



Subject Information for 2023 Entry

(v.2 April 2023)

Subject

Description

Biology

Biology is fundamental in the most literal sense of the word. It is all about how organisms live, breed, breathe and die and how they interact. Studying Biology gives students an understanding of the impact of our actions on our environment as well as understanding how our bodies function.

Biology is fundamentally an experimental subject. There are numerous opportunities to use practical experiences to link theory to reality, and equip students with the essential practical skills they need.

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: Minimum grade 6 in GCSE Biology or 6+6 in Combined Science.
Grade 5 in Maths also required.

Chemistry

A-level Chemistry attempts to answer the big question 'what is the world made of?' and it is the search for this answer that makes this subject so fascinating. From investigating how one substance can be changed drastically into another, to researching a new wonder drug to save millions of lives, the opportunities that Chemistry provides are endless.

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: Minimum grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or 6+6 in Combined Science.
Grade 5 in Maths also required.

Subject

Description

Computer Science

We live in the digital age. Everything we do involves Computer Science in some way. Whether you are streaming music and videos, playing games, adding filters to images, messaging friends or digitally tracking exercise. None of these would be possible without Computer Science!

Studying Computer Science teaches you how all of these, and many other things in our contemporary world, work. It teaches you how to apply computational thinking skills to break down, and solve, large complex problems, and it teaches you advanced programming skills; a skill which empowers you to make a positive difference in the world.

The course contains many challenging concepts and encourages students to build resilience and independence, resulting in it being well regarded by universities and future employers.

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: GCSE Computer Science or experience in coding languages is recommended

Economics

In one respect, all societies are 'economies' in the sense that they have to solve the problem of how to use scarce resources to produce goods and services which meet the demands of consumers.

The subject examines issues relating to the world in which we live. For example:

What are stocks and shares, how do we make money?

Is privatisation a good idea? Are strikes important?

How do the Conservatives differ from Labour in how the economy should be run?

How did the banking system almost collapse?

Should we reduce taxes and spend less on education or unemployment?

As you can see, economics issues touch the lives of everyone – we see them reported in newspapers and TV every day; the study of A level Economics gives you a fascinating opportunity to understand these issues.

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: No prior knowledge of the subject is required.

Subject

Description

English Language

Humankind's ability to communicate is one of its most notable phenomena; English Language at A-Level is about getting to the heart of how and why language is used (consciously and subconsciously) in the world around us and the effects of the ways in which we use language.

Starting from how we acquire language as children to how we manipulate and shape language to reflect and construct identity as adults, this course will allow you to probe and analyse the way language has metamorphosed over time in response to significant historical and social changes up to the present day, where the influence of social issues and technology continue to shape communication within a range of different contexts and by a range of different speakers and writers.

If you are a budding writer (fiction or non-fiction), you can showcase your creativity through the original writing coursework component. The different skills you will hone throughout the course, including contextualised data analysis, discursive essays, evaluation and investigative research, will equip you well for a range of future academic and career paths. English Language is particularly complimentary for A-Level English Literature, Psychology, Sociology, and Law.

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Entry Requirements: A minimum of a grade 6 at GCSE English is required

English Literature

If you enjoy reading and like to debate and explore social issues and literary texts then English Literature is the ideal option for you. Literature is a platform for writers to discuss and debate the pressing, and often controversial, social issues of the time. Our set texts enable you to explore a range of concepts including class divides, racial prejudice, sexuality, gender, scientific progression, death and man's complex relationship with religion amongst many others.

Studying English Literature enables you to explore and analyse worlds both within the texts and, importantly, the social contexts that compelled writers to compose provocative pieces of literature that still resonate with readers today.

We will provide you with a platform to probe, debate and critique literary texts in a constructive and academic environment. Across the two-year course, you will engage with a range of literary texts of different genres and time periods to develop a breadth of literary understanding and appreciation whilst also honing your analytical and evaluative skills. Our subject is focused on developing your skills of articulation (both written and spoken), equipping you with vital skills to carry forward into the world of work or higher education. English Literature is a Russell Group facilitating subject due to the stimulating and intellectual nature of the course. English Literature is particularly complimentary for A-Level English Language, History, Sociology, Religious Studies and Law.

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Entry Requirements: A minimum of a grade 6 at GCSE Literature is required

Subject

Description

Geography

There has never been a better or more important time to study A level Geography. With growing interest in contemporary global issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, this is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to follow. Geography is a robust and academic subject which is well-regarded by universities and employers due to the range of skills and depth of knowledge that it fosters. The content is a balance of human and physical geography each half delivered by a specialist teacher. If you are inquisitive about the world around you and like to think about big issues you should consider A level Geography.

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: GCSE Geography is preferred but not essential

German

‘Why study a language at A Level?’ – Our answer would be very simple: ‘Why not?’.

If you have proven your ability in GCSE languages, it would be a logical step to take it further - you enjoyed it, it was challenging in a ‘different’ kind of way and a language qualification definitely makes you stand out in the crowd! There are, however, some other very important reasons which you may not yet have considered: the further you take your language qualification, the more attractive you become to employers. Statistically, one in five British companies is aware that they are losing trade through lack of language skills within their workforce. The internet has increasingly brought custom from all over the world – language qualifications increase your employability! The Russell Group universities regard the study of languages at 16+ to be part of a very solid preparation for study at degree level. In a nutshell - as one of their recommended ‘facilitating subjects’ - an A level language qualification will enhance your chances of entry into a high quality university. And finally, as linguists we are natural communicators! In a Europe where Brexit threatens to distance us from our neighbours, we will need our coming generations to have an insight, an openness to and an appreciation of other cultures like never before. Being fluent in another language is a life skill that is the envy of many who have missed out.

So – why not take your languages to the next level?

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE German is required

Subject

Description

History

The study of A-Level History is important because it allows one to make sense of the current world. One can look past economic and cultural trends and be able to offer reasonable predictions of what will happen next in today's world. One can also understand why some rules exist in the modern world. More broadly, A-Level History allows us to understand different cultures. History can also allow one to exercise their critical thinking skills, which are important in all areas of life, academic or otherwise.

If we study the successes and failures of the past, we may, ideally, be able to learn from our mistakes and avoid repeating them in the future.

If you are interested in contemporary and Renaissance History, or have an inquisitive mind and enjoy challenge, you should consider A-Level History.

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: GCSE History is preferred but not essential

Law

The law underpins much of what we can and cannot do, it has an impact on our upbringing, education, careers and interests. The study of law improves your powers of reasoning, clarity of thought, and the ability to analyse. It is taught within so many different professions from medicine, to business, to architecture, to teaching, that to have an understanding of our legal system is always an advantage. It is an obvious choice for anyone wanting a career in the legal profession or in any aspect of our justice system.

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: No prior knowledge of the subject is required.

Subject

Description

Maths / Further Maths

Mathematics is not only a beautiful and exciting subject in its own right but also one that underpins many other branches of learning. It permeates our lives and is essential for studying a wide range of degrees and skills required later in life.

There are some overarching themes within Mathematics that will be taught over the two years, these consist of:

- Mathematical argument, language and proof
- Mathematical problem solving
- Mathematical modelling

These form the backbone through which all the content will be taught.

Exam Board: EDEXCEL (9MA0 – A-level Maths, 9FM0 – A-level Further Maths)

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 for Mathematics
Grade 7 for Further Mathematics

Physics

Physics is a wonderfully varied subject. It covers everything on a scale ranging from the size of the universe to the size of the very smallest sub-atomic particles. The aim of Physics is to understand how everything works and studying Physics allows you to describe, explain and predict the world around you. The subject has many practical applications, being the basis of all modern technological developments, and an A level physicist emerges from the course laden with skills which transfer to a wide variety of careers.

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: Minimum grade 6 in GCSE Physics or 6+6 in Combined Science.
Grade 5 in Maths is also required.

Subject

Description

Psychology

Psychology is defined as 'the science of the mind and behaviour'.

Psychology is a fascinating subject to study. It will help you understand human behaviour and mental processes and allow you to better understand how we think, feel and behave. Studying A-Level Psychology will enable you to look at some of the important questions such as why do some people conform? Does prison really change criminal behaviour? What shapes our personality? How do we learn and change throughout our life? If you are interested in a deeper understanding of the human condition, you should consider studying Psychology.

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements: No prior knowledge of the subject is required.

Sociology

Sociology studies many aspects of the society in which we live – for example, the family, education, the mass media, social class, gender, race, youth culture, social identity, crime and deviance, religion, power and politics. It looks at how sociologists gather information about society and the conclusions they draw. Sociologists attempt to address issues of social inequality by influencing governments in their creation of social policies. It is an academic discipline which requires a knowledge of the work and writings of professional sociologists.

Exam Board: WJEC

Entry Requirements: No prior knowledge of the subject is required.

Subject	Description
Spanish	<p>Why study Spanish at A Level?</p> <p>Learning Spanish allows you to speak with over 400 million Spanish speakers in over 20 countries on four continents, and Spanish the second most used language on the internet, after English.</p> <p>Following a study carried out by the British Council, Spanish has emerged as the most important language for the UK for our presence in the global market.</p> <p>It can be used as a gateway to learn other romance languages, sharing roots with French, Portuguese, Catalan, Romanian, Italian and others.</p> <p>Hispanic culture is of increasing importance and significance. Artists such as Salvador Dali, Picasso and Frida Kahlo have produced some of the most famous pieces of artwork in the modern era. Eleven Spanish-speaking writers have won the Nobel Prize for Literature: five from Spain and six from Latin America.</p> <p>As a speaker of another language, you gain valuable communication skills that are transferable to a variety of jobs from business to journalism, medicine to sport, and tourism to information technology. With many universities regarding a language A Level as a solid foundation for degree level study of any subject, you are distinguishing yourself as someone who has a good work ethic, interest in the wider world and with an appreciation of other cultures.</p> <p>So, why study Spanish at A Level? Why not?!</p> <p>Exam Board: AQA</p> <p>Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish is required</p>

* Please note: The provision of some A level courses may depend upon demand

Personal Development

At BRGS Sixth Form, opportunities for Personal Development are embedded in our curriculum. As well as this you have a number of discrete components in your programme of study to enhance your learning.

Tutorials

Each student is assigned a personal tutor who will guide you through the academic and personal challenges of Sixth Form life. Your tutor will meet with you either one-to-one or in small groups and carry out regular academic reviews to help you set and meet your personal goals.