



A

BRIGHT

FUTURE...

Welcome to Salesian  
College Sixth Form



SALESIAN



COLLEGE

sixth form prospectus

# A BRIGHT FUTURE

The background is a collage of layered, textured paper in shades of beige and light green. Overlaid on this are several vibrant, abstract shapes: a large, curved blue shape that dominates the lower half, a bright pink shape that curves upwards from the bottom right, and a yellow rectangular block behind the word 'FUTURE'. There are also various paint splashes and textures in pink, blue, and white scattered across the composition.

E...

# Contents

Welcome to Salesian College.....02

Your Sixth Form Life.....04

Realising your potential .....06

Being part of something.....10

So what subjects are right  
for you?.....14

Preparing you for your future.....15

Your course information.....16-57

Playing your part in the world.....58

A conversation with the support  
team at home.....60

Act on the Facts.....62

A decision making process.....64



# Welcome to Salesian College

## Welcome

Thank you for considering Salesian Sixth Form College for your post-16 education. Beginning Sixth Form is an exciting point in your life. This prospectus is designed to start a conversation with you about your next step in education. Our students created this prospectus, so that in the first pages you can begin to consider what's important to you for your Sixth Form experience. Later in the prospectus you can begin to consider your great options for A Level subject choices.

Salesian education is based on the methods of Saint Don Bosco\*. In the Sixth Form, this means making sure our students are supported with care, respected as adults and given great opportunities which enable them to excel.

Salesian College forms one part of a worldwide learning community. The international nature of the Salesian family will allow you to work in partnership with schools and colleges all over the world. So firstly, we want to

invite you to be part of a global family. In Farnborough we have a very strong tradition of enabling all students to enjoy great success academically.

We believe that your academic success needs to be complemented by so much more if you are going to realise your potential. Our Enrichment Programme and unique opportunities for development make all the difference. For example, running a Young Enterprise company mentored by our specialist business contacts, enjoying 1:1 support on your important personal statement for UCAS or having opportunities to learn all over the world in each subject.

Our Sixth Form opportunities will enable you to realise your potential holistically, which means:

- **Academically:** our average class size is 10 and we go the additional mile in extra support classes to enable you to achieve brilliant grades. We also believe the best place to learn is outside of the classroom, which is why in each of your subjects, you will enjoy worldwide travel

opportunities (see inside for details). Students also enjoy 1:1 reviews which provide support so you can set your targets and achieve your goals.

- **Socially:** with a really friendly and welcoming atmosphere which is made all the better with trips, balls, societies and charity events throughout the year.

- **Personally:** enrichment by a huge range of activities in partnership with Surrey University Sports Park, from netball to rugby, dance, yoga, Zumba, scuba, wakeboarding, voluntary work, and many more. All students also volunteer during their Sixth Form experience. Whether this is locally, at Grange Infants School in Farnborough, developing the language skills of students who speak English as a second language, or internationally, working in rural Zambia making a difference to some of the poorest children in the world on our annual trip each summer.

- **Spiritually:** lots of people today, whether they have a faith or are simply trying to be a good person with values, want to be a part of community which reaches out to others. At Salesian College we encourage our Sixth Form students to develop spiritually, be it through weekends away or day retreats with their peer groups. These are focused on personal development, mindfulness and reflection and encourage students to reach out to others through Charity events such as Step-by-Step Sleep-Out for the homeless. All students enjoy a wonderful week volunteering in Lourdes In Year 12.



In all of these opportunities, we work with you to create a happy, vibrant Sixth Form which students love. This is also important because, being developed personally and enjoying the opportunity to give back, is an essential foundation for so many degree courses and professions which we prepare our students for. Therefore, Salesian Sixth Form education is about care, community, and creating a vibrant, inclusive student life with opportunities for all.



## Making the difference for you

We know from student feedback that our opportunities are life changing. Join us and become a part of a fast growing, successful community which retains a commitment to keep all class sizes below 14 students. We also enjoy the excellent Sean Devereux Sixth Form centre for students with a Common Room which provides a base for the day to socialise and meet with friends and ICT facilities for work.

Our students enjoy an amazing Sixth Form experience, having the keys to the best Universities in the country at the end of their journey. We are proud of the headline data on this, so please see our 'Act on the Facts' at the back of this Prospectus.

Our first step is beginning the discussion on what you really want from Sixth Form life...

*"Salesian was definitely the place for me."*

Suzie

\*Saint Don Bosco was very clear that a Salesian school must be a happy place - a place of joy and lasting friendships.



what do you want from your sixth form life?

# Your Sixth Form Life...

## Thinking about your Sixth Form decision

Your two years of Sixth Form life have the potential to be an exciting and life changing experience. A good Sixth Form experience can bring out the very best in you, helping you to realise all of your potential. We know this because every year we experience and see this transformation in our students.

Sixth Form can a great social time with friends, an adventure and time to travel. A good experience of post 16 education, will also provide you with the route to one of the best Universities in the country, on a course that is right for you.

Making the right decision is important, as Charlotte, one of our students wrote:

*'I felt like it was a big decision and I didn't want to get it wrong'.*

## Where are you at?

- **At the moment you might be in one of the 20 local schools (including Salesian) our students are drawn from**
- **You might feel unsure, that there are so many options**
- **Or you might be looking forward to new opportunities and are near a decision**
- **You might be frustrated about Year 11 and be ready for Sixth Form**
- **Or you might feel all of these things in combination**
- **Or you might have already decided on your Sixth Form**
- **Finally, you might even feel 'I can't be bothered to think about all this now' 😊**





## A Brighter Future

We are passionate about our Sixth Form and all the opportunities offered, although we want you to make the right decision for you, so here are some suggested ways to make a decision:

### STEP 1 -

- Know what each place offers - What's on the menu? Create a list

### STEP 2 -

- Ask yourself what do I most want and need?

### STEP 3 -

- Weighing up which place offers most of what you need - the 'for' and 'against' - and then make a provisional decision

### STEP 4 -

- See how it feels, are you looking forward to it? Does it seem right?

### STEP 5 -

- Finally, make a final decision (knowing you've really had a good decision making process).... breathe 😊



The truth is, as Dom one of our students commented:

*'I needed to understand what was on offer at each choice, I realised it would not be a simple decision but I was open to hearing the case and listening to options'.*

## So what's important to you?

The question then is what is important to you in your Sixth Form experience? Do you agree with any of the messages below? What should be the most important factor in your choice for Sixth Form?

Our advice is to be clear about what you want and need for your Sixth Form and really weigh up the evidence. Perhaps write down the case on either side and discuss with friends and family before making your decision.

If any of the thoughts below from others students connect with you, then please continue the chat with us about Sixth Form life by coming in for a visit, attending future Open Evenings and really weighing up the evidence in this prospectus.

The fact that Salesian students do 4 A/S levels (not 3) allowed me more choices and options. (Will)

I thought I would do better with smaller classes. (James)

I realised that Salesian would help me achieve the best grades and I've always liked it here. (Sam)

I realised I needed to get the grades to get into Uni. (Charlotte)

I really wanted to go to Zambia (one of many opportunities for worldwide travel at Salesian Sixth Form). (Rob)

# Realising your Potential

**'The College was rated as excellent in all eight areas of our latest inspection'**

*'Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be!'*

Anne Frank

We begin by believing in your potential. We then work with you to enable your excellent potential to happen. How do we do this?

**We work together to create a culture of success**

Salesian Sixth Form is a supportive community which really values each student. Being valued enables our students to really believe they can achieve great things. Indeed, educational psychologists point to the hard evidence that what we believe about our potential really informs how we achieve. Alongside fellow students

who are also achieving, we work together to create a culture of success. Class sizes of no more than 12 allow for individual care to make a difference. Our recent students have gone on to be producers at Sky television, a partner at a top five Law firm, research scientists, medical professionals, actresses in the West End and even a professional basketball player. The culture at Salesian College Sixth Form generates a confidence which results in success.

**We provide 1:1 support to all**

Most students do not know what they want for the future as they begin post-16 education. Some students have a good idea about what they want to become but could not be expected to know how to make this happen. Our 1:1 tutor review programme (our inspectorate rated this as 'Excellent') which is student led, works with you to help you find your voice in relation to who you want to be and what you want to do. Then our programme works with you to make it happen. Our 1:1 review programme is about partnership, mentoring, and it works. ISI wrote: *'A highly effective self-review and development programme operates in the Sixth Form with clear objectives and monitoring systems.'*

**We go the extra mile at Salesian to develop your potential**

Our students in Business and Economics learn in the stock exchange in New York, attend lectures at Royal Holloway University of London and run award winning Business Challenge companies. Our potential medics visit Lourdes, work with disabled children and visit developing world clinics in Zambia with Share the Light (alongside our medical society). Our Mathematics students enjoy the Olympiad, lectures at Reading University and Royal Holloway, University of London among other 'extra' events. These all add to the motivation and inspiration which is another essential ingredient in realising your potential - you. Therefore, as you read through our prospectus in each subject area, look out for the extras offered to support you.

**We make it happen together**

Making it happen is about **teachers** who are passionate about their subjects. Our recent ISI inspector reported simply "the quality of pupil's achievement is excellent". Passion and practical hard work are the ingredients. For example,

throughout the week there are **extra support classes** and **workshops** scheduled in each subjects. It is also about **tutors** who make a difference, focusing on the needs of each person with the support you need. ISI wrote *"the well-managed sixth-form tutor team is working with energy and enthusiasm to create a cohesive co-educational experience for their students."*

## How we realise your potential



*"Being surrounded by people who just really believed in me, made so much difference."*

Alex, Producer at Sky TV

maximising your potential

# Realising your Potential





# Being part of something



## Being part of something

Few things are better in life than feeling a part of something, having friends around and being given the space to be you. We believe that to have a happy Sixth Form life, College needs to be a place where you are known and welcomed:

I really like that at Salesian we all work together to avoid cliques. Everybody works to make people welcome, there is a real sense that we are all in it together. (Suzie) 😊

## Our tutor groups

Tutor groups have around 11 students offering a social time, support and a place to develop. Tutors work guiding students, raising horizons, following an education and development programme which develops health, political and social awareness. However, perhaps most importantly, for 15 minutes twice a day you have a relaxed chat and a place to be.

## Our Common Room

The Sixth Form Common Room is friendly, welcoming and just a good place to be; having a home at College makes a difference. Led by the student committee whose job is make everyone welcome!

## Our away days and leadership events

Each year both year groups have away days together for some space and some fun. Some students lead activities like everyone sailing on the South Coast in Year 12. Working together in Lourdes really gives you a sense that your team and you are there for others. Year 13 students also enjoy leadership development away days in London.

## Gathering together each week

Each week Sixth Form led assemblies focus on world issues, debates and provide the opportunity to plan charity and social events. All students learn practically that reaching out for others in charity events makes a difference.

## We hope you realise

At our Open Evening or at the taster day we hope you realise, as Emily did, that 'Salesian was a supportive community environment with a positive atmosphere' or like Charlotte you 'noticed how well people knew each other and how well they got on together at Salesian'.

## Lifelong friends

Our students are lifelong friends because of the value we place on this. We think having good friends is one of the best things in life.

One of the things that I most treasure from Salesian is the value placed on friendship and having time for others which has helped me every day since. (Sean, a former student) 😊

**A home means belonging, being known by name, supported and being a part of something.**

*"A school should also be a home."*

Our Italian founder, Saint John Bosco

BEING A PART OF  
www.salesiancollege.com | being part of something 11  
THE NEW YOU  
YOUR COLLEGE  
VIBRANT FUN  
STUDENT LED  
BELONGINGS MILE  
BE HAPPY  
YOU FIT IN FRIENDS VALUED  
VALUED TRUSTED

a place to be you

# Being part of something





# So what subjects are right for you?

A Levels present a fantastic opportunity to study 4 subjects which really interest you. Our students find there is a great deal of difference between having to study a subject and making a personal decision to study in a particular area. At A Level, students find that they naturally take ownership and responsibility for their work, because they have made the choice to study in areas which genuinely interest them.

Given the above, we would really encourage you to go through a clear decision making process before you decide on four subjects to study at A/S. Most students move forward to 3 subjects at A2. However, we find that having a foundation in 4 subjects provides students with the best opportunity to discover what they enjoy most and this provides the best platform for the best Universities in the country.

Your A Level subjects say something about who you are and what you want to do with your future. Therefore, we really recommend that you follow a clear decision making process.

## DECISION MAKING PROCESS:

- 1. Information Gathering:** Read the details of each subject in this prospectus, enjoy a taster lesson and look at our departmental websites to find out more and perhaps, most importantly, talk to students who currently enjoy this subject at the taster and our Open Evening.
- 2. Analysis:** Consider which subjects are complimentary to one another and which subjects provide the best foundation for your possible choices for University (for example, for Medicine, you need Chemistry; for Economics, a foundation in Mathematics is advisable).
- 3. Reflection:** Think about what you liked doing at GSCE. Which of the taster subjects were you naturally engaged by? Which subjects did you talk about at the end of the lesson? This part of the process is about reflecting on your experience and learning about yourself from this. You might like to do this in a chat with our friendly Sixth Form team.
- 4. Decision:** Move from a 'provisional decision' and see how this feels and then a 'final decision' which you are comfortable with, before moving forward to your A Level future.



The truth is, as **Dom** one of our students commented,

*'I needed to understand what was on offer at each choice. I realised it would not be a simple decision but I was open to hearing the case and listening to options'*



# Preparing you for your future

## CAREERS

Careers education is an important part of today's students world. During your journey, you will develop your skills for employability by connecting with external partners (such as employers, higher education institutions and specialist agencies) to support your learning so that you develop the knowledge, awareness and skills needed to make successful choices and manage transition stages in your learning and employment. You will also benefit from a team of advisers here at Salesian College who will be always ready to give you useful guidance.

The UCAS room and our Library are stocked with up to date information about the latest courses and opportunities for your future. Careers education is often closely related to work experience and other forms of work-related learning which we support. You will attend interview evenings, conventions, workshops and lectures which will build your personal profile and Mrs Cardona, Head of Careers will be happy to work with you.



**Dane Partnership Ltd**

HR, Training & Recruitment Services

**Specsavers**

The next few pages begin Step 1 - Information Gathering, we look forward to helping you get on the right courses for you. Speaking with our friendly Sixth Form team is an important part of the process in deciding on subjects.



**Tinker Taylor**

**EC Careers**

**Morrisby**

# Art & Design

## Why study Art?

Art is a subject that requires a keen interest in drawing and painting and is a challenging and rewarding subject to study at A Level, whether or not you wish to continue to study the subject at University or Art College. It promotes problem solving, experimentation, creativity, image analysis and Art History and helps provide a greater appreciation of the visual world we live in today.

## What does the study of Art involve?

The College follows the AQA examining board specification, where students are expected to develop their own ideas, through skilful recording, experiment with a range of materials and techniques and present final outcomes that are clearly inspired by the artwork of others. We provide you with the facilities and support necessary to develop your skills to produce high quality, creative and individual pieces of work. The course will involve classroom study and practical work as well as gallery and museum visits where you will explore the work of a variety of artists. However, you are encouraged to undertake independent research, using various sources of information, including the internet.

## Why at Salesian College ?

Candidates who have studied GCSE Art at Salesian College will have a very good grounding in the traditions and techniques of a wide range of art, providing them with a sound basis for the demands of the A Level course.

A Level students have their own Art room at the College, which is available to all at any time. The Art room is well equipped and resourced, including computers that can be used for research and experimentation.

## What does the course involve?

The course involves studying a personalised program over the two years.

### AS ART UNIT 1

In this unit, you will develop your own project. The unit will include classroom work and individual research and activity. You will need to submit a portfolio which will demonstrate the breadth and depth of study, as well as showing the ability to develop a project from an idea to a finished piece.

### AS ART UNIT 2

The emphasis of this unit will be the development of ideas and is an assignment set externally by the examining board. This unit will involve preparatory work in the form of sketchbooks or journals. You will then have a 10 hour supervised period to produce work devoted to the development of ideas and can lead to a fully realized piece of work.

The second year is about building on the skills and ideas developed during AS.

### A LEVEL UNIT 3

This is a practical unit that includes written elements, in which you are expected to develop investigation based on an idea, issue, concept or theme, leading to a finished piece or pieces. It involves contextual studies which relate your work to other artists and includes preparatory work as well as a written study of no more than 3,000 words.

### A LEVEL UNIT 4

This is an externally set assignment, which will require you to undertake preparatory work for a 15 hour timed test leading to a finished piece.





## What is expected from Art Students?

A Level Art requires you to undertake a lot of work independently and so you have to be self motivated and enthusiastic about the subject. You will be encouraged to develop your ideas outside the structured lessons, and should therefore be prepared to work at home, having a range of art materials available there. In return, you will receive from the teachers all the support that you need, as well as regular, constructive feedback on your progress.



Produced in our purpose built Sixth Form Art Studio



# Biology

## Why study Biology?

Biology is inherently fascinating: it encompasses everything from the small electrons to the largest Blue Whale. Ever evolving, it has given rise to exciting new technologies like creating a new trachea from stem cells and treating cancers with bespoke antibodies. These subjects, touched upon at GCSE, will be studied in greater depth at A Level. Biology is suitable for those wanting to study medicine and dentistry, as well as being a good companion subject for Chemistry, Geography, Psychology and PE.

## What does the study of Biology involve?

At A Level, Biology covers: biological molecules and their functions within cells; the relationship between DNA and protein structures, and how this links with evolution and disease; the interactions between organisms in ecological relationships; the nervous and hormonal control of bodies; the complex biochemistry of respiration and photosynthesis.

## Why study at Salesian College ?

Salesian College has excellent purpose-built laboratories and well-qualified and experienced staff. The small groups allow a very favourable student to teacher ratio so that support is effective and timely throughout the course. We also offer opportunities to explore topics outside of the classroom like lectures at the Royal Institute and the two day Field Course at Juniper Hall Field Studies Centre.

## What does the course involve?

Students will study the AQA GCE A Level Biology course, code 7402. There are three two hour exams at the end of Year 13. Practical skills will be assessed throughout the course, and aspects of these will form up to 15% of the final written papers. For those wishing to study just to AS level, we use AQA GCE AS-level Biology code 7401. Practical skills are still assessed in the written papers for this qualification, of which there are two, each lasting 90 minutes.

## What the Biology Department offers

There are four experienced members of staff who deliver the course. Classes have two teachers, each delivering half the course within each topic.

Students use AQA recommended resources, both online and paper. Every student has a textbook. Exam practice is embedded in the delivery of the lessons.

Reading widely is essential. This is encouraged by student access to the Biological Sciences Review Magazine as well as to academic research through JStor. The school's FROG VLE is also used to provide recommended reading lists and other resources to support learning. Practical activities are used to consolidate understanding and to build an investigative approach to problem solving.



## What is expected from Biology Students?

It is hoped that students will:

- **Develop self-supported study skills**
- **Challenge their understanding**
- **Develop investigative skills**
- **Enjoy studying life!**



Time-management is key at A Level to ensure that work is completed to a high quality and handed in to deadlines. This ensures that students can be effectively supported as well as reaching their full potential.

## What can an A Level in Biology lead to?

Biology A Level is a good starting point for further studies in medicine, dentistry, microbiology, biochemistry, physiology, genetics, histology, nutrition, sports science, nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, environmental health, game design, biotechnology, food technology, crop science, crop protection, ecology, public health, medical journalism, international politics and many more!



**A Level Biology Field Research**

Transferable skills learnt in Biology, particularly in dealing with qualitative and quantitative data and forming conclusions from these, are very valuable for university study as well as numerous career paths.

### THE TOPICS COVERED IN THE BIOLOGY SPECIFICATION ARE

- **Biological Molecules**
- **Cells**
- **Exchange of substances with the environment**
- **Genetic variation**
- **Energy transfer between organisms**
- **Responding to change**
- **Genetics, Populations and Ecology**
- **The Control of Gene Expression**



### SKILLS REQUIRED

- **A love of the natural world and a desire to know more about it**
- **An open and enquiring mind**
- **A willingness to work hard, think deeply, and apply knowledge to new situations**
- **Practical aptitude, coupled with an ability to work with precision**
- **A good higher pass at grade 6 in Biology and Chemistry or 66 in Combined Science at GCSE**
- **A good higher pass at grade 6 in Maths and English at GCSE**



# Business

## Why study Business?

Business is an extremely popular subject. It is a useful subject for a wide variety of university courses and, of course, for the world of work. This subject is concerned with day-to-day issues affecting Business and students therefore can relate to the concepts covered, through their study and keeping up to date with current events

**Business** takes the viewpoint of the **organisation** and is concerned with the process of decision making short and long term within the organisation. Students study the interrelated nature of Business using business models, theories and techniques to support analysis of contemporary business issues and situations. All study is within real business situations and shows the need to consider all aspects of impact that any decision taken may have. Internal factors – operational, financial, human resources and marketing are considered together with external factors of competition, economic and social environments. The topics lend themselves to studying and engaging with the business world. The specification and assessment

encourages students to follow business developments and think critically about contemporary business issues.

## Why at Salesian College?

Salesian College offers excellent facilities in which to study Business. The students learn in an extremely hospitable environment. Students are challenged both in and outside of the classroom. Activities include national competitions based on share-trading as well as visits to BMW Mini, Bank of England, City of London and New York to experience how business is conducted in the US. External speakers are used to link the subject matter to future career aspirations of the students and the teachers have an abundance of knowledge and expertise, gained from previous work experience that is brought into the classroom.

## What does the Business course involve?

Business follows the AQA syllabus and is examined at the end of Year 12 (AS) and at the end of Year 13 (A Level)

### AS syllabus

- **What is Business**
- **Leadership and Management**
- **Decision making to improve marketing, operations, financial and human resource performance**

Assessment: Paper 1 = **33.3%**  
and Paper2 = **50%**

### A Level syllabus

#### Strategic decision making:

- **Analysing the strategic position of a business**
- **Choosing strategic direction**
- **How to pursue strategies**
- **Managing strategic change**

Assessment: Paper 1 = **33.3%**  
Paper2 = **33.3%**  
Paper3 = **33.3%**



## Skills required

As a student of Business you will need to be interested in business and the economy, be comfortable with basic mathematics and be capable of writing coherent English. The understanding of concepts, terminology and theory are the key to success. **There is no need to have studied GCSE Business Studies to take this subject.**

## What the Business Department offers in teaching and resources

All students learn in a well-resourced centre, with an extensive reference library in the department. Throughout the course, material is examined from textbooks, case studies, magazines and quality newspapers. Current affairs programmes are also important as well as up-to-date documentaries following topical issues.



Economics and Business study visit to Wall Street, New York

## What is expected from Business students?

You will be expected to have a keen interest in Business and ultimately must apply your knowledge outside of the classroom environment each and every day to get the most from the course. You will be expected to be proactive with work and have a good attitude in relation to completing work on time.

Government, Finance, Operations Management, International Marketing, Public Relations, Human Resource Management. Many students go on to set up their own business and to be successful entrepreneurs.

## What can an A Level in Business lead to?

Many students go to university to follow courses in Business related subjects, for example, Accountancy, Business Management, International Marketing and have careers in Banking, Insurance,

# Chemistry

## Why study OCR A Level Chemistry?

This course will give you the skills and understanding to make decisions about the way Chemistry affects your everyday life by applying concepts into contemporary areas of Chemistry including:

- **Climate change**
- **Practical skills**
- **Pharmaceuticals**
- **Chemistry research**



A GCE in Chemistry allows you to develop a range of skills requested by both employers and universities. For instance, a successful GCE chemist will be an effective problem-solver and be able to communicate efficiently both orally and with the written word. Handling data will be a key part of your work, allowing you to demonstrate information retrieval skills as well as use of numeracy and ICT. You will build up a range of practical skills that require creativity and accuracy as well as developing a firm understanding of health and safety issues. As Chemistry is a subject in which learning stems from experimental work you will need to work

effectively as part of a group, developing team participation and leadership skills. As you become more skilled you will take responsibility for selecting appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods, recording your observations and findings accurately and precisely as well as critically analysing and evaluating the methodology, results and impact of your own and others' experimental and investigative activities.

## Is Chemistry the right subject for me?

AS or A Level Chemistry is suitable if you:

- **Have an interest in, and enjoy chemistry**
- **Want to find out about how things work in the real world**
- **Enjoy applying your mind to solving problems**
- **Can think flexibly**
- **Want to use chemistry to progress onto further studies in Higher Education or support other qualifications or enter chemistry based employment**
- **Is a must for anyone considering medicine, veterinary science or dentistry**



## What will I learn?

OCR A Level Chemistry gives you the opportunity to study a core of key concepts in detail. Many of the ideas first covered at GCSE will be revisited but with a greater emphasis on explaining, rather than simply describing, the behaviour of molecules. While studying GCE Chemistry you will develop practical skills that include making observations, collecting data, analysing experimental results and formulating conclusions. You will also gain an appreciation of how scientific models are developed and evolve, the applications and implications of science, the benefits and risks that science brings and the ways in which society uses science to make decisions.

## What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

The qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and process skills that you achieved in GCSE Combined Science and Chemistry. It is expected that you should have at least the equivalent of grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or grade 6 - 6 in Combined Science and a GCSE grade 6 in English and Mathematics. In Chemistry you will need to be able to communicate effectively, be able to carry out research, work independently and think critically about problems. Good practical skills are also important as Chemistry is a very practical subject.

## Why at Salesian College?

The small class numbers allow time to give individual attention to students. This ensures that progress can be monitored closely and students' problems diagnosed and dealt with on an on-going basis. All staff members are experienced chemists with experience in teaching the OCR A Level Chemistry course.

## What can an A Level in Chemistry lead to?

Chemistry is compulsory for those aspiring to be doctors, dentists and vets. The materials technology industry is ever-expanding and as 'green' issues assume greater prominence, there is an increasing role for the environmental chemist. Apart from reading for a pure Chemistry degree, there are a great variety of University courses which use Chemistry as part of the main area of study eg. Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Food Science, Colour and Polymer Chemistry, Textile Technology, Geochemistry, Petroleum Engineering. There is also a wide selection of combination degrees available in most Universities, such as Chemistry with Economics, Chemistry and European Studies.

Most University Faculties produce statistics for employment destinations for their Chemistry graduates, which regularly compare very favourably with other degrees. These destinations include industry, commerce, teaching and research. A significant number of Chemistry-related graduates end up in professions such as Accountancy or as an Actuary where the analytical skills which they have developed are a key feature of the work involved.

**We know Chemistry is essential for Medicine, that's why we have additional support classes.**

## What examinations would I have to take?

### AS LEVEL CHEMISTRY A (H032)

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW					
PAPER		MARKS		DURATION	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	Breadth in Chemistry [01]		70	1hr 30mins	50% of total AS level
	Section A	Multiple choice	20		
	Section B	Structured questions covering theory & practical skills	50		
Paper 2	Depth in Chemistry [02]		70	1hr 30mins	50% of total AS level
	Structured questions and extended response questions, covering theory and practical skills		70		

### A LEVEL CHEMISTRY A (H432)

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW					
PAPER		MARKS		DURATION	WEIGHTING
Paper 1 (Component 01)	Periodic table, elements and physical Chemistry		100	2hr 15mins	37% of total A Level
	Section A	Multiple choice	15		
	Section B	Structured questions covering theory & practical skills	85		
Paper 2 (Component 02)	Synthesis and analytical techniques		100	2hr 15mins	37% of total A Level
	Section A	Multiple choice	15		
	Section B	Structured questions covering theory & practical skills	85		
Paper 3 (Component 03)	Unified Chemistry		70	1hr 30mins	26% of total A Level
	Structured questions and extended response questions, covering theory and practical skills		70		
Non-exam assessment (Component 04)	Practical endorsement for Chemistry		Pass/Fail	Non-exam assessment  Visiting Moderation	Reported separately
	Teacher assessed component common to Chemistry A and Chemistry B (salters). Candidates complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence. Performance reported separately to the A Level grade. Moderation details still to be confirmed by Ofqual		0		

# Classics

## Why study Classics?

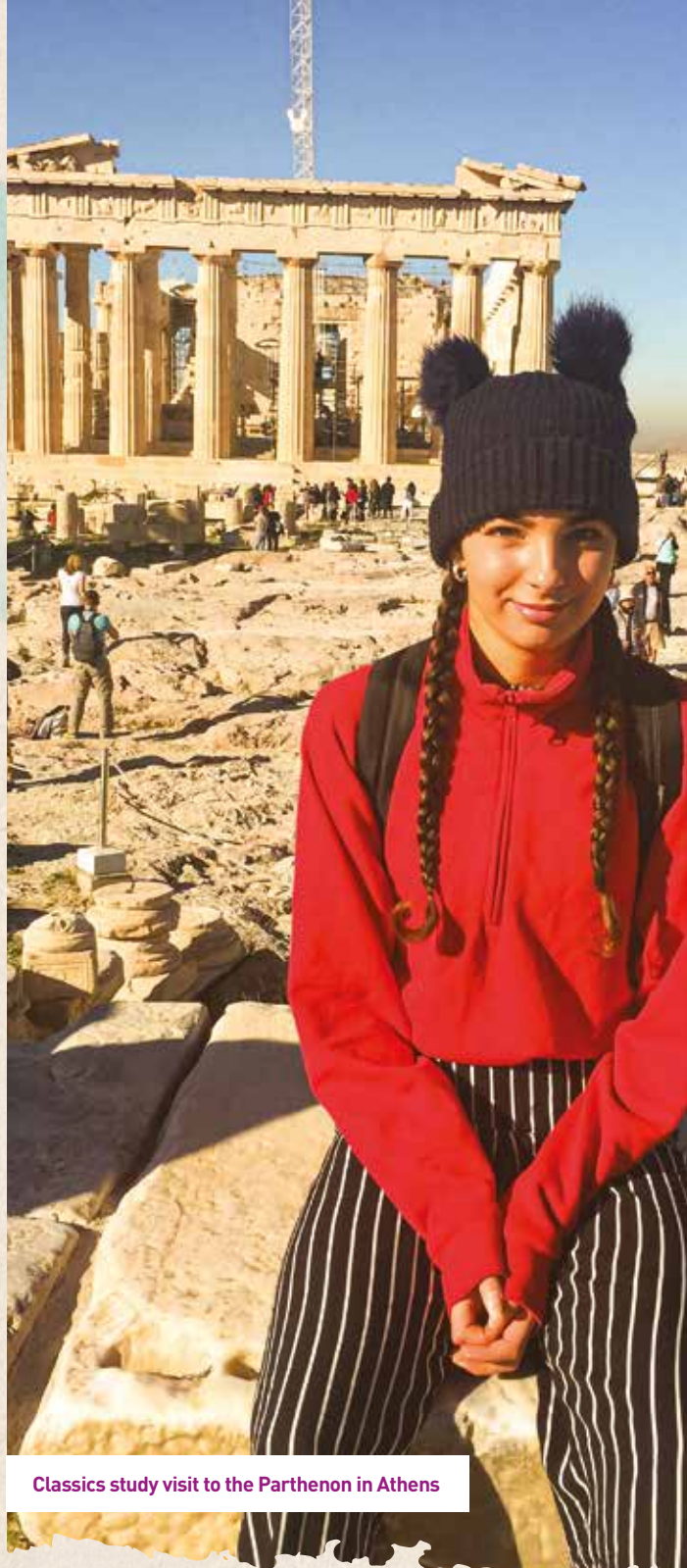
Classics is a truly fascinating study that will allow you to delve into a time of mysteries and mythologies, religion and art, sport and literature to name but a few. It will capture your imagination and fire your enthusiasm to learn more about the ancient world. Classics will also enable you to develop a number of key skills that will support your other A Level choices as well as further study beyond Sixth Form.

## What does the study of Classics involve?

Classics is the study of the Ancient Romans and Greeks, considering their civilization and society. It is not a language course but is the writings, artefacts and culture of the Classical World. All set texts are studied in English.

*“The quality of teaching enables students of all abilities to make very good progress.”*

ISI Inspection Report



Classics study visit to the Parthenon in Athens



## What does the course involve?

During the first year, you will study Homer's *Odyssey* and the great works of Sophocles, Euripides and Aristophanes. The final year of the course covers the '*Aeneid*' exploring the origins of the Romans from the ashes of the Trojan War. Greek Religion is also studied, providing an insight into the beliefs, mythology and religious practices of antiquity.

You will also study the Greek Religion, where you will consider the beliefs and practices of Ancient Hellenic Polytheism.

## Skills required

An analytical approach to learning and sources is helpful, as is a strong essay writing technique. However, these skills will be developed throughout the course with plenty of practice and exam questions.



## What can an A Level in Classics lead to?

Classics is extremely versatile and a highly respected A Level, with many of the top universities offering it as a degree level course. It will also aid applications to study Law, Politics, International Relations, English, History, Geography, Art and a number of other academic subjects. Classics will provide you with plenty of skills that can be transferred into a number of different disciplines and career paths.

# Computer Science

## What does the study of Computer Science involve?

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. The course is geared towards developing students' understanding and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including: abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation. It will also enable students to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing algorithms and programs using a high level computer language e.g. python. Students will also develop the capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.

## Why at Salesian College?

Studying Computer Science at the College will expose students to a wide range of learning opportunities; this is due to the degree of freedom that the smaller teaching groups allow. Teaching is carried out in a friendly, supportive and relaxed atmosphere designed to make the student feel at ease and although the normal pressures are there, they are minimised in order to produce the highest performance.

## What does the course involve?

### AS LEVEL

The content of the AS Level in Computer Science is divided into two components:

**Computing principles component (01)** contains the majority of the content of the specification and is assessed in a written paper recalling knowledge and understanding. This component will introduce students to the internal workings of the Central Processing Unit (CPU), the exchange of data and will also look at software development, data types and legal and ethical issues. It is expected that students will apply some of the knowledge gained in this

component when studying computational thinking and developing programming techniques.

**Algorithms and problem solving component (02)** relates principally to problem solving and programming skills. Students would be expected to apply the knowledge and understanding gained in the Computing principles component.

### A LEVEL

The A Level Computer science course will build on the knowledge and understanding gained in the AS level course. The course will broaden students' knowledge in the following key areas:

- **Emphasis on problem solving using computers**
- **Emphasis on computer programming and algorithms**
- **Emphasis on the mathematical skills used to express computational laws and processes, e.g. Boolean algebra/logic and comparison of the complexity of algorithms**
- **Less emphasis on ICT**





Both the AS & A Level courses are assessed by means of an exam for both component units 01 & 02 worth 40% each and a programming practical project worth 20%. The programming project is completed for the A Level course only.

## Skills required

Very good mathematical, logical, computational and analytical skills are highly desirable in order to study and be successful in understanding how computer systems work. The ability to write and run computer programs using any high level language will be a great advantage.

## What the Computer Science Department offers in teaching and resources

High speed internet, an Office 365 account. Access to school work from home via the VLE. The department has two IT Suites, with a 19 inch flat screen monitor, an interactive smart board, printer, digital cameras, headphones etc. Online learning software.

The department has two full time teachers. Mr Ilonah has a wide range of Industry and teaching experience including examining GCSE and A Level Computer Science & ICT exams and coursework. Mr Sansome has considerable experience of working on Computing projects in industry. He is also a very experienced A Level teacher for many years at Salesian College.

## What is expected from Computer Science students?

Computer Science like all other A Level subjects demands the same amount of time to be spent outside of class times. However, Computer Science is not a subject that can be confined to textbook learning only: the successful student will be prepared to do at least 2 - 3 hours research on theory and practical elements each week. This must include experimentation and development of programming skills and theoretical principles that underpin them.

## What can an A Level in Computer Science lead to?

Successful candidates will find themselves equipped to study most subjects at university.

Career choices include:

- **Software applications developer**
- **Artificial Intelligence program developer**
- **Business intelligence analyst**
- **Network systems administrator**
- **Web developer**
- **Computer programmer and systems analyst and many more career opportunities**



# Drama & Theatre

## Why study Drama & Theatre?

A Level Drama and Theatre is not only for those wanting a career in the Performing Arts. Whatever career you choose, the practical skills which you gain in this subject will be an enormous asset to you. Self-confidence, creative and presentation skills, the ability to work co-operatively with others and an understanding of psychology are all essential qualities for anyone. The course also complements a wide range of other subjects.

## What will you learn?

The study of Drama aims to help you get the most enjoyment and satisfaction from all aspects of Drama and Theatre, both as a performer and as an informed spectator. It is mainly a practical course, but you will also learn to develop your skills as an informed critic by writing about your experience of Drama and Theatre. The course will involve taking part in Drama productions and practical workshops as well as studying plays and playwrights and the history of theatre.

## What do I need to study this subject?

You do not need to have studied GCSE Drama (although it does help) but what you **do** need is enthusiasm for the subject, a curiosity about issues and a creative instinct for communicating your ideas through Drama. You need to have an open mind and a willingness to take risks and "have a go" at a wide range of practical activities. You also need to be committed to taking part in theatrical performances and have an interest in going to the theatre to see plays performed by different theatre companies.

## Why study Drama and Theatre at Salesian?

We have two highly qualified and experienced drama tutors at Salesian College and the staff to student ratio is second to none. Small classes mean that there is great opportunity for a wealth of tailor-made experiences such as: taking part in community theatre, festivals, workshops etc. as well as individual coaching and support.

## What does the course involve?

### AQA DRAMA AND THEATRE

The new AS level in Drama and Theatre is now a one year, standalone course and consist of two components. The full A Level has three components and the majority of the AS course can be carried forward to the full A Level.

#### YEAR 1 (AS)

Component 1 - Interpreting Drama (Written)

- **Section A - Set text 'Antigone'**
- **Section B - Work of Theatre makers - Response to Live Theatre**

Component 2 - Process and Performance (Practical)

- **Study of two extracts from different plays - Perform extract 2**
- **Portfolio**

#### YEAR 2 (A Level)

Component 1 - Drama and Theatre (Written)

- **Section A - Set text 'Antigone'**
- **Section B - Set text 2**
- **Section C - Work of Theatre makers - Response to Live Theatre**

Component 2 - Creating Original Drama (Practical)

- **Create a devised Drama - influenced by the work of a Theatre practitioner**
- **Working Notebook**


Component 3 - Making Theatre (Practical)


- **Study of three extracts from different plays - Perform extract 3**
- **Portfolio/Reflective Report**





The Salesian College Theatre Company production of *Guys and Dolls*

 performing arts at  
salesian college farnborough

 @salesianfboropa

# Economics

## Why study Economics?

Economics is an extremely popular subject. It is useful for a wide variety of university courses and, of course, for the world of work. It is concerned with day-to-day issues affecting us all and students, therefore can relate to the concepts covered.

### ECONOMICS AT A LEVEL

In **Economics**, the overview of the **economy** is seen as the most central subject with analysis of its constituent parts, producers, consumers and financial institutions seen as areas for study within it. The approach to Economics is to apply economic theory to support analysis of current economic problems and issues, encouraging students to appreciate the inter-relationships between microeconomics and macroeconomics. Microeconomics looks at the individual markets in depth (e.g. the labour, leisure or housing market, whereas macroeconomics focusses on the economy of the nation, the EU and how the government might try to manage it.

## Why at Salesian College?

Salesian College offers excellent facilities in which to study Economics. The students to learn in an extremely hospitable environment. Students are challenged both in and outside of the classroom. Activities include national competitions based on share-trading as well as the prestigious Bank of England Interest Rate Challenge. Visits include a tour of the Bank of England, a tour of Canary Wharf and The City of London and New York - to understand how the economy works in a different country. External speakers are used to link the subject matter to future career aspirations of the students and the teachers have an abundance of knowledge and expertise, gained from previous work experience that is brought into the classroom.

## What does the Economics course involve?

Economics follows the AQA syllabus and is examined via four modules, two of which are taken at the end of the first year:

Paper 1 = The operations of markets & market failure **(50%)**

Paper 2 = The national economy in a global context **(50%)**

### At A Level

#### Modules studied are:

- **Individuals, firms, markets and market failure**
- **The national and international economy**

Assessment: Paper 1 = **33.3%**

Assessment: Paper 2 = **33.3%**

Assessment: Paper 3 = **33.3%**



## Skills required

As a student of Economics you will need to be interested in the economy and current affairs and researching into current issues yourself. A student should have an ability in Mathematics and calculation work in particular is needed. An ability to write in clear English is also required. The understanding of concepts, terminology and theory are the key to success.

## What the Economics Department offers in teaching and resources

All students learn in a well-resourced centre, with an extensive reference library in the department. Throughout the course, material is examined from textbooks, case studies, magazines and quality newspapers. Current affairs programmes are also important as well as up-to-date documentaries following topical issues.



## What is expected from Economics students?

You will be expected to have a keen interest in the economy and what is going on in the world by reading and watching current events. Ultimately, you must apply your knowledge outside of the classroom environment each and every day to get the most from the course. You will be expected to be proactive with work and complete work on time.

## What can an A Level in Economics lead to?

Many students go to university to follow courses in Economics or Business related subjects, for example, Accountancy, Economics, Government, Banking, Insurance, Finance, Operations Management, Actuarial Studies, Management Accounting, Marketing, Personnel and Recruitment.

# English



## Why study English?

English Literature is the most popular subject studied at A Level in the United Kingdom. Its popularity can be explained by its apparent accessibility but also because the skills acquired in English are entirely transferable to all other areas of work and study. English stands at the heart of global culture and underlies and supports performance in all academic and other areas. Studying A Level English Literature level helps you to become an independent and critical thinker who can communicate ideas effectively. You will explore complex ideas and learn how literature acts as an expression of, and a key to, the complexity of human experience.

## What does the study of English involve?

English Literature at A Level is a subject very highly regarded by universities. It tells them that you have the ability to deal with complex, sophisticated and adult material, and that you can express yourself in a persuasive and cogent manner.

## Why at Salesian College?

The English Department at Salesian College has a long and highly impressive record of academic success in English Literature at A Level. The majority of grades achieved are A\*, A and B. Last year 10 of the 12 entrants gained A\*-B grades.

## What does the course involve?

The reformed English A Level (Edexcel) reflects a greater level of detail in textual study and breadth of literature assessed. The AS course, now decoupled from the full A Level, does, however, provide an interesting grounding in complex areas of literature across time, including a study of modern poetry, two canonical novels and one play. Students are currently studying: *Godot*, *Streetcar*, *Never Let Me Go*, *Frankenstein*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *Tess*.

A typical A Level course would also cover Shakespeare and an anthology of criticism, poetry of the Romantics, Chaucer and a coursework project, worth 20% of the overall A Level. AS materials must also be revised.

## Skills required

English A Level students tend to be independent thinkers who are interested in the exploration of ideas. It is a popular option among mathematicians and scientists who wish to preserve an academic and cultural balance as well as among linguists and economists. Students learn to express themselves very effectively in writing and orally. They are especially noted for their abilities in problem solving and in making sense of the complex.

## What the English Department offers in teaching and resources

The English Literature A Level course at Salesian College is taught by experienced specialists. Mr Melvin is a graduate of Birmingham University, where he also gained a MPhil. He studied for his PGCE at Oxford University. He has recently published essays in *The English Review* and *E-magazine*. Mrs Desmidt is a graduate of the University of Rhodes, South Africa, and was, until she re-joined Salesian College, Head of English at Notre Dame Senior School. Miss Lindquist is a graduate of Liverpool University.

Mr Adam is a graduate of The University of London. Miss Jessica Guy is a graduate of Swansea University and studied for her MA at Kingston University.

The English Department has five dedicated classrooms which are equipped with Smartboard and Internet access, computer and DVD technology, supported by an extensive critical and video library.

## What is expected from English students?

English students are expected to be flexible and alert, and to be happy to question and to think independently about the ideas they come across in their reading and learning.

## What can an A Level in English lead to?

An A Level in English can take you wherever you want to go. At university it can be taken in combination with a very wide range of subjects, as well as being studied on its own. English graduates tend to be very versatile in the careers they follow – but they are especially plentiful in the media, in advertising and in publishing.



Rotary Youth Speaks competition



# French

## Why study French?

There are many reasons! If you go into business when you finish your education, and you also have a working knowledge of a foreign language, your opportunities within that business are dramatically increased. Given that we have several billion pounds worth of trade every year with our closest neighbour in Europe, a knowledge of French is really an invaluable asset.

We also need to acquire a better understanding of the French people and their culture, which will enrich our own. We have so much shared history and so many aspects of our lives today are bound up with France and the European Union that mutual understanding is more and more important.

French is still the second world language after English and is used as a lingua franca in many areas where English is not spoken, particularly in the diplomatic service.

## What does the study of French involve?

The four areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing are the basis of French study.

Speaking skills are practised in class and you may have the opportunity to visit France. You will also have a timetabled session with our French Language Assistant, a native French speaker.

Writing skills are learned through a careful study of the structure of the language and listening skills are developed by authentic French voices.

## Why at Salesian College?

The most important aspect of studying French at Salesian College is the small number in the groups, which allows for much more 1:1 tuition. This helps a great deal in speaking and writing skills particularly. Secondly, we achieve high results year on year, and you have the opportunity to accomplish your real potential, as did one student who achieved a place to read French and Spanish at St. Anne's College, Oxford. Finally, our students **enjoy** their learning!

## Skills required

You will have achieved at least a 6 at GCSE, although most students studying French at A Level will have secured grades 7-9. This is desirable to ensure success. You must enjoy the challenge of communicating in a foreign language.

## What does the course involve?

The course can be a stand-alone AS level or an A Level:

### Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation

What is assessed:

- **Changes in French society (AS and A Level)**
- **Political and artistic culture in the French-speaking world (AS and A Level)**
- **Immigration and French multicultural society (A Level only)**
- **The Occupation and the Resistance (A Level only)**
- **Grammar/Translation from French into English (AS and A Level)**



How it is assessed:

### A LEVEL

Written exam: 2 hours

80 marks in total

40% of A Level

### AS LEVEL

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

64 marks

40% of AS

## Paper 2: Written response to works and translation

What is assessed:

- One text or one film from the lists in the specification (AS)
- Grammar/translation from English into French (AS and A Level)



How it is assessed:

### A LEVEL

Written exam: 2 hours 40 minutes

120 marks in total

30% of A Level

### AS LEVEL

Written exam: 1 hour 40 minutes

60 marks

30% of AS

## Paper 3: Speaking

What is assessed:

### A LEVEL

Individual research project

Discussion on one theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing two different statements

### AS LEVEL

One sub-theme from Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends and one sub-theme from Artistic culture in the French-speaking world

How it is assessed:

### A LEVEL

Oral exam: 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation)

72 marks in total

30% of A Level

### AS LEVEL

Oral exam: 27-30 minutes (including 15 minutes preparation)

72 marks

30% of AS

## What the French Department offers in teaching and resources

The A Level specification is taught by very experienced teachers: two of them are native French speakers and all have a great deal of experience and success at teaching A Level.

## What is expected from French students?

A willingness to learn and practise and a desire to achieve the highest grades. Where other subjects are concerned, French fits in with almost anything, whether science or arts based.

## What can an A Level in French lead to?

The number of careers in which French is useful and desirable is too great to list. Suffice it to say that business of all kinds welcomes French speakers, as well as banking, tourism, international relations, politics, journalism and specially the Diplomatic Service. If you intend to study Law, a knowledge of French will open up the whole realm of European Law.

For further information and details, please speak to Mme Stone.



A Level visit to the French Institute, London

# Geography

## Why study Geography?

### UNDERSTANDING AN INTERCONNECTED WORLD

We live in a time when events and changes in one part of the world can rapidly affect people and environments in other parts of the world. Economies, environments and cultures are linked across the world, as never before.

Geographers in the twenty first century will need to be able to critically unpick issues to fully grasp the impact of globalisation on people and the planet.

### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

Sound and sustainable stewardship of the environment and its resources is essential for future generations. Geography is the only subject which has as a main focus the relationships between people and their environments - both locally and globally.

### A UNIQUE COMBINATION OF SKILLS

Particularly wide combinations of skills relevant to employment are developed through the learning of geography and its stimulating use of contemporary issues and real world examples. The use of GIS in education and beyond is a vital skill that is incorporated through the use of ARCGIS in all topics.

## Course content and Assessment

We follow the Edexcel syllabus and there is currently one residential field trip in Year 12. An international field course is planned for the coming year. Further details of the syllabus (first teaching from 2016) can be found at [www.qualifications.pearson.com](http://www.qualifications.pearson.com)

### Year 12 (AS to be taken)

- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Globalisation
- Coastal Landscape and Change
- Diverse Places



*“Where we come from, what we do, what we eat, how we move about and how we shape our future are all directly the province of the geographer. More than ever we need the geographer’s skills and foresight to help us learn about our planet - how we use it and how we abuse it.”*

Michael Palin





Overseas study visit to Iceland

In the summer term there are two exams to cover the four topics and field work skills. All students are required to complete an independent investigation during the summer holidays.

#### A Level (2 year linear course)

- **The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity**
- **The Carbon Cycle and Energy Insecurity**
- **Superpowers**
- **Health, Human Rights and Intervention**



There are three exams at the end of the course.

### Teaching styles

Geography is taught in the well-appointed geography suite using a range of styles and materials including the VLE, magazines, video, and I.T., textbooks and geo factsheets. Fieldwork forms a key part of the syllabus. We run a residential field course to FSC centre in Year 12 and local visits that compliment our studies. Students also attend revision days run by head examiners. Students also have the option to attend evening lectures organised by the Geographical Association to get a taste of under-graduate life.

# History

## Why study History?

Studying History gives you the complete picture about the issues and events that make the headlines today. A Level History gives you an in-depth knowledge of how societies develop and governments work. It is a subject which will help you understand people and their attitudes, beliefs and behaviour.

## What does the study of History involve?

The investigation of controversial questions from the past and the present:

- Did the German people and the rest of the world know about the Holocaust as it was happening?
- What happened to the princes in the Tower of London?
- Is Game of Thrones plagiarised from the Wars of the Roses?
- Was Richard III really a hunchback and a villain?
- Were the Bolsheviks 'Red Tsars'?

## Why at Salesian College?

We offer:

- **An examination of how nations and governments have formed over the course of history. We offer a modern course but if you have a desire to examine the medieval era then there is the option within your coursework in Year 13.**
- **A good record of success**
- **Challenging and imaginative teaching**
- **Individual attention for all students**
- **Support for those difficult moments**
- **A good-humoured, productive environment**
- **Trips to Russia (St Petersburg and Moscow) and to Berlin to see where events happened and get a feel for how valuable History is regarded in shaping these nations**
- **A well-resourced department - specialist teaching rooms, texts and books**

## What does the course involve?

### YEAR 12 - EDEXCEL

1. Russia: From Lenin to Yeltsin 1917-91  
This paper is worth 30% of your overall grade. This paper is a synoptic paper so requires you to look at change and continuity over time.

2. The German Democratic Republic, 1949-90  
This paper is worth 20% of your overall grade. This paper is an in-depth study.

### YEAR 13

3. The British experience of Warfare c1790-1918. This paper is worth 30% of your overall course. This paper is a synoptic paper so requires you to look at change and continuity over time.

4. Coursework! One essay  
Worth 20% of your overall mark.

## What is expected from History students?

You should be enquiring, tenacious in rooting out a story, and show the ability to interrogate the past ruthlessly. Historians must be creative, imaginative and above all else rigorous in their deductions.

## Skills required

### COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Historians are clear and effective communicators. You must be able to argue your case orally and on paper. Your writing will help you develop skills in organizing ideas, expressing clear opinions and reaching balanced conclusions. These skills are needed in all sectors of the working environment to produce relevant business reports, to be effective in meetings, to deal with clients and work with colleagues.

## ANALYTICAL SKILLS

Tasks in History will certainly get you thinking. You will learn to clarify issues, to appreciate the wider perspective and conduct systematic and critical analysis of the problem before you.

## RESEARCH SKILLS

Historians find information anywhere and everywhere. History teaches how to use information.

History students read the press critically and always seek a full picture of the facts before reaching their conclusions.

## What can you study History with at A Level?

History can be combined with ALL subjects. It is a subject with broad appeal and skills which are easily transferable to other subjects, which do include Mathematics and Science. At Salesian College the History Department has always welcomed students who are studying a wide range of subjects.

Do you need to have studied GCSE History? No! However a good grade in English is a prerequisite.

Some students take up the study of History at A Level, discover their natural abilities suit the subject and go on to be very successful.



Study visit to Brandenburg Gate

## What can an A Level in History lead to?

Are you interested in any of these careers:

- Politics
- Accountancy
- Computing
- Public relations
- Advertising
- Publishing
- Banking/financial services
- Retail
- Broadcasting
- Leisure
- Journalism
- Management
- Law



If so, then you should be studying History at A Level.



Berlin study visit

# Maths

## Why study Maths?

Mathematics is central to our understanding of the world. In order to develop knowledge of the structure of DNA, it was necessary to build the mathematical model of the double helix. The designs of modern Formula One cars and supersonic fighter planes are the results of refined mathematical analyses. In sport, mathematics is used to study and improve the performance of athletes.

Even the food we eat reaches us because of the applications of logistics to transport networks.

Mathematics is for you if you are considering a scientific or technical degree. Mathematics is also for you if you would like to study economics, history, computing.... It can be teamed with almost any other subjects. Choose it because you enjoy solving problems.

## What does the study of Maths involve?

Mathematics is a set of inter-linked tools for modelling the real and complex world into sets of simplified systems that can then be studied in order to derive answers to real problems. The tools are studied in Pure Mathematics, which is the kind of Mathematics you have studied so far, at GCSE. At AS and A Level, these tools include, however, the study of Calculus (Integration and Differentiation), which are about the ways in which changes occur and the rates at which they happen. Series and Sequences are studied, because these are also tools to understand, classify and generate evolving patterns. Algebra and Trigonometry are important tools for expressing and manipulating the models. Mechanics is the mathematical analysis of physical situations, and Statistics is much more interesting at A Level.

## Why at Salesian College?

Choose to do Mathematics at Salesian College and you will have small classes, personal attention and encouragement. The Mathematics staff are all extremely well qualified and dedicated, and enjoy their sixth form lessons. The department's results year on year are outstanding. Once again for A Level we had 100% pass rate of which 78% were at least B grade.

## What does the course involve?

The subject is very flexible. You can do one A Level or two (the second one is Further Mathematics: this goes further than the single A Level, obviously); and you can do AS - that's half an A Level. Two thirds of the A Level is Pure Mathematics and the rest is Mechanics and Statistics. Mechanics complements studies in Physics, Biology, Physical Education and Technology. Statistics is very useful with History, Biology, Economics, Geography, Psychology and almost any other "ology" you might consider.

**The course at Salesian College is the Edexcel A Level. The AS consists of paper 1 in Pure Mathematics (2Hrs) and paper 2 in Mechanics and Statistics (1Hr total). For A Level there are paper 1 and 2 in Pure Mathematics (2Hrs each) and Paper 3 in Mechanics and Statistics (2Hrs total). There is NO coursework or non - calculator examinations. It is a requirement to have a graphics calculator.**



## What is expected from Maths students?

We do not study Mathematics because it is easy, but because it is challenging. Students choose to study Mathematics do so because they enjoy solving problems. When difficulties are encountered, we expect students to be pro-active, and our experience shows that the most successful students are those who seek assistance.

Whether you are considering one of the above pathways to your future career, or another, the Salesian College Mathematics Department wants you to study Mathematics here. We have put a great deal of time into your development, and look forward to helping you in your A Level.

**At Salesian College we give our Mathematics students A Level of support and attention that is unequalled in any other establishment. Our level of success with our students at A/S and A Level exceeds by far that of our competitors.**

## Skills required

To choose Mathematics, you should have done the HIGHER Tier at GCSE and we strongly recommend you have gained a grade 6 or above. The exam board stipulates this. If you are keen to take Further Mathematics, it should be from the basis of a grade 8 or 9 predicted grade at GCSE.

## What the Maths Department offers in teaching and resources

The Mathematics Department is located in its own suite of dedicated classrooms. The department has a wide range of resources to support its students, including excellent graphical ICT hardware and software which you will receive guidance on using. The department has an excellent record in helping its students, and staff are generous in giving their time to assist students on an ad hoc basis, as well as giving revision days and running a daily Mathematics Workshop. This was highly praised in the school inspection. The Mathematics department was highlighted by the previous Inspection for being well run, and for the support to its students.

## What can an A Level in Maths lead to?

Studying Mathematics gives kudos. The subject is highly regarded by universities because the ability to perform in it demonstrates capability of organized and analytical intelligence. There are many areas of Mathematics at degree level, including financial mathematics such as the world renowned MORSE degree at Warwick University. Logistics, once known as Operational Research, is an increasingly important field of study. Many degrees have a mathematical component, such as the many kinds of Engineering (Statistical, Bio-Medical, Genetic, Mechanical, Computer Engineering, to name but a few), Hydrology, Physics, Economics ... There are many more. Several other degrees require Mathematics, such as Engineering, Veterinary Science or Dentistry. Other degrees such as Computing or Medicine may not insist on Mathematics at A Level, but having it will save students having to do a Mathematics module in the first year at university.



# Further Maths

## Why study Further Maths?

There is a strong positive correlation between the top earners in Britain and Further Mathematics at A Level. If you are an able student in Mathematics, tipped to achieve a grade 8 or 9 at GCSE, perhaps you might consider this opportunity. This subject can open the door into the highest flying careers.

The extra depth of study of Pure Mathematics plus the extra breadth of applications you study provide you with an excellent background for many university courses. These are particularly useful for degrees in Mathematics, Physics and Engineering. It can also be useful for related subjects such as Economics and Computing. The leading universities recognise Further Mathematics as an indication of high academic aptitude. In order to study Mathematics at most of these esteemed institutions, an A Level in Further Mathematics is a necessity.

**Further Mathematics is the fastest growing subject at A Level. Why is this? The top universities are beginning to expect students who wish to study Maths related degrees to have Further Mathematics to at least AS Level.**

## What does the study of Further Maths involve?

If you are an able Mathematics student you will want to be challenged. You will enjoy exploring Mathematics in depth, Further Mathematics is exciting and stimulating!

**Further** means developing more deeply into this exciting subject.

**Pure** includes topics such as Algebra and Calculus which help develop the techniques and skills useful for solving problems. Some topics such as Complex Numbers, Matrices and Vector Algebra are more abstract and are more to do with Mathematics for its own sake.

**Mechanics** will give you the skills to solve problems in the real world by using a process called mathematical modelling. You will be able to find out why Galileo was correct when he said that two balls made of different materials rolling down the same slope will reach the bottom at the same time. Mechanics is useful for Physics and Engineering.

**Statistics** will enable you to test whether a mathematical model describes a real-world problem well or not. It is for this reason that a knowledge of statistics is of such importance in carrying out practical work in the sciences or social sciences.

**Decision** will teach you to write algorithms to solve practical problems. Decision Mathematics is a branch of Mathematics that attempts to solve real-life problems involved with business, computing and electronics.

## Why at Salesian College?

You will have small classes which means plenty of personal attention and encouragement. The staff are well-qualified, enthusiastic, hard-working and caring people. There are Math's workshops held each lunch time and ample opportunities to seek help outside of lessons from one of the eight sympathetic and experienced Mathematics teachers. The results are outstanding.

Last summer at A Level we had 80% A/A\* pass rate.

The department is excellently resourced with text books for each of the modules and the latest ICT Mathematical software.

## What does the course involve?

You take Further Mathematics AS alongside Mathematics AS in Year 12. In Year 13 you take Further Mathematics A Level alongside Mathematics A Level.

You will take two exams for AS in Year 12 and four papers for A Level in Year 13.

### YEAR 12

Further Pure (50%)	Further Statistics & Mechanics (50%)
--------------------	--------------------------------------

### YEAR 13

Further Pure 1 (25%)	Further Statistics (25%)
Further Pure 2 (25%)	Further Mechanics (25%)

An AS in Further Mathematics is also available.

## Skills required

You should be a good mathematician who is expected to get an 8 or 9 at GCSE plus a range of other good grades. You should enjoy Maths as you will spend a high proportion of your time studying the subject.



Study visit to Reading University for Maths Inspiration day

## What is expected from Further Maths students?

We do not study Further Mathematics because it is easy but because it is challenging. However Further Mathematics AS is accessible to students of A Level Maths standard. We expect our students to be prepared to practice questions using the skills that they learn during the lessons and to seek assistance outside of lessons when they encounter difficulties.

## What can an A Level in Further Maths lead to?

Research shows that workers with qualifications in Maths earn substantially more than those without. Mathematicians are in demand worldwide and many other degree and career channels benefit from high mathematical aptitude. There are many opportunities that exist: medical, medical statistical, engineering, physical, business, economic, computing, technological, educational.....and the list goes on !!!....

Also a Mathematical degree has the highest employment rate of any other subject apart from dentistry and medicine. Employers value numeracy, clarity of thought and the capacity for logical argument that the study of Further Mathematics develops.

At Salesian College we give our Mathematics students A Level of support and attention that is unequalled in any other establishment. Our level of success with our students at AS and A Level exceeds by far that of our competitors.

# Music

## Why study Music?

The study of music at an advanced level is indicative of intellect, practical ability and cultural awareness. Music has traditionally formed a part of the broadest and deepest educational programmes, and it is still seen as an important factor in the achievement of academic excellence.

## What does the study of Music involve?

The courses of study at both Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level typically develop aspects of the subject pursued for the GCSE examination. Critical and contextual listening skills are extended by the application of more advanced musicological processes, allowing students to understand the formal and stylistic features and procedures related to time and place. An understanding of why music from different periods of musical history and from different geographical locations sounds the way it does is vital to an understanding of patterns of change and development in music. At a deeper level it provides raw material for developing concepts about the nature of music, and about the relationship between music and the cultures in which it is created.

Performing and practical skills are developed, and there is an emphasis on gaining experience of public performance. The composition work of the GCSE is extended in a variety of ways. Central to all of this work is the development of compositional techniques including traditional harmony and counterpoint. Harmonic styles related to particular periods and genres and more recent, even experimental, compositional techniques are also covered. There is usually the opportunity for students to work in the areas with which they feel most comfortable, and to be examined in these in the form of a course-work submission.

## Why at Salesian College?

The College offers excellent resources for the study of music at this level, and the specialist nature of the subject means that groups are always small. Individual attention is therefore readily available, and the course can be structured to reflect each student's strengths and weaknesses.

## What does the course involve?

The Edexcel syllabus is followed in this subject. The new specifications for the subject have the same structure at both AS and A Level, with performing and composing modules, and a third, weighted, module which involves listening and essay questions based on a series of studied works drawn from the following areas of study:

- **Vocal Music**
- **Instrumental Music**
- **Music for Film**
- **Popular Music and Jazz**
- **Fusions**
- **New Directions**



The A Level specification includes the set works from the AS specification and adds other works to them, allowing the courses to be co-taught.

## Skills required

The course requirements dictate that a performing level of at least grade 5 must have been achieved before study of the subject at this level begins. It should also be noted that compositional and listening skills develop those required at GCSE: it is therefore unlikely that a student who has not successfully followed a GCSE course (Grade 6 or above) would be in a position to choose music at this level. In addition to this students will be much more comfortable with the theoretical work if they have taken the Grade 5 theory examination (this is anyway a requirement if they are to go on and take the higher grade practical examinations following the Associated Board specification). The bulk of the work, listening, analytical and compositional, is based firmly within the tradition of western art music: students who feel antipathy towards this music may well feel uncomfortable with this course.

## What the Music Department offers in teaching and resources

The superb McGuinness Music School, comprising a Recital Hall, a number of smaller teaching and practice rooms and equipped with an excellent range of resources, including Steinway and Broadwood grand pianos, ensures that the College's Music department is well equipped to provide a thorough and stimulating course. As a specialist subject, music groups at the College are small, allowing the individual requirements of students to be catered for.

## What is expected from Music students?

Studying music requires, perhaps more than most subjects, a great deal of self-motivation and discipline. This is one of the aspects of the subject that makes it so difficult but it is also one of its greatest qualities; the reason why proven success in music is valued even by those selecting and appointing candidates for non-musical courses and posts.

It will be understood that regular instrumental lessons and consistent supporting practice are essential. Similarly the process of composition and the study of compositional techniques require dedicated work if a suitable standard is to be achieved. Listening skills too will need to be honed, both by assiduous private study and by attendance at concerts and recitals. Typically music students have an obvious commitment to and enthusiasm for the subject which make it an inevitable choice for them.

## What can an A Level in Music lead to?

A successfully completed music course at this level may well lead to the study of music, or a music related subject at degree level. This may be a traditional music degree at university, or if performance standards are high enough, at Music College (the college has had a significant number of students go on to such institutions). It may be that one of the music, music-education or performing arts courses run by many of the newer university colleges suits the student's interests and abilities better. Many such institutions offer courses or modules in World Musics and popular music.

For those with scientific or technological interests, courses in recording engineering, acoustics or other sound-related work may appeal. Music therapy is an expanding field; for those wishing to use their skills working with others this, or education, seem likely choices. Many of those who study music to advanced level, however, pursue careers unrelated to the subject, retaining their music as a hobby. There is a tradition in this school of able musicians reading medicine for example. For these, as for many people, music gives meaning to their lives and their work: *Musica Donum Dei*.



# Philosophy & Ethics

## What is Philosophy & Ethics?

*Philosophy & Ethics is in essence the academic discipline of examining, exploring and analysing 'ultimate concerns'*

P. Tillich

Within the course, we evaluate and discuss philosophical questions of existence, both of self and of God. Theories of behaviour and ethics are critically examined and applied to relevant topical issues including medical ethics and animal rights.

Philosophy & Ethics is a rigorous academic discipline that has held the attention of scholars throughout the ages, and one that continues to inspire to this day.

## Why at Salesian College?

The Religious Education Department at Salesian College has a strong academic tradition. This - combined with a friendly learning environment - provides an ideal combination for achieving academic success.

Philosophy & Ethics remains a popular choice at A Level and is a subject that complements any combination of subjects.

## What are the skills required?

Students are required to investigate, interpret, evaluate and critically examine throughout the course. These are but a few of the skills that will be developed throughout the entire programme of study.

The primary skills required are those of motivation, enthusiasm and willingness to succeed. These are essential in order to fully benefit from A Level Philosophy & Ethics.

## The Department

The A Level curriculum is currently taught by Miss Enright, Miss Callanan, and Mr Maher.



The Department itself is well resourced, with two dedicated teaching rooms, containing a wide range of academic material that can be used in conjunction with the Library at Salesian College. In addition to the above, there is ample opportunity to utilise the College's ICT facilities for essays and research tasks.

Each year there is also the opportunity to attend revision seminars and lectures delivered by philosophers, such as Richard Dawkins and Richard Swinburne.

## What does the course involve?

The AS/A Level course follows the AQA Syllabus for Philosophy & Ethics. Students study the following topics within Philosophy, Ethics and Christianity:

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS		
2 HOURS	Component 1 - Philosophy	Component 1 - Ethics
AS	Design argument	Natural Moral Law
AS	Cosmological argument	Situation Ethics
AS	Ontological argument	Virtue Ethics
AS	Problem of Evil	Issues of human life and death
AS	Religious experience	Issues of animal life and death
A Level	Religious language	Meta Ethics
A Level	Miracles	Freewill and moral responsibility
A Level	Self, death and afterlife	Conscience
A Level		Comparison of Bentham and Kant

CHRISTIANITY	
1 HOUR	Component 2 - Christianity
AS	Sources of wisdom and authority
AS	God
AS	Self, death and afterlife
AS	Good conduct and moral principles
AS	Expressions of religious identity
A Level	Religion, gender and sexuality
A Level	Religion and science
A Level	Religion and secularization
A Level	Religion, migration and pluralism

## What can Philosophy & Ethics lead to?

A student of Philosophy & Ethics will have every opportunity before them as the skills they will develop from this A Level are highly valued by all universities. The course itself requires an analytical mind. It asks students to assess, examine and evaluate key questions concerning fundamental questions of existence and morality.

In terms of future study, it remains a popular choice at degree level, with many universities offering joint honours courses with other disciplines.

Philosophy & Ethics is considered a supremely relevant and demanding course and is regarded as an excellent preparation for any future career. It affords the opportunity to develop on an academic and personal level and captivates and motivates those who study it.

*“The unexamined life is not worth living.”*

Socrates

# Physical Education



## Why study PE?

The AS and A Level courses allow students to continue with the GCSE material but develop the themes and topics to a higher level. Students who are able practical performers are able to maximize their coursework marks through high levels of practical attainment. Students will be provided with learning experiences to enhance their own understanding of performance. Physical Education is a multi-faceted discipline which integrates diverse theoretical fields with practical performance.

## What does the study of PE involve?

Students will have theory lessons in the classroom covering the wide range of material on the specification. They will also be expected to continue to develop their practical skills throughout the two years.

## Why at Salesian College?

We offer the opportunity to work with experienced staff who have been involved with marking and assessment for exam boards at other centres for a number of years. The students' previous levels of ability are already known to us and they can be guided towards the correct practical options. The extensive extra-curricular programme in our sixth form provides plenty of opportunity to refine skills and to be accurately assessed.

## What does the course involve?

### AS LEVEL -

#### Students follow 2 components:

Component 1 (70%) - Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport (Exam: 2 Hours)

- Section A - Applied physiology
- Section B - Skill Acquisition and sports psychology
- Section C - Sport and society and technology in sport

Component 2 (30%) - Practical performance in physical activity and sport (Non-exam assessment)

- Analysis and evaluation (15%)
- Practical performance in one sport/ area as performer or coach (15%)



### A LEVEL -

#### Students follow 3 components:

Component 1 (35%) - Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport (Exam: 2 Hours)

- Section A - Applied anatomy and physiology
- Section B - Skill Acquisition
- Section C - Sport and society

Component 2 (35%) - Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport (Exam: 2 Hours)

- Section A - Exercise physiology and biomechanics
- Section B - Sports psychology
- Section C - Sport and society and technology in sport

Component 3 (30%) - Practical performance in physical activity and sport (Non-exam assessment)

- Analysis and evaluation (15%)
- Practical performance in one sport/ area as performer or coach (15%)





## Skill required

There is no 'perfect candidate' but a successful candidate will not only be a strong sports performer but one who is able to write a clear essay with reasoned use of facts and who is comfortable with scientific principles.

## What the PE Department offers in teaching and resources

In addition to the experienced teaching staff the Department has a wide and varied range of resources for this course. These include specific course text books, revision guides, an extensive video library covering aspects of the specification, fitness testing equipment and a collection of past exam papers. In addition to all this we provide the time and opportunity to develop skills in practical sports and to be assessed continually in order that your best performances count in your final marks.

## What is expected from PE students?

In addition to the usual requirement to attend all lessons and to complete all set work to a high standard and on deadline, students are also expected to broaden their knowledge by reading around the topics and to be in a position to contribute to the course. As well as this a student must be committed to extra curricular improvement in their chosen sports, where possible at the College, or at a suitable club.

## What can an A Level in PE lead to?

Most universities offer degrees in sports science or sports studies and past students of this A Level have gone onto higher studies at university. Additionally the very able may consider qualifying as a teacher of Physical Education after securing a Sports science degree or Physical Education QTS degree! Careers may include physiotherapy, sports management, sports journalism, teaching, professional sport and the ever increasing 'leisure industry'.



# Physics

## What is AS and A Level Physics?

The dictionary definition of Physics is the study of matter and energy. It seeks to find the hidden laws behind physical phenomena. In practice it means you will study a range of topics from the very small - inside the atom, to the very large - the formation and history of stars and the universe. Some of the topics you will have studied at GCSE, such as electricity and magnetism, radioactivity and Newton's laws of motion. You will also study new topics such as quantum mechanics, capacitance, stationary waves and thermodynamics.

## What will I study and how will I be assessed?

At both AS Level and A Level the exams are externally assessed with exams in May/June. You will also complete a series of practical work throughout both years in order to achieve your Science practical endorsement. We follow the Edexcel Physics 2015 Scheme of Work.



## Physics study visit to CERN

## How will I learn?

You will have 4 one-hour periods on your Year 12 timetable each week, leading to 5 one-hour periods in Year 13. You will be taught by a two of the specialist Physics teachers at the school. You will gain a knowledge and understanding of the subject through a wide range of methods, including demonstrations, practical work, computer animations & simulations. As with any A Level subject at Salesian College, you will spend around 4 hours per week on private study. In Physics this will include working through problem questions, past-paper questions, conducting research and producing experiment reports.

You will be issued with textbooks specifically written for the course. Background reading is an essential part of A Level study and many students choose to subscribe to Physics Review magazine. Revision guides are also available. You may also have the opportunity to visit UKAEA Culham JET Fusion research facility near Abingdon, CERN in Geneva, Switzerland and attend Physics lectures at local universities.

## What could I go on to do?

Physics leads on to a wide range of courses and careers. You could go on to use Physics to support degree courses in Physics, Engineering, Computing, Mathematics, Architecture and Medicine, amongst others. Physics is currently the most desired degree qualification by a wide range of employers in the UK.



## What do I need to do to study Physics at A Level?

It is recommended that you have gained at least grade 6 in GCSE Physics or Double Science and a grade 6 in Maths. Although not essential, most Physics students will take Maths A Level. Students who do not take Maths find AS and in particular A Level Physics quite difficult.

In common with all subjects at A Level, there is a significant leap in the intellectual demands and expectations made on you as you progress from GCSE to AS Level, and from AS to A Level. This is particularly true in Physics where the use of Maths increases. You will succeed if you are prepared to work consistently and give your studies the time and energy they require.

## In Summary...

Physics develops your intellectual, logical, numerical, practical and problem-solving skills to meet the needs of many future employers from the scientific to the financial world. If you are interested to know what the Universe is made of and how it works through various laws of nature then Physics is for you!



# Politics

## Why study Politics?

The study of Politics is important in an ever changing world. No two political courses are identical, highlighting the fast moving nature of this subject. If you have a social conscience, a keen ability to understand the world in which we live, and wish to understand more about democracy, beliefs and attitudes, then Politics is a fantastic subject to study.

## What does the study of Politics involve?

We investigate key areas of:

- **Democracy and the ways in which this can be inhibited**
- **Political participation or lack of!**
- **Ideologies**
- **The nature and structure of British Parliament**
- **The constitution.**
- **The roles of the Prime Minister and the Executive**
- **How democracies can be applied in other countries (the USA.)**



## Why at Salesian College?

- **At Salesian College we encourage students from Years 7-13 to have a social conscience**
- **We offer challenging and imaginative teaching**
- **Smaller group sizes so teaching can be both individualised but there is enough room for inclusive debate**
- **A good humoured, well-resourced and productive environment**
- **Trips to parliament, the USA and visiting speakers**

## What does the course involve?

### YEAR 12

Components 1: UK Politics including democracy, political parties, voting behaviours and the key ideologies. Worth 33.3% of the A Level.

Components 2: The UK Government including the branches of government and the constitution. Worth 33.3% of the A Level.

### YEAR 13

Components 1 and 2: The Ideologies.

Component 3: The USA. Worth 33.3% of the A Level.



## What is expected from Politics students?

### SKILLS REQUIRED

Communication: you will need a broad range of knowledge regarding the UK to select the most relevant example to support your points about the theoretical side of politics. Reading the news with a range of opinions (a range of newspapers or sources) is crucial. Politicians are effective communicators, they are articulate, well organised and reach justified conclusions.

### ANALYTICAL SKILLS

We require you to think independently, be able to analyse evidence and recognise bias whilst supporting and developing a well-honed argument.



Sixth Form visit to Parliament

## RESEARCH SKILLS

Politicians will be able to draw upon a wide range of knowledge, read the press critically, and seek to be fully informed before making a decision.

## What can you study with Politics at A Level?

Politics can be combined with ALL subjects and we welcome students who study a wide range of subjects. Politics is a subject with the highly sought after transferable analytical skills and complements subjects such as Maths and the sciences. It particularly relates well to History, Economics, Business Studies, Geography and Philosophy and Ethics, drawing on and supporting the range of skills developed in these subjects.

## What can an A Level in Politics lead to?

Career in:

- The Civil Service
- Parliament
- Government social research officer
- Market research
- Public Relations
- Public Affairs consultancy
- Social research
- Business development
- Charity work
- Law enforcement
- Accountancy
- The financial industry
- Journalism

All of the University courses and careers mentioned are enhanced by the study of Politics at A Level.



# Psychology

## Why study Psychology?

Psychology offers important insights into human behaviour which are of interest not only in our own lives but are also highly relevant for many careers, including medicine, management and teaching.

**Psychology goes beyond 'common sense' understandings and endeavours to be objective and scientific in studying human behaviour.**

## What does the study of Psychology involve?

A critical approach is taken to studying a wide range of topics from understanding how memory works (or doesn't), why we conform, what happens when stress affects us, to defining and explaining abnormal behaviour. There is no coursework for Psychology, instead candidates are given the opportunity to conduct their own investigations to provide them with practical experience of research methods.

## Why at Salesian College?

At Salesian College our A Level groups are small and students therefore receive a good deal of individual help and tuition. Our results over the whole A Level range speak for themselves. You will also get the opportunity to visit the Psychology department at Surrey University where you can experience mini lectures and practical experiments.

## What does the course involve?

The content of the Psychology A Level offers a very broad experience of approaches, theories and methodologies and this is reflected in the topics which are studied. The AQA course requires that students do more than just learn this content; examination questions also involve applying this knowledge to novel situations.

### **A LEVEL - 1st Year Topics will include:**

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology & Research Methods

### **A LEVEL - 2nd Year Issues and debates in Psychology plus the following three topics:**

- Relationships
- Schizophrenia
- Addiction



## Skills required

The ability to read and assimilate information, appreciate the many, often conflicting approaches within Psychology, analyse the evidence and create a reasoned argument in writing.

To apply knowledge of different approaches and theories to real-life phenomena and to use research methodology to carry out student-led research studies. As the biggest component of the course is research methods, students will be expected to be comfortable with the scientific terminology used when designing investigations, e.g. Hypotheses.

## What is expected from Psychology students?

As there is no GCSE offered in Psychology, you will need to have one science at GCSE in which you have attained at least a grade 6. This is because of the heavy emphasis on research methodology in the course, particularly the scientific method. You will be required to describe the course content accurately and in detail, to assimilate new terminology, read and evaluate psychological research, and be rigorous in your application of various research techniques.

The proposed changes to the Psychology A Level will require a higher level of understanding of mathematics, ideally a grade 6 at GCSE.

## What can an A Level in Psychology lead to?

Psychology is pertinent for many degrees and is an attractive qualification to employers. Students will have learnt valuable skills; they will be able to express themselves clearly in writing and critically evaluate evidence and research literature.

Possible careers:

- Educational psychology
- Sports psychology
- Forensic psychology
- Organisational psychology



# Spanish

## Why study Spanish?

Después de haber aprobado el examen de GCSE con buenas notas, tendrás una oportunidad fantástica al empezar esta asignatura de A Level que es divertida y además útil en el mundo laboral de hoy en día. Hablarás mucho en clase sobre la vida en los países de habla hispana con temas de interés universal, de tu propia vida y de tus opiniones. También leerás, escucharás y escribirás mucho.

Seguirás a muchos estudiantes con éxito que han obtenido resultados excelentes en años recientes entre los cuales varios de ellos cursan sus estudios de Lengua y Literatura Hispánica en la Universidad. ¿Te gustaría estudiar o trabajar en España o en Latinoamérica? Tendrás la mitad del mundo en tus manos.

## What does the study of Spanish involve?

Having got this far, you are clearly committed to Spanish as a possible option. Intensive grammar revision and enhancement are necessary to bridge the gap between GCSE and authentic Spanish materials, which you will encounter immediately.

## Why at Salesian College?

Since 2016, of our ten A Level students, six have started degrees combining Spanish with other subjects. One recent leaver has just graduated in French and Spanish from Oxford. Another has just started his year abroad in Brazil whilst studying Spanish and Portuguese at Nottingham University, and another is in Barcelona teaching in our Salesian exchange school. Given that our groups average six students, your individual speaking topic preference (current examples include the importance of mining in Peru, Catalan independence, German influence on Argentina and the political and economic crisis in Venezuela) receives personal tutor status. Add this to the exchange during Year 12, volunteering in the Post A Level Salesian Summer Camp in Barcelona, the Able Linguist Day at Southampton University and many other activities, studying Spanish A Level at Salesian College could present you with a wealth of opportunities to engage your passion for the Hispanic world.

- a. Annual exchange with a Salesian School in Madrid during Year 12
- b. A work experience project in Barcelona during the summer of Year 13



- c. A work placement during the year abroad at University as Language Assistant at Salesian College Sarria in Barcelona and its benefits connected to the Salesian network.
- d. Useful contacts with the market world in Madrid via the careers department in the Salesian School (Soto del Real)
- e. Extra lessons and guidance for Oxbridge candidates



## What does the course involve?

In **Year 12** your exams will assess speaking, listening, reading and translation into English and Spanish, and the study of one set text or one film.

In **Year 13** your exams will assess speaking, listening, reading and translation into English and Spanish, and the study of one more set text or one film (but not two films).

## Skills required

You will have achieved at least a 6 at GCSE, although the majority who choose Spanish have gained grades 7-9. Strong analytical skills when reading and listening are allied with the ability to articulate an argument deploying discriminating research, logic and imagination when writing and speaking.

## What the Spanish Department offers in teaching and resources

Mr Smith and Mrs Cardona share both Year 12 and Year 13 teaching equally and all students spend 30 minutes per week speaking with a native Spanish Language Assistant.

You will use excellent web based resources, which explore topical Hispanic and global issues. These are used in conjunction with Edexcel Spanish for A Level, written specifically to prepare students for the board whose course we follow. Both classrooms are equipped with interactive technology.

## What is expected from Spanish students?

Punctuality, diligence, fastidiousness and an overwhelming desire to communicate via speaking and writing your opinions enthusiastically and persuasively in another language are the X factors bred into the good linguist. These skills combined are shared by few students in the UK. If you've got these, then we'd love to see you next year.

Spanish Exchange with Salesian Soto, Madrid



## What can an A Level in Spanish lead to?

In recent years several outstanding scientists have chosen two or three A Level sciences plus Spanish as a legitimate aid to their career prospects. They have achieved fine results, which suggests that Spanish is compatible with virtually anything, justifying its choice with any subjects along the spectrum between pure science and pure art.

Several students have continued Spanish at university in combination with other romance languages (one who recently finished Chinese at Manchester attests to the discipline preparing him well for his course); others have continued Spanish as a high level subsidiary to Economics, History and Philosophy and this year, a joint honors with PE at Loughborough.

A natural progression to Portuguese enabled one student to volunteer as a helper at the Rio Olympics during his year abroad.

The increasingly mobile workforce of the 21st century, whether within or without the EU, requires talented linguists in the fields of finance, law, the Foreign Office and medicine. You could equally be importing wine from Chile, negotiating building contracts in rural Spain. One recent Salesian College Spanish graduate is working with Apple's Spanish and South American operations, and another joined a top city bank. The opportunities to exploit your passion for this discipline depend upon the limits of your imagination.

# Playing your part in the world



## Reaching out to others...

Imagine: it's a mid summer's evening; a festival atmosphere, a BBQ and friends; plumes of smoke, red and yellow rise across a field; moments of chaos and fun as paint flies in all directions; the Share the Light Colour Run is in full swing. Imagine instead, agreeing to sleep-out with just a cardboard box and a sleeping bag; outside with a barrel camp fire and all your other Year 12 students in Mid-December. The evening begins with a great atmosphere and music but no doubt that this becomes a challenge by 3.00am, when your hat is not as warm as you hoped. In the morning, however, a feeling of accomplishment, sharing a cooked breakfast together and knowing you have managed the cold night.

There are great challenges in the world; like young people, living locally, without futures or a place to stay and all the other challenges you can imagine that caused being homeless at 17. Whilst in Zambia, we work with children coming from the most challenging places you can imagine, struggling to get enough to eat as they arrive at a school we support.

These are some realities our students come to understand and witness as they volunteer each year in Zambia with our 'Share the Light' charity.

The good news is that being a part of Salesian Sixth Form you will not simply understand these issues you will do something about them. The Colour Run (as mentioned earlier) raises money for Mrs Mweete's daily Porridge Club in Zambia which feeds 750 pupils each day at Luyobulola school for the vulnerable in Mazabuka, Zambia.

The challenging Sponsored Sleep-Out, with a great atmosphere and cold hands, is a student promoted and led event which has been raising thousands of pounds for local homeless teenagers, for more than 15 years and now it is a Sixth Form tradition which our Year 12 students enjoy experiencing (although perhaps will not want to do again!) each year.

At other points in the year you might be in Lourdes face-painting children with a variety of complex, social and physical needs at a party you have organised for them with your friends from Sixth Form.

These experiences raise horizons and develop your sense of social justice.

We also work with our students to understand these issues in more depth. For example, all Year 12 students have the opportunity to develop their presentation skills, advocacy and understanding of the root causes of poverty on the Cafod youth development programme, which includes training days throughout the year. As a 'Share the Light' advocate, or HCPT volunteer in Lourdes you will undertake a programme of training which really develops you as a person.

The result of all this is the development of students who go on to make a real difference in their professional lives and continue to work and fundraise for these charities. For example, recent students serve as trustees of these charities and continue to work together for them. This charitable work also develops and benefits our students in applying to University. In professions such as Medicine, Dentistry and Law there is a particular need to demonstrate this concern for others. However, all Universities want students

*“The whole trip was a moving but memorable experience for all involved.”*



Zambia 'Share the Light' Project

who have a social conscience and are concerned for others.

At Salesian Sixth Form, our students regularly describe these experiences of **reaching out to others** in a student team, as 'life changing'. We would love you to be a part of the team in the year ahead.

Therefore, inspired by the life and work of Sean Devereux, our former student who led UN missions in many parts of Africa, Salesian College Sixth Form takes an active role in many student-led events and charitable activities to 'reach out to others'. A brief list of some of our 'reaching out to others' events and programs include:

- Lourdes Pilgrimage working with disabled children for all Year 12 students
- Zambia 'Share the Light' Project (visiting Zambia and returning as advocates for the vulnerable with a large team of other students who experienced the journey themselves)
- Sleep-Out in aid of the Step by Step homeless charity for the young
- Charity events for Zambian Porridge Club including a Race Night, Colour Run and BBQs
- College Fun Run
- Advocacy projects in the community
- Working in a voluntary capacity to develop the communication skills of local children who speak English as a second language
- Being trained in CAFOD fundraising and primary liaison in a 14-week programme with Cafod
- The event which you will start as a Sixth Form Student...?

# A conversation with the support team at home



## Rob's story

### Background

Although one of our children went through Salesian and we were very happy with the results, we chose another school for Rob for years 7 to 11 which we felt was right for him. This was successful, but as the school did not have a sixth form, Rob went to a sixth form college. After one year it was clear this was not working out and his academic performance was lower than we expected. At the end of Year 12 we had conversations about moving to Salesian Sixth Form.

### Our thoughts

We knew starting again was a big step, but we also knew Rob had more potential than he had so far realised. We had meetings with the friendly, helpful

staff at Salesian who were student focused and concerned with finding solutions for Rob, including finding a way to carry over the first year's results from one of the A Levels he had started.

### Our decision

Rob began well at Salesian and quickly felt at home; making friends easily which enabled him to focus. He benefited from more structure, smaller class sizes and supervised study time. The early Year 12 Information Evening for parents really helped map out the year. At this first meeting we scheduled individual progress meetings and felt glad, to be honest, to back in the Salesian fold.

### The result

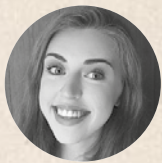
Rob did well in Year 12; he developed as a person in Lourdes and was appointed Charity Rep amongst other roles. In his role as Charity Rep he even went to the House of Lords to meet Baroness Cox, a human rights campaigner. He was able, with personal support in statement writing and 1:1 support with interview

preparation, to apply to Oxford to read History. He had a successful interview and was offered a place; Salesian College had listened, adapted and responded as we needed. Rob achieved 4 A\* grades at A Level (including Mathematics) and is now reading History at Merton College, Oxford.

### Our advice

Having seen two different approaches to sixth form, we would say, just encourage your son or daughter to really look at the evidence. I know Rob would say "I was respected as an adult student at Salesian and I was listened to". We know how hard Rob worked and he deserves all the praise we can give but Salesian did make a difference with our son and we are glad we made the decision for him to attend the Salesian Sixth Form.

**For us, at Salesian Sixth Form College, it is all about reaching the place that is right for you and achieving your potential. Individual care, a caring community and staff who go the extra mile are just some of the ingredients which enable all our students to achieve.**



## Nicole's story

### Background

Our daughter, Nicole was at a local independent girl's school. We had known the College through the recommendation of family friends and so felt some connection, although the College was largely new to us. Our daughter had a lovely time at secondary school and really achieved at GSCE. However, we knew Nicole wanted something new.

*“The primary duty of the educator is to draw out the best in the young person.”*

Our Italian founder, Saint John Bosco

### Our thoughts

We were not so sure what to do: we certainly did not want Nicole to begin a Sixth Form College because we thought the leap was too much. The class sizes and the challenge of achieving Nicole's full potential in that context concerned us. On the other hand, we also had questions about co-ed at Salesian to be honest, although we retained an open mind. We went to the Open Evening in order to look at the evidence a little closer.

At the Open Evening we were surprised at all the extra-curricular activities; the complete range really makes the difference. We also looked at the figures and realised the grades were excellent. We were also struck on the evening at how friendly and welcoming all were.

### Our decision

To be honest two facts decided Salesian for us; we were assured on grades. The value added Enrichment Programme tipped the scales in favour of Salesian. The fact that Nicole really wanted to go there was a factor! Also, we realised that Salesian would be a bridge to University with a gradual secure introduction to co-

education (not a cliff edge at Sixth Form on the one hand, or a place which was too insulated to allow challenge and growth).

### The result

Nicole loved the Salesian Sixth Form. It is a caring co-ed environment in which all staff really took the time to get to know our daughter. Nicole went to Lourdes and really matured through the experience. Nicole was also inspired by Drama and ended up grounded and so confident. Nicole achieved 2 A\* and an A and now is reading English Literature at Exeter her first choice which she loves. We think the ethos at Salesian made all the difference, students are really cared for. We are so proud of Nicole.

### Our advice

For us you need both grades and extra-curricular development and Salesian really gave us both we're grateful to the College. Be assured that co-ed really works at Salesian. Really consider the whole picture including the transition to University when making a decision on Sixth Form. At a personal and academic level, the College was the ideal preparation for University for Nicole.

## How to apply & dates in your diary

### Autumn Open Evening

Vibrant, student led presentation, **Freshers Fair**, visit the various departments and have coffee and a chat in the Sixth Form Centre.



### New Year Welcome Evening

A chance to **meet fellow students** and a taster to wider opportunities.



### Summer Induction Days

A typical day in the Sixth Form followed by a **BBQ** and making sure you are comfortable and ready for Sixth Form life... 😊



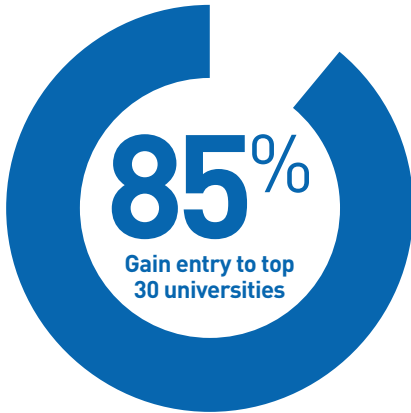
the facts!

BEING A PART OF  
THE NEW YOU  
YOUR<sup>COLLEGE</sup>  
VIBRANT FUN  
STUDENT LED  
BELONGING SMILE  
BE HAPPY  
YOU FIT IN FRIENDS VALUED  
VALUED TRUSTED

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

# Act on the Facts





making the right decision

# A decision making process



## Step 1 Information gathering

Knowing what each place offers you?

## Step 2 Knowing yourself

Asking yourself  
"what do I most want  
and need?"

## Step 3 Making a decision

Weighing up which provider  
offers most of what you  
need, before moving to  
a final decision

get in touch!







SALESIAN



COLLEGE