in the global economic system are having a profound impact on the way we live, think, communicate and work. Workers of the future will need a set of skills and personal qualities that allows them to cope with this diverse, demanding and dynamic world. Such is the significance of these changes that organisations and educational systems in all countries are being reshaped to cope with these new 'realities'.

In preparing yourself for university and a successful working life, you will need to equip yourself to work effectively in organisations which may be very different from those that you are currently anticipating working in. Of course, you must acquire high grade academic qualifications but you must also develop a range of 'people-skills' that allow you to be effective both as a leader and a follower.

As a school we have, for some time, been keenly aware of these issues and our curriculum is constantly evolving in anticipation of and in response to them. In recent years for example, we have introduced a number of leadership courses which complement very effectively the positive leadership experiences that many students have long enjoyed elsewhere in the school. The International Leadership Programme (ILP) brings greater coherence to what we already offer within an innovative framework which creates new leadership opportunities and at least three highly respected qualifications in management and leadership. In the Michaelmas term of each year, all ILP students participate in the core modules (Managing and Leading Teams) which focus on the following four areas:- Managing and leading people, Managing information, Managing activities, Managing resources.

In the first year you will be introduced to a range of key management and leadership concepts as you work towards an internationally recognised VRQ L3 Certificate in First Line Management. You will also take your first steps towards a football coaching qualification with the help of coaches from Ipswich Town Football Club. You will be taught how to deliver an effective presentation - assessment of this takes place in the second year, giving you another internationally recognised qualification in a crucial area.

In the second year you will have more advanced classes in management and leadership and start to bring the course together as you work on two written assignments focusing on problem solving in the work place and the management of change. Tutorial support will help you in this. Practical experience will be gained by setting up and running your own business through the Young Enterprise programme and by completing genuine work-based projects related to this.

By choosing the International Leadership Programme, however, you are sending out a clear and very positive signal about yourself. You are equipping yourself with a set of skills and personal qualities that will give you a distinctive edge in university applications as well as in your future career.

Enrichment Programme

The Sixth Form Enrichment Programme consists of a range of courses and conferences. It aims to broaden the range of students' interests, provide useful skills and knowledge for life after school and give opportunities for earning some extra qualifications.

Entire year groups attend periodic conferences covering a wide range of subjects which are designed to be provocative or to help with crucial life issues. Conferences are also organised to match the university application cycle. This includes an annual Higher Education evening for parents and pupils, with a talk from Admissions Tutors, and a UCAS Day for students in order to make a good start on their university application.

Initially the Enrichment Programme consists of four periods a week, dropping down to two in Year 13. In Year 12, most of the year is devoted to the enrichment subject. However, each group will also have a module in Careers - time for advice and for investigating courses and applying to university, making use of the many resources available for researching future directions.

In addition, at the end of Year 12 a few days will be devoted to life skills (such as First Aid, Basic Cooking and Self Defence).

The aim is to give pupils an 'edge' in the competitive environment of UCAS applications and future employability. These courses are designed to be classroom based, with minimal work set outside class time, though this varies with subject. The following courses are offered, subject to student interest:

- Critical Thinking (AS): this is a course with a challenging intellectual content - that does not involve the learning of any new facts! Highly thought of by many universities and employers, the course helps students to unpick arguments and expose their weaknesses. Critical thinking skills are beneficial to all academic studies. The course provides good preparation for those university courses which set Thinking Skills tests.
- Photography (AS): though there is no requirement to have experience or qualifications in Art and Design.

This course is aimed at taking better photographs. Research and a practical are the basic components of this subject.

- Politics (AS): have you ever wanted to run the country? What do you think of today's politicians and how they are managing our affairs? Do you know how the political system works? This course aims to answer these questions, and more.
- Film Studies (AS): this course aims to deepen students' understanding and enjoyment of films by examining film as entertainment, as an art form and also as a socio-economic phenomenon.
- Law (GCSE): a wide-ranging introduction to the making and operation of the Law in both British and European contexts. The course promotes discussion of moral and ethical issues and current affairs.
- Spanish (FCSE): a fast track to basic competence in a hugely popular language for enthusiastic linguists. Put it to use in your future travels!
- Mandarin (FCSE): not for the faint-hearted! As a globally significant language, Chinese is unrivalled. This course would suit able linguists who enjoy a challenge and want to embark on an exciting voyage of discovery.
- Sports Coaching: this course provides a number of helpful qualifications in order that you can find casual work in the sports arena. These include a Bronze lifesaving award, a crucial first aid qualification and a Community Sports Leadership Award.
- Finance and Investment: this course is about how financial markets work and the wide range of financial assets available from bonds and equities to futures, options and swaps. The course will lead to the qualification 'Certificate for Introduction to Securities and Investment' which is equivalent to an AS level and an industry recognised qualification taken by finance professionals.
- The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ): Sixth formers are given the opportunity to undertake an Extended Project, pursuing an independent research project in an area of academic interest. This carries the same weight as an AS level.

For more detailed information about Ipswich School and the A levels we offer please look at our website.



Circa 1399

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