

Frensham Heights

**Sixth Form
A Level Subjects**

A Levels at Frensham

Our students choose three A Levels at the beginning of Year 12 and take their qualifications at the end of Year 13. Some students elect to take four A Levels. This decision is dependent on GCSE results and is taken in consultation with the individual student, parents and teachers. At the end of Year 12, students sit internal examinations which are used to assess progress on the course so far and to inform predictions for A Level performance.

Students should choose subjects in which they have an interest, passion and ability and which support their plans for higher education and/or possible career choices.

Included in this booklet is individual information on each of the A Level subjects offered at Frensham. Please spend some time thinking about all the options before making a final decision on the courses you want to follow. All of our heads of department/teachers in charge are more than happy to offer advice and support. You will find their name and email on their subject page.

You can also find all subject specifications here:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

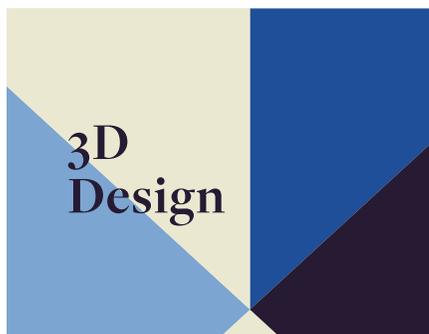
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“At Frensham, you’re learning and growing in an environment where you’re given independence, but if you do stumble, if you do trip up, you have the support to get you back up on your feet.”

Sophie, Year 13 (joined Year 7)



Requirements:

Students wishing to study 3D Design should have achieved a minimum of a grade 6 in any Art & Design GCSE (eg Fine Art, 3D Design, Graphic Communication). Applicants without this should ideally have a portfolio interview with Brendan Horstead and Giles Rudd where they can show examples of work and be advised accordingly in relation to their suitability.

Exam Board:

Eduqas

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

Subject Lead:

Giles Rudd
gilesrudd@frensham.org

Reasons to choose 3D Design:

A Level 3D Design is an exciting, challenging and rewarding course to choose as an A Level subject.

During the first term you will develop your skills and capabilities through a series of activities and short projects led by your teacher, and will culminate in your own extended design project that forms the remainder of Year 12 and continues into Year 13.

You will develop your appreciation of form and function and the use of a variety of materials and manufacturing processes. You will develop your abilities to draw, sketch, use CAD/CAM and prototype to communicate your ideas.

You will become familiar with major design movements and the work of other designers in order to broaden your appreciation of good design.

After you have completed your own extended design project (60% of the course) you will prepare for the remaining 40% of the course which ends with a 15 hour practical exam over three days.

All of your work over the two year course will be presented at the Creative Arts exhibition and you will be required to

set up your own display area. The study areas of A Level 3D Design include product design, architectural design, jewellery design, furniture design and lighting design.

those of you considering architecture, engineering, furniture, interior design, theatre design, industrial and product design.

As an entirely coursework based subject the expectation is that 5 hours per week of your own time will be dedicated to the course. This 50/50 lesson and prep approach will enable you to keep on top of the workload and enjoy success in the subject.

If you have an interest in working with woods, metals and plastics and sketching, computer aided design and computer aided manufacture interests you then this is the course for you.

Facilities available to you:

- 2 x fully equipped workshops with a range of specialist hand tools and machinery

- A dedicated design suite including CAD facilities (Software: Autodesk Fusion 360, Sketch Up, 2D Design V2 and the Adobe suite)

- 3D printing

- Laser cutting

This course is highly regarded by universities as an excellent foundation for degree study in any design field. However it is particularly useful to



Reasons to choose Biology:

Do you have an interest in the natural world and all the living things in it? If you've answered yes, then Biology could be a great A Level for you to study!

From the largest mammals to microscopic DNA, biologists study how animals and organisms work (including humans), how we have evolved and used this knowledge to try to do things like stopping diseases, improving public health and animal care.

Requirements:

It is advisable to have a 66 in Double Award Science or, for those sitting separate sciences, at least a grade 6 in both Biology and Chemistry. Good GCSE passes in English and Mathematics are also preferred.

Exam Board:

OCR

Subject Lead:

Nick Boon-Arnell

nickboonarnell@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects



Reasons to choose Business:

No matter what a student ends up doing with their life, whether in business, the arts or science, they will eventually have to manage a budget and people. A Level Business helps prepare students to achieve these tasks. The subject also prepares young people for life away from home, covering topics like tax and interest rates. It also includes some basic Micro and Macro Economics, helping students understand the wider world and helping them make informed judgements as to how well the country is being governed.

Requirements:

You will need to be able to organise information into structured, reasoned answers to case study and data response questions. You will need to be a clear thinker, someone who can construct an argument and able to write fluently. A good grade at GCSE English is essential. You should feel confident with numbers and will probably also have a good GCSE pass in Mathematics.

Exam Board:

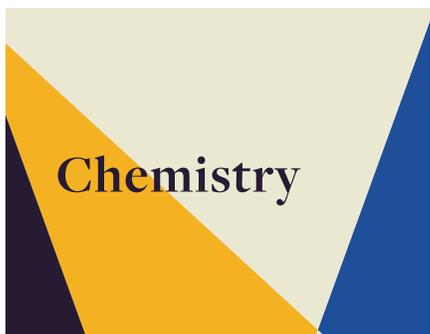
OCR

Subject Lead:

Hugh Robertson
hughrobertson@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects



Reasons to choose Chemistry:

Chemistry is an exciting subject.

It explains many of the things we see everyday by using clever abstract concepts and wonderful chemical facts.

It is a great subject to help you study science and many other subjects at university.

You will gain analytical skills, practical skills and apply mathematics to fascinating topics.

It will allow you to play around and interlink a variety of chemical ideas to understand practical data.

You get to apply what you have learnt to your experiments in the laboratory.

Requirements:

Please think carefully before asking to join this course. Chemistry can be very taxing, mainly because of the conceptual difficulties involved. Those who find scientific concepts hard to grasp are advised that this is not the course for them. However, if you are hard working and prepared to meet the demands we make, it can also be a lot of fun.

Exam Board:

OCR

Subject Lead:

Charlotte Douglass
charlottedouglass@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects



Reasons to choose Computer Science:

Students choosing to study A Level Computer Science at Frensham will leave with an understanding of the core academic principles of computer science. Classroom learning is transferred into creating a real-world system through the creation of an independent programming project. Our A Level will develop the student's technical understanding and their ability to analyse and solve problems using computational thinking.

Requirements:

While it is desirable that you have achieved at least a grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science, we will welcome you even if you did not take the subject as long as you are enthusiastic and have at least a grade 6 in Mathematics. To be successful, you must have very strong problem-solving skills and the ability to think logically and to evaluate and improve your own solutions.

Exam Board:

OCR H446

Subject Lead:

James Clarke

jamesclarke@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects



Dance

Requirements:

An open mind and questioning approach with the desire to express ideas through movement and the written word. A good standard of dance skills, a high level of coordination and stamina alongside an enthusiasm to commit the body to a full exploration of its physical potential. A good pass at GCSE Dance or previous attendance at private dance lessons to a minimum standard of grade 5 or above (in any style) is suggested. A Level dance is often an extension forward from GCSE but we accept students that haven't done a Dance GCSE but are keen to explore and improve their skills and understanding of movement and the creative arts.

Exam Board:

AQA

Subject Lead:

Bob Keane

bobkeane@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

Reasons to choose Dance:

This qualification is linear. Students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course (Year 13).

Core content: 1. Performance,
2. Choreography, 3. Critical engagement

The exam is made up of two sections: practical and written and each carries a weighting of 50%. Students will work to explore and improve their performance potential through practical dance lessons that work on technique and dance vocabulary. They will also learn and create repertoire that challenges their performance ability and raises their understanding of the creative process. This helps to build skills in self-discipline and team management since students are required to complete work in both solo and group conditions. This teaches students to effectively organise and manage both people and time and teaches them to clearly communicate their ideas so their work can be seen in a professional light.

A dance A Level helps to round out a student's education particularly if they are considering a degree in the humanities and can be applied to a profession in dance, arts and theatre management, creative work in any of the arts, teaching etc.



Requirements:

Ideally you should have good GCSE grades in Drama and English, although other routes are possible with prior discussion. Involvement in productions, whether in or outside school, is an advantage. Teamwork is essential, as is a readiness to discuss your own and others' ideas. You will also need to commit to rehearsals, which are often outside school hours. Above all, you need a real interest in live performance and a desire to explore theatre in all its diversity.

Exam Board:

Edexcel

Subject Lead:

Amanda Liddle
amandaliddle@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

Reasons to choose

Drama:

The Drama A Level allows students to explore theatre in many forms. Whether your passion is primarily as actor, designer or critic of live theatre, you will be engaged, inspired and no doubt occasionally exhausted by your involvement in the course! You will experience live professional productions, both in our own award winning Aldridge Theatre and in other venues from West End to Fringe, and will have the opportunity to devise your own original performance as well as act or design for scripted plays. You will study a variety of scripts from different eras and of contrasting styles, learning about the role of director as well as performer/designer. Written work plays an important role alongside practical exploration. A positive step towards a career in the Performing Arts (many past students now work professionally in the West End and beyond), Drama A Level is also valuable for anyone who is planning a career where communication skills are required, or simply wants to explore the world around them creatively.



Reasons to choose Economics:

Economics suits students who are comfortable with abstract concepts. Being able to model the world we live in and assess how changes can affect us all, from the economic shocks of global recession, to natural disasters. We live in a connected world and events thousands of miles away can have an impact on all of us. Economics looks at these effects. Behavioural Economics looks at how we interact as humans and can include everything from incentivising students to learn to understanding the real causes of a drop in crime, not just what the politicians claim.

Requirements:

You will need to be able to organise information into structured, reasoned answers to case study and data response questions. You will need to be a clear thinker, someone who can construct an argument and be able to write fluently. A good grade at GCSE English is essential, as are strong mathematics skills.

Exam Board:

AQA

Subject Lead:

Hugh Robertson
hughrobertson@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects



Reasons to choose English Literature:

Studying English Literature is all about developing an interest in and enjoyment of literature. It gives opportunities for reading widely and for making creative and informed responses to poetry, prose and drama. As a result, students learn how to think critically and question what they read. In addition, analysis of themes, characters and perspectives in texts will require them to define their own moral and ethical viewpoints.

Our aim, therefore, is for students to become confident and independent, to read a range of texts, to respond objectively to whatever faces them and to reflect on their own responses. All of this is likely, we hope, to improve students' facility in the English language.

Requirements:

Students should have achieved at least a grade 6 in GCSE English Literature and English Language.

Exam Board:

WJEC/Eduqas

Subject Lead:

Deidre Gannon
deidregannon@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects



Reasons to choose Film Studies:

Film Studies is a serious option that is recognized by the Russell group of Universities. However, if planning to study film or media at University students should not restrict their options to Russell group as there is a greater range of courses beyond these 24 institutions.

It is readily combined at A-level with a range of subjects: English Literature, History, Sociology, Politics, Photography, Design, Art, Fine Art, Music Tech, Drama or Psychology. At university Film Studies can be combined with many subjects as well as leading to a more focused film and media route.

The course has three main components:

1. Varieties of film and film making
35% essays
2. Global film-making perspectives
35% essays
3. Production 30% either a short film 4-5 minutes or a screen play for a short film with a digital photographed storyboard.

Film Studies would appeal to people who have good critical analysis skills and enjoy the visual medium. There are ranges of films that are studied, so an open mind to cinema beyond Hollywood is essential: from Classic

Requirements:

Film Studies is a critical thinking subject with a significant written aspect. Accordingly a grade 6 in both English Language and English Literature is required as a minimum entry requirement. 70% of this course is examined via essays. A strong performance at GCSE in History is welcome but not essential. Equally a strong performance in artistic subjects including photography may well be helpful with the practical option of the course if that is opted for.

Exam Board:

Eduqas (WJEC)

Subject Lead:

Charlie Bennett
charliebennett@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

Hollywood such as 'Casablanca' and 'Vertigo' to New Hollywood like 'Blade Runner' and 'Apocalypse Now'; Modern film such as 'Inception' and 'La La Land' and contemporary film like 'Winter's Bone' and 'Captain Fantastic'. In addition British films such as 'Secrets and Lies' and 'We Need to Talk About Kevin'.

We'll be studying the work of directors such as the Coens, Spike Lee, Orson Welles and Edgar Wright. Concepts such as tone, genre, structure, character, dialogue and mis en scene will be explored. Broader ideas like the signature of the auteur, the nature of spectatorship and different critical approaches will be analysed in depth.

In terms of Global Film, the cinema of Europe and beyond will be studied, for example, the Chinese film 'House of Flying Daggers' the Spanish film 'Pan's Labyrinth' are some of the options available. Further areas of study include silent film, documentary and experimental film.

In addition there is a practical element when there will be the opportunity to produce an original project whether it is a short film screenplay of between 1600-1800 words or a 4 to 5 minute short film.

Both projects will include a narrative twist, character development and conflict between said characters. This exciting opportunity to explore something new brings together a range of skills, passions and experiences for staff and students alike.



Reasons to choose

Fine Art:

The A Level Fine Art course is designed to stimulate and challenge participants. They will develop their conceptual and imaginative approach to fine art practice, underpinned by practical making skills relevant to a diverse range of processes, employing a wide variety of materials and techniques. A productive and purposeful engagement with the work of other artists, and broader contextual references and sources of inspiration, is key to developing a participant's own practice. A willingness to approach the course with an open and enquiring mind is crucial. Responding to a sense of personal challenge informed by the ambition to make an individual and meaningful body of work is central to the course. We particularly value the creation of a positive and mutually supportive group dynamic between staff and students in the specialist A Level studio, where all participants are allotted an individual space for use in lessons and when accessing the studios independently.

- Component 1: Personal Investigation, 60% of qualification, internally assessed, externally moderated.

- Component 2: Externally Set Assignment, 40% of qualification, internally assessed, externally moderated.

Requirements:

Students wishing to study Fine Art should have achieved a minimum of a grade 6 in any Art & Design GCSE (eg Fine Art, Textiles, 3DD). Applicants without this should ideally have a portfolio interview with Brendan Horstead where they can show examples of work and be advised accordingly in relation to their suitability.

Exam Board:

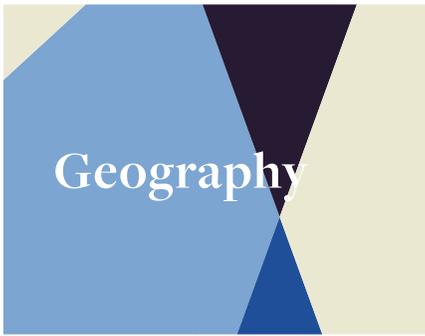
Eduqas

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

Subject Lead:

Brendan Horstead
brendanhorstead@frensham.org



Requirements:

Students should have a keen interest in the world and its challenges. While it is highly desirable to have taken Geography at GCSE, it is not absolutely essential.

Exam Board:

AQA (7037)

Subject Lead:

Nicola O'Donnell
nicolaodonnell@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

Reasons to choose Geography:

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is very much a 21st Century subject enabling comprehension and understanding of a dynamic changing world. It is hands on, relevant and fun. Geography will help you get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

Geography equips students with an incredibly wide range of skills. Students learn how to conduct scientific research, use statistical methods, write essays, construct arguments and critically evaluate the situation around them. Fieldwork is a really important part of geography and an excellent and enjoyable way to practise the skills learnt in class.

Geography is an excellent subject choice for students thinking about law, engineering, journalism, public relations, media careers, politics, education, healthcare and finance. Students that have studied geography at both A Level and degree level are rapidly becoming some of the most sought after graduates around because of the huge range of skills that they possess, as well as the breadth of knowledge that they come with.



Graphic Communication

Requirements:

Students wishing to study Graphic Communication should have achieved a minimum of a 6 Grade in any Art & Design GCSE (eg Fine Art, Textiles, 3DD).

Applicants without this should ideally have a portfolio interview with Brendan Horstead where they can show examples of work and be advised accordingly in relation to their suitability.

Exam Board:

Eduqas

Subject Lead:

Brendan Horstead
brendanhorstead@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

Reasons to choose Graphic Communication:

Graphic Communication may be defined as the process by which information and ideas are communicated through the use of images, symbols, colours, shapes, patterns and typography.

The course will enable participants to develop conceptual and technical skills using a variety of media and processes, both digital and hand crafted. Boundaries between related graphic processes are becoming increasingly blurred but aspects, such as advertising, packaging design, print based promotional design and illustration, typography or branding provide an indication of the types of projects, design briefs and self-identified assignments that may be completed.

Posters, brochures, flyers, T-shirts, CD/DVD sleeves, book covers, magazine spreads, calendars, stamps, packaging, publicity materials, vehicle livery, billboards, advertising, logos, branding, corporate identity, and three dimensional point-of-sale and exhibition design represent some of the range of product outcomes that may be produced.

A productive and purposeful engagement with the work of other designer, illustrators and artists,

alongside broader contextual references and sources of inspiration, is key to developing a participant's own work. A willingness to approach the course with an open and enquiring mind is crucial. Responding to a sense of personal challenge informed by the ambition to make an individual and meaningful body of work is central to the course. We particularly value the creation of a positive and mutually supportive group dynamic between staff and students in the specialist A-level studio. Alongside Fine Art students, all participants are allotted an individual space for use in lessons and when accessing the studios independently. Although flexible in delivery, 3 of 5 lessons will be timetabled in the specialist Mac Suite.

- Component 1: Personal Investigation, 60% of qualification, internally assessed, externally moderated.
- Component 2: Externally Set Assignment, 40% of qualification, internally assessed, externally moderated.



History

Requirements:

While it is desirable that you have achieved at least a grade 6 in GCSE History, we will welcome you even if you did not take the subject as long as you are enthusiastic and have at least grade 6 in English and other humanities subjects. To be successful, you must have the ability to take careful notes, evaluate sources and write intelligent, well-constructed essays.

Exam Board:

AQA 7042

Subject Lead:

Matt Burns

mattburns@frensham.org

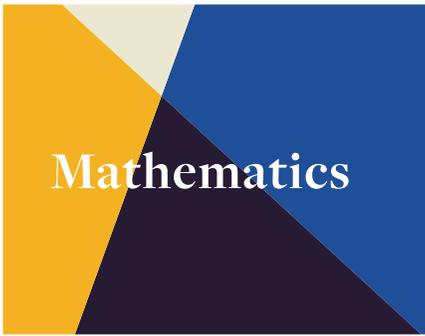
Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

Reasons to choose History:

We all have an interest in some aspects of the past. You may be interested in the great personalities, the insight into human nature and achievement, or the failures, cruelty and barbarity of which human beings are capable. If you have a sense of exploration and discovery then you will enjoy history – and if you enjoy it then the reading and the written work will not be a chore.

History can be studied to advantage with almost any other subject. There seems to be no rule: each group of historians seems to contain students who between them are studying most other subjects. Many Science and Mathematics students also find that History broadens their intellectual approach, their research and writing skills and their options for the future. Universities and employers will be particularly interested in the skills you have acquired through the study of History. Your ability to construct arguments, evaluate different types of evidence, show initiative and produce balanced assessments will be invaluable later in life.



Requirements:

Mathematics is a sequential subject. Generally you will need to have at least a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent to achieve at A Level.

Exam Board:

AQA

Subject Lead:

Russell Crew
russellcrew@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

Reasons to choose Mathematics:

Six great reasons to study Maths:

Mathematics is fun, exciting, wondrous and beautiful.

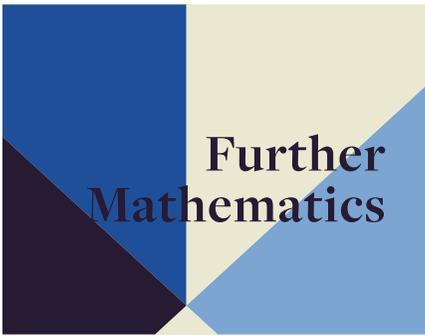
Career opportunities- Maths and Further Maths are very versatile qualifications. They will naturally lead you into interesting, rewarding and well paid jobs.

Employability Skills- students with A Level Maths/Further Maths are better at thinking logically and analytically.

Preparation for Higher Education- essential for STEM subjects.

Supporting other subjects- Sciences, Geography, Psychology, Economics and Business Studies.

Interesting and Challenging Course- contains elements of Pure Mathematics, Mechanics, Statistics and Discrete Mathematics.



Reasons to choose Further Mathematics:

A Level Further Mathematics makes you stand out!

If you are a very strong mathematician and are passionate about the subject, Further Maths is for you.

It is essential for a future degree course in Mathematics and desirable for a career in Economics.

Requirements:

Mathematicians studying both Mathematics and Further Mathematics should have achieved at least a grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent.

Exam Board:

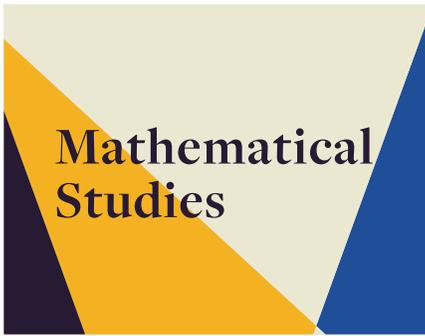
AQA

Subject Lead:

Russell Crew
russellcrew@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects



Requirements:

Students must have achieved at least a grade 4 or above in the relevant GCSE.

Exam Board:

AQA

Subject Lead:

Russell Crew
russellcrew@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

**Reasons to choose
Mathematical Studies:**

This is a Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies.

The specification has been designed to give students an opportunity to study mathematics that can be applied to the real world. The course develops mathematical skills and thinking.

Compulsory content focusses on data, personal finance, estimation and critical analysis – topics that all students should have confidence and competence in.

It is equivalent to half an A-level and with that in mind, it receives UCAS tariff points equivalent to an AS level. It requires 180 hours of study and was designed to be taken over the course of two years.



Modern Languages

Reasons to choose Modern Languages:

French, Spanish or German

Modern Foreign Languages offer an exciting intellectual challenge as well as skills of practical value. By their study you will not only deepen your understanding of both the history and the cultures of our European neighbours but you will also become someone of real attraction to employers.

Requirements:

Students must have achieved at least a grade 6 in the relevant GCSE.

Exam Board:

Eduqas

Subject Lead:

Tim Seys

timseys@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects



Requirements:

You will need at least a grade 6 in GCSE Music and a practical performance standard equivalent to at least grade 5 at the beginning of the course. The ability to read and understand standard musical notation is essential for musical study at this level. It is expected that your performance ability will be equivalent to at least grade 7 standard by the end of the course.

Exam Board:

AQA

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

Subject Lead:

James Casselton

jameascasselton@frensham.org

Reasons to choose Music:

Students will deepen their understanding of Western Classical music through the study of set works prescribed by the Exam Board. These include Baroque solo concertos, the operas of Mozart and Romantic piano music. In addition, students will learn about music drawn from two further areas of study of their choice, such as Pop Music, Music for Media, Music for Theatre or Art Music Since 1910.

There are ample formal and informal performance opportunities throughout the course. The A Level assessment however is based on a single Year 13 recital of 10-12 minutes which may be either a solo or an ensemble performance, or a combination of the two.

Students will also complete two compositions with a combined duration of 4-5 minutes: one must be in response to a brief set by the Exam Board and the other will be a free composition.



Music Technology

Requirements:

GCSE Music at grade 6 or above is advisable, although students with suitable experience will be considered. Knowledge of music theory and notation is not required but it would be beneficial to have basic keyboard skills and/or proficiency in another instrument. Experience in musical composition would be beneficial. GCSE Physics at grade 4 or above is strongly advised due to the understanding required for topics in sound engineering and acoustics. A basic working knowledge of a DAW such as Cubase or Logic is desirable.

Exam Board:

Edexcel

Subject Lead:

James Casselton
jamescasselton@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

Reasons to choose Music Technology:

Commercial music is an ever-expanding industry and one in which Music Technology plays a fundamental role. This qualification will support students in forming personal and meaningful relationships with Music Technology through the development of skills in sound recording, technology-based composition, listening, analysis and production. Students will be encouraged to engage with a wide range of Music Technology techniques and develop an understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of the use of music technology in the creation and production of music. This qualification will also allow students to develop personal strengths and interests, provide access to higher education and university degree courses in Music Technology and related subjects, and will also support applications to other media-related courses.



Requirements:

You will need to have a real interest in sport and be prepared to be directly involved in the various sports played at Frensham. You will need to be confident in producing written work: two thirds of the qualification is internally assessed coursework, and one third is externally assessed (comprising two exams and a case study). You will also need a grade 6 or above in Double Science in order to fully access the course.

Exam Board:

AQA (7582) - A Level

Subject Lead:

Jo Dalziel
jodalziel@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

Reasons to choose

PE:

70% Theory/ 30% NEA

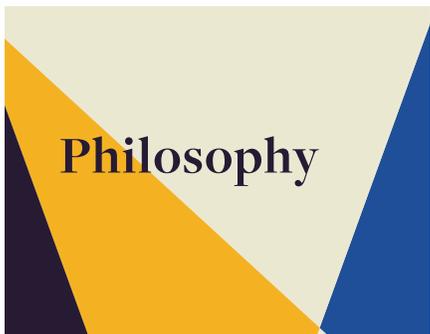
2 papers of 2 hours:

Paper 1 - Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport: applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, sport and society.

Paper 2 - Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport: exercise physiology and biomechanics, sport psychology, sport and society and technology in sport.

NEA: Students will be assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity. Plus verbal/ written analysis of performance, to be internally assessed and externally moderated.

The PE A Level allow students to play to their strengths and gain dynamic skills for further education and a healthy future. It takes a multi-disciplinary approach encouraging the development of a range of methods. The course aims to provide greater knowledge, insight and understanding of human performances. Do you have a high level of enthusiasm for sport in all its forms? Have you got a sound understanding of the theory aspects from GCSE PE/BTEC Sport? If so, this could be the course for you. This is a demanding course and a lot more time will be spent on theory aspects than the practical ones.



Requirements:

“The only thing I know is that I know nothing.” Socrates

It is recommended that you have gained a grade 6 in English, however those who are able to make a sound argument to dispute this will also be considered!

Exam Board:

T.B.C.

Subject Lead:

Laura Griffiths
lauragriffiths@frensham.org

Reasons to choose Philosophy:

A demanding academic discipline that requires a highly structured and logical essay style; Philosophy will force critical thinking and discussion on some of the deepest issues impacting on our understanding of the world and your role in it. To successfully study Philosophy, you will require an open and curious mind and be prepared to question just about everything that you

thought you knew. Through in depth reading and exposure to some of the great thinkers you are sure to find this course engaging and challenging.

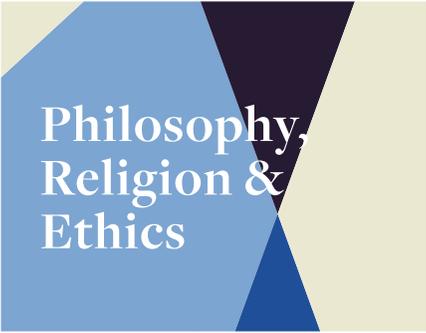
The course typically covers four topic areas:

1. Epistemology
2. Moral philosophy
3. Metaphysics of God
4. Metaphysics of mind.

The course is typically examined through two three hour exams, each totalling 50% of the final grade.

This course will suite you if:

- You have good analytical skills
- You can articulate philosophical arguments
- You can make logical links between and within different philosophical concepts
- You can understand the ways in which philosophical arguments are developed and are reformulated in response to a wide variety of issues
- You can understand the similarities and differences between the forms of reasoning
- You can generate your own arguments
- You can handle feeling intellectually frustrated for two years!



Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

Requirements:

“Do the right thing because it is right.”
Immanuel Kant

It is recommended that you have gained a grade 6 in English, however those who are able to make a sound argument to dispute this will also be considered!

Exam Board:

T.B.C.

Subject Lead:

Laura Griffiths

lauragriffiths@frensham.org

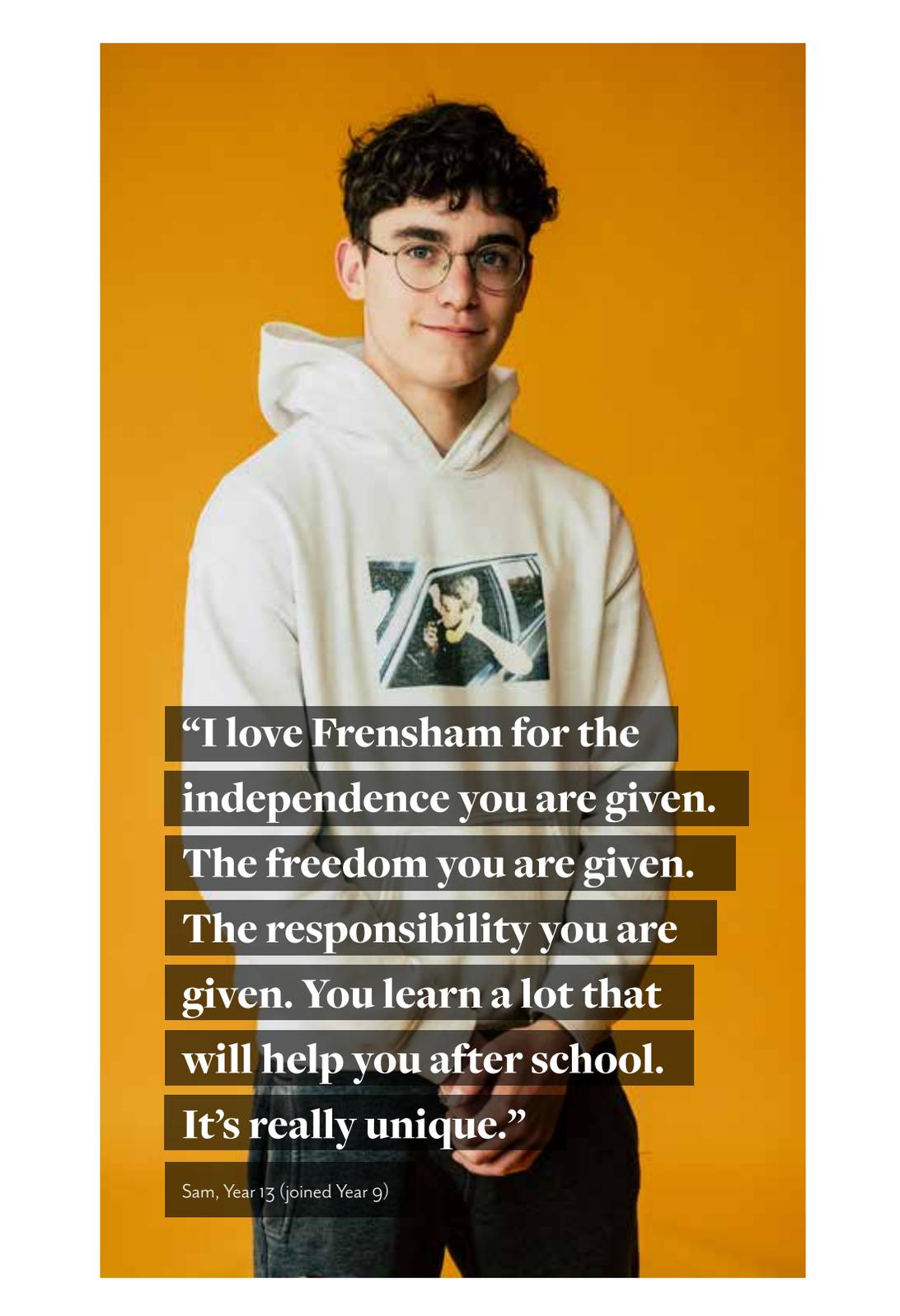
Reasons to choose Philosophy, Religion & Ethics:

If you are prepared to question what you have been taught and everything you believe you know, then this course is ideal for you. Having an open and curious mind will enable you to take an enquiring and empathetic approach to the study of people through the disciplines of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics.

Not only will you develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of philosophy, religion and ethics but you will also gain many valuable transferable skills along the way. You will develop your skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced and informed arguments and reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes. The course is varied, up-to-date, and reflective, giving you the opportunity to discuss your own thoughts and opinions on a whole range of issues, as well as challenging the ideas of others.

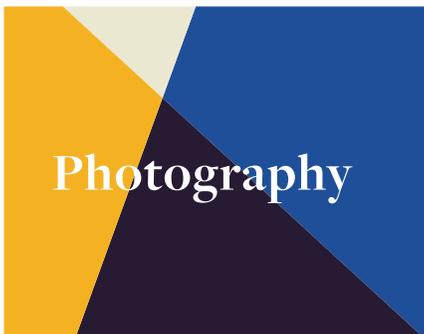
The A level syllabus combines the in-depth study of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics. The ethical study will include the application of ethical theories to contemporary issues including abortion, euthanasia, war, capital punishment and embryonic research. The philosophical element looks at a variety of fascinating topics, including the nature of the mind, body and soul, arguments for and against the existence of God, the problem of evil, the self, death and the afterlife, gender and sexuality and expressions of religious identity.

Students go on to read a wide variety of subjects at University (such as PPE, Philosophy, Theology, Law, Psychology, Anthropology) and embark upon varied careers such as Law, Politics, Journalism, Psychology, Teaching and Public Administration.



“I love Frensham for the independence you are given. The freedom you are given. The responsibility you are given. You learn a lot that will help you after school. It’s really unique.”

Sam, Year 13 (joined Year 9)



Reasons to choose Photography:

This is a course that will particularly appeal to those with a creative side who have a genuine interest in both analogue image making and digital photography within a well-defined structure. Students will work mainly with digital cameras and workflow, however traditional darkroom facilities allow for extending experimentation opportunities.

- Component 1: Personal Investigation, 60% of qualification, internally assessed, externally moderated.
- Component 2: Externally Set Assignment, 40% of qualification, internally assessed, externally moderated.

Requirements:

No specific qualifications are needed but it would help to have studied a creative subject or to have done some photography previously. You will need a willingness for self-directed work and be prepared to explore the subject widely outside of lessons. Visits to exhibitions and galleries are an essential element of this course. Entry onto the course is conditional on you having your own dslr camera.

Exam Board:

Eduqas

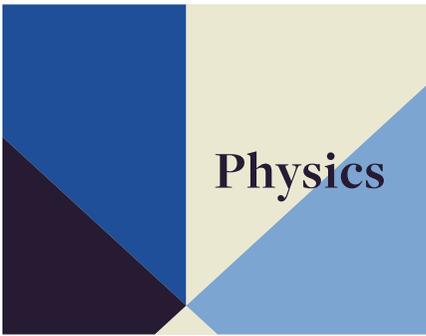
Subject Lead:

Sarah Farr

sarahfarr@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects



Reasons to choose Physics:

A Level Physics is a challenging but worthwhile subject to study. It will equip you with valuable life skills involving problem solving and knowing how the universe is put together.

Mathematics is the tool of the subject and ideally should be studied at A Level alongside the Physics course. This combination of subjects will enable students career opportunities in most branches of engineering.

Requirements:

Grade 7 or 6 in double or triple award science at GCSE is strongly recommended and a proven ability to deal with Physics problems is essential. Students who find Mathematics difficult invariably find Physics difficult too, so it is desirable for a student to be studying Mathematics at least to AS Level. You must also be able to think clearly and logically and the ability to write precise and concise answers is essential.

Exam Board:

OCR

Subject Lead:

Kevin Joy
kevinjoy@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects



Requirements:

While it is desirable that you have achieved at least a grade 6 in GCSE History, we will welcome you even if you did not take the subject as long as you are enthusiastic and have at least grade 6 in English and other humanities subjects. To be successful, you must have the ability to take careful notes, evaluate sources and write intelligent, well-constructed essays.

Exam Board:

Edexcel

Subject Lead:

Charlie Bennett
charliebennett@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

Reasons to choose Politics:

A Level Politics explores three main ideas: British Government and Politics (covered in Year 12), Ideologies – including Socialism, Conservatism, Liberalism and Feminism; American Government and Politics.

This A Level is both organic and vibrant: it is a subject that unfolds in real time. If TV programmes such as ‘Mock the Week’; ‘Have I Got News For You’; ‘Yes Minister’ as well as the news stimulate you, Politics might be for you. Politics is only offered at A Level. It should appeal to people interested in debate and discussion; argument and analysis. It complements History and other social sciences. Like in History, work is examined using source analysis and essay writing. We will explore ideas as diverse as ‘was Mrs Thatcher a feminist?’ ‘What should be in a citizenship test?’ ‘Should Britain have a written constitution?’ ‘Democracy and tyranny’ –‘Is the British electoral system flawed and should it be replaced?’ ‘Is the House of Lords an outdated institution’ and a myriad of other ideas and questions. In addition this is recognized by Russell Group universities as a serious academic A Level option.



Product Design

Requirements:

If you want to work at this level you will need to dedicate and motivate yourself to the research and development you will need to become a designer.

Exam Board:

Eduqas

Subject Lead:

Giles Rudd
gilesrudd@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

Reasons to choose Product Design:

The A Level in Art and Design has been designed to provide engaging and innovative creative learning experiences, where art, craft and design practice is meaningfully integrated with theoretical knowledge and understanding. Students will need the ability to innovate, adapt and work independently.

It consists of two components:

- Component 1: Personal Investigation, 60% of qualification, internally assessed, externally moderated.
- Component 2: Externally Set Assignment, 40% of qualification, internally assessed, externally moderated.



Requirements:

Psychology is a diverse discipline, building on a wide range of skills. The scientific methodology involved in researching human behaviour allows students to gain a critical appreciation of scientific research, while the essay writing skills developed allow for elaborated analysis of research and concision in writing style. As such, at least grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science, Mathematics and English are highly recommended.

Exam Board:

AQA

Subject Lead:

Hannah Manton
hannahmanton@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

Reasons to choose Psychology:

Psychology is the systematic study of the human mind and behaviour. Psychologists seek to produce and test theories to shed light on the processes and causes of human actions. We seek to answer contentious questions regarding human nature and nurture and to understand seemingly unexplainable human actions.

Psychology students at Frensham can expect to explore these issues in dynamic and creative ways and will be given the opportunity to produce their own videos, presentations, online quizzes and much more.



Sociology

Requirements:

You will need to be able to organise information into structured, reasoned answers using evidence and a knowledge of research methods. You will need to be a clear thinker, be someone who can construct an argument and able to write fluently. A good grade at GCSE English is essential. You should feel confident with numbers and will probably also have a good GCSE pass in Mathematics.

Exam Board:

AQA

Subject Lead:

Hannah Manton
hannahmanton@frensham.org

Specification:

www.frensham.org/a-level-subjects

Reasons to choose Sociology:

Sociology is the study of society and seeks to answer complex questions on identity, culture and inequality. Studying Sociology will give students an understanding of the society in which they live, how this shapes ideas, behaviour and culture and in turn how people interacting together shape their communities.

Sociology students at Frensham are given the freedom to explore the subject by carrying out and designing their own research and can expect one to one support with their essays and progression through the subject.



“At Frensham you’re definitely more of an individual than you are a number. You’re not just part of the system.”

Mya, Year 13 (joined Year 12)



What is an EPQ:

A 5000-word dissertation on a topic of your choice...or the creation of an artefact/production/performance – with a 2000 word accompanying report (A Level standard)

A journal that reflects your nine-month 'journey'

Two presentations (plus a brief Morning Talk!)

Some supporting and reflective paperwork (from the Exam Board)

True or false:

I can choose what I do for my extended project.

TRUE: but titles and projects need to be agreed and be ethically/legally sound. It can be a dissertation or artefact; the more creative the better!

I will have an exam at the end of the year.

FALSE: you hand in a portfolio of evidence: your essay (or artefact), presentations, journal and supporting paperwork

I will develop important skills.

TRUE: some skills will be taught in your weekly session and include things like: project management, research, Excel, referencing, critical analysis and essay structuring. You will also need to demonstrate the independent learning of new skills that are appropriate to you and your project.

Universities do not recognise EPQs.

FALSE: while getting your grades for your three main A Levels is absolutely the most important thing, an EPQ will give you UCAS points equivalent to an AS Level (for those who are likely to apply to a course/college that is looking for a points total). It will also give you an opportunity to demonstrate a 'super curricula' interest in your chosen subject area, transferable skills that will help you transition to university style projects and research work.



What is the Edge:

An exciting new opportunity for Year 12 Students. In addition to the traditional A Level subjects something new is being offered within the timetable – this means that, like your core subjects, this is mandatory. A selection of courses is being offered which will provide students the chance to expand their skill set or competencies from leadership to commercial awareness; from creativity to team work.

There are a wide range of courses available such as Cooking, Enterprise, Construction and Theatre Lighting.

Each course is one period a week and will last five or ten weeks. There will be four of these five week blocks ending at Easter. At the end of the course the experience and the evidence of a broadening skill set will be logged on the 'Unifrog' online platform under Competencies. Most of the courses provide multiple competencies. This will provide students with the required 'Edge' when it comes to entering employment / Higher Education.

www.frensham.org/edge

Frensham Heights

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