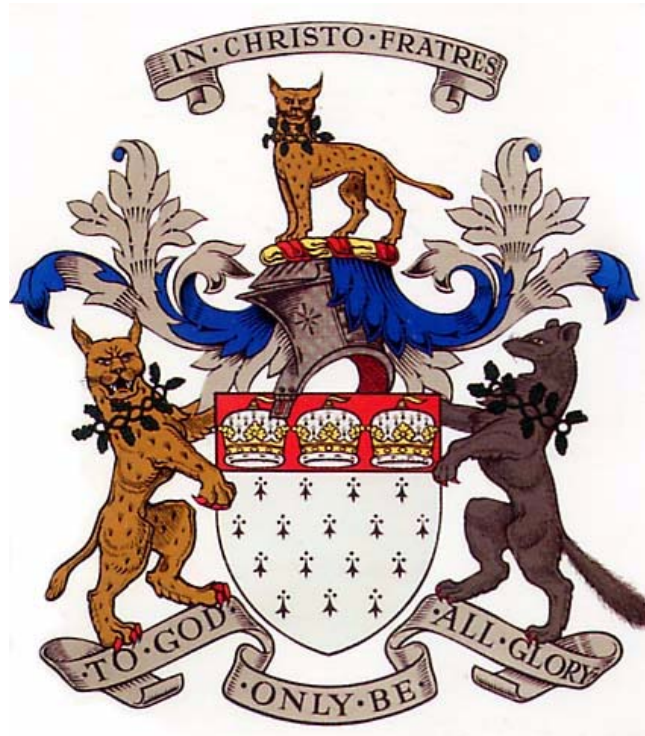


THE SKINNERS' SCHOOL



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS



INTRODUCTION

We hope that this Prospectus will help Skinners' boys, and also others interested in a Sixth Form course here, to make the right choice about the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced (A2) Levels. You will find information about each department's specification and you will also be able to gain some idea about the sort of skills required by each subject.

Students are advised to discuss their choices with their subject teachers and their Form Tutors. A Careers interview can also be arranged and students should see Mrs Sally House to arrange this. A senior member of staff will also see your son to help him with his choices.

Sixth Form life can be an exciting and enriching experience. Success depends above all on two things; a commitment to hard work, and a realistic selection in the first place of the right courses.

Admissions Criteria

Entry to the Sixth Form at Skinners' is not automatic, although in practice the vast majority of students at Skinners' do proceed into the Sixth Form.

All prospective Sixth Form students must make an application.

Students are normally expected to achieve **at least 5** passes at GCSE at grade **B** or better. In the subjects which they propose to study at AS Level, grades A*- B at GCSE are normally required.

We expect students to show a level of maturity and self discipline appropriate to the Sixth Form.

Over subscription and under subscription in Sixth Form Courses

If a particular Sixth Form Course is over subscribed, places will be offered to those students who, according to the professional judgment of the School, show most aptitude and ability in that subject.

Equally, if a particular course in the Sixth Form is significantly under subscribed, the School may have to take the decision that such a course cannot be offered. This is a decision which would be taken with the greatest reluctance. In both cases, parents and students will be kept fully informed.

Collaboration with Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School and Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys

In recent years we have increased our collaboration with Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School and Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys, so that pupils of each school may be able to attend Sixth Form courses at the other schools. Obviously, each school has first to cater for its own pupils, but, space permitting, it may be possible for students to study for an A Level course at either of our partner schools if the subject is not offered here. Students are restricted to studying one course beyond their host school.

S J EVERSON
Headmaster



SIXTH FORM STUDY

As you will be aware, the Sixth Form programme of study from September 2000 was radically changed. All A Levels are now made up of two equally weighted components – AS (Advanced Subsidiary) and A2. The AS Level, comprising 2 units (3 in the case of Mathematics), will be the first half of the full A Level, and the majority of the units will be examined at the end of Year 12. The A2 is the second half of the full qualification, comprising a further 2 units (3 in the case of Mathematics), and these will be examined during the course of Year 13. The AS qualification will attract half the UCAS points of A Level, but you cannot count AS *and* full A Level points in the same subject. Please note, all AS/A-level specifications will have changed from September 2008. Heads of Department may well opt to switch specifications from those published here in light of those changes.

It is anticipated that all Year 12 students will study four subjects up to AS Level. You are encouraged to choose subjects you enjoy as you will need to work hard and be motivated throughout.

The four subjects being studied during Year 12 will be examined at Advanced Subsidiary Level in the summer of the Year 12 form. In exceptional cases, units may be taken earlier, in January.

You will proceed with three (or in some cases four) subjects in Year 13 in which you will be examined during the course of that year in January and June which will give you an A Level qualification. If necessary, AS units may be re-taken during Year 13.

It may be possible for a member of the Year 13 to join some Year 12 classes to take a further AS Level, but only if timetabling allows. Universities have also indicated that they will be expecting applicants to have three A2 qualifications rather than several AS Levels.

Make sure that you know the entry requirements for any courses in HE, or careers you have in mind **before** making a choice of AS/A2 Levels. Refer to books, pamphlets, the UCAS website (www.ucas.co.uk) and software in the Careers Library and discuss details with staff and your parents. Consider the value of vocational courses such as Accounting, Law, Tourism, and Applied Science and remember that for many courses entry is not easy. Please note for some subjects at University you may be expected to take an extra test.

For many students, career or HE aspirations are uncertain. In this case:

- Consider ways to keep options open.
- Assess your abilities, likes and dislikes.
- Look at the skills required for particular subjects.
- Make a decision



These choices are crucial and should be made carefully. Students must be prepared to take the initiative in asking for such information. Advice is available from the School and Connexions.

It is important to take action early:

- Gather information
- Talk to your teachers
- Listen to advice
- Make a decision

C FLEMING
Director of Sixth Form



ANTICIPATED YEAR 12 TIMETABLE FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

1. We hope to provide AS Level subjects as follows, but please be aware that there may have be some changes to this programme:

- Art
- Biology, Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Design (Product Design)
- Economics, Electronics*, English
- French
- Geography, German
- History
- Information and Communication Technology
- Mathematics, Further Mathematics
- Music
- Physics
- Theatre Studies
- Religious Studies

*NB Not available to A2 Level and will be dependent on pupil demand and staffing provision. A number of other subjects may be available within our federation - Graphics, PE, Psychology, Government and Politics and Sociology. (The number of places available will be dependent on the host school's arrangement but in the past we have been offered a few places on each of these.)

2. Structure of Course

The majority of students take a course of four AS Level subjects, plus the basic Civics, RE Conferences and a compulsory Games session on a Wednesday afternoon.

3. Procedure

Year 11 choose subjects to study to AS Level in Year 12. Students will be asked to list **SIX** subjects in order of preference: every effort will be made to accommodate their top **FOUR** but this cannot be guaranteed – the number of possible combinations is even larger than at GCSE. To assist this, we plan a meeting for parents and students in January at which advice on Higher Education or career implications will be available.

Applications for external candidates must be received in the School Office by 31st December 2009.

Option choices for internal students must be received by the School Office by 12th February 2010.

April – June

The timetable is composed to accommodate the options of the majority.

September

Following work experience in July and the receipt of GCSE Level results, a change of option is allowed provided that the size of sets and option blocks permit it. Before term starts, students must contact me at school to confirm choices or discuss proposed changes. This helps with a smooth transition at the beginning of term.

C FLEMING



Director of Sixth Form



LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM

GENERAL

Teaching groups tend to be smaller than those at GCSE and there is a new relationship between staff and students. We do look to the Sixth Form, as senior members of the school, to set high standards in work and behaviour. They are expected to be role models for younger pupils. With this in mind we demand the highest standards of attendance, punctuality and dress.

LEADERSHIP

Many opportunities exist for members of the Sixth Form to take an increasingly active role in school life. Regular duties are performed by members of Year 12 to assist the staff at break and during the lunch hour. Many students are involved on Parents' Evenings and on Open Days when their expertise as "tour guides" is invaluable. All are encouraged to take greater responsibility by holding office in clubs, societies and sports teams, as well as serving as Senior NCOs in the CCF and leading by example in music, art and drama.

PRIVATE STUDY

Progress in the Sixth Form depends, to a large extent, on the willingness of students to work independently during private study periods and at home. Such work should extend beyond the specific tasks set by subject staff. The claim that "I have no work to do" will become an alien concept! Members of Year 13 and Year 12 who have private study in the afternoon with no taught lessons to follow may go home to study, after registration. Students are only permitted to be 'off site' at break or lunch, or moving to and from our partner school.

STUDY SKILLS

In the Sixth Form a wide range of study skills needs to be developed not only to ensure academic success but to equip students for university and the world of work. These include use of ICT, numeracy, problem solving, oral and written communication, and familiarity with the increasingly wide range of sources of information, including the internet.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

As a result of the new A Level courses which began in September 2008 it is anticipated that the vast majority of students will take their AS unit exams in the Summer term of Year 12. It will be possible to resit each of these two units once more in either January or Summer of Year 13. Students continuing with the A2 units will take the bulk of these units in the summer of Year 13 though in some subjects an A2 unit may be taken in January and re-sat in the summer of the same year. Given this format, internal exams for the Sixth Form are likely to give way to extended testing within the taught lessons. Reports of progress and achievement are sent regularly to parents. Written reports for Year 12 will be available in the second half of the Summer Term and for Year 13 in March. Parents' evenings are normally in November for Year 13 and March for Year 12, and we encourage all parents and students to attend these evenings.



SIXTH FORM CENTRE

The Sixth Form Centre provides accommodation exclusively for the Sixth Form. The suite of rooms includes a Work Room with networked computers and individual learning stations as well as a common room that serves hot and cold food from 8.00am.

CARS

Many students pass their driving test whilst in the Sixth Form and then drive to school. Students' cars are **not** allowed on the school site and need to be parked in the John Street car park.

LOOKING AHEAD

Students should look and plan ahead from the start of their Sixth Form career. We expect all students to make use of the extensive literature in the Work Room and internet and be prepared to ask for advice about University courses, GAP years and job opportunities. All Sixth Form students take part in a Civics programme, including Critical Thinking. They are also encouraged to visit up to two universities during the summer term, but should inform staff before undertaking such visits. There is an annual HE conference at the University of Kent which all Year 12 attend. We also have visits from university admission officers to help answer students' questions regarding the UCAS procedure. A presentation is organised to answer any questions pupils may have about taking a Gap year. Parents are also invited to attend one of these meetings.

MOBILE TELEPHONES

These may be brought to school, but must be switched off during lessons – including private study times. Expect to have the phone confiscated if it rings inappropriately. It is now a serious offence for any candidate to bring a mobile telephone into a public examination. Candidates must hand in their mobile phone to a member of staff before any public examination – failure to do so will result in the candidate being disqualified from the examination affected and possibly others in the same series.

C FLEMING
Director of Sixth Form



CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE PROGRAMME

LOWER SIXTH

Introduction to careers options, HE choices, UCAS application, gap year and employment possibilities covered in the Year 12 Civics programme.

- **Spring Term**

Introduction to “the next step”
Visits to University Open Days
Talks from a University Admissions Officer
Higher Education Convention

- **Summer Term**

Introduction to applications
Past student ‘Open Forum’
Gap Year presentations

UPPER SIXTH

UCAS application and writing personal statements covered in the Year 13 Critical Thinking course.

- **August**

Oxford and Cambridge applications

- **September - October**

Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry applications, Personal Statements

- **September - December**

All other HE applications

- **November**

Practice interviews

- **Spring Term**

HE and employment interviews
HE and employment offers received and finalised.

Specialist advisers from Connexions visit the School and students may arrange individual interviews throughout their Sixth Form career. Members of staff, in particular the Head of Sixth Form, Mr Fleming, are always available to answer any careers questions.



ART AND DESIGN

EDEXCEL 8030(AS) 9030(A)

The opportunity for continuing creative activity at Skinners' on reaching the Sixth Form is as follows:

A or AS Level Art and Design

The course is suitable for students who wish to prepare a portfolio for Art College or University entrance in Art and Design or Art History and any other future career which includes artistic creativity.

AS Level is the first half of the A Level course and is made up of 2 units:

Unit 1 Art and Design Coursework :

60% of the AS or 30% of the A Level

This unit offers rich opportunities to structure programmes of visual study that encourages breadth and depth in the development of students' visual language.

Unit 2 Externally Set Assignment :

40% of the AS or 20% of the A Level.

This is a response to a theme set by the board which involves eight weeks preparation and an 8 hour exam.

A Level continues with 2 more units

Unit 3 Art and Design Coursework:

30% of A Level

This unit incorporates two linked elements:

- a Practical Work
- b Personal Study

Unit 4 Externally Set Assignment::

20% of A Level.

This 12 hour exam is the culmination of the A Level in which the students demonstrate their understanding of the language of Art and Design.

All of the units are internally marked and externally moderated and each is supported by a work journal which illustrates the development of the students' ideas.

General points:-

- a) A GCSE in Art at grade A – C is desirable for entry to Sixth Form Art courses
- b) Portfolios of examples of work are usually required at interview for most courses in Art and Design.

The course will hopefully allow candidates to flourish creatively and extend their understanding of Art and Design.

M F TAYLOR
Head of Art and Design



BIOLOGY

In the new Biology AS course you will learn more about how the cells and bodies of living things are biochemically organised to perform life processes and how living things co-exist and interact. You will also learn about human diseases and how we protect ourselves against them. We hope that you will gain some understanding of the dynamic and exciting nature of Biology today and an awareness of how much there is yet to be discovered. Biology is a practical subject so you will develop experimental skills and an understanding of the scientific method.

It does not matter if you took Double Award Science or Biology as a separate GCSE. Both courses provide a sound foundation for the AS course. We recommend that you have *reached at least a Grade B at GCSE and that you felt comfortable with the Chemistry you were taught*. At A level, Biochemistry is a major component of the course).

At AS you are likely to be taking four subjects. You may want to take Biology with other sciences and Mathematics in which case they will support each other. Alternatively, you may be taking other subjects and want to continue with Biology as a contrasting subject. If you are thinking of taking Biology to A2 Level, then it is advantageous to study some supporting subjects such as Chemistry, Mathematics or Geography.

At Skinners' we follow the course offered by OCR as it will provide a natural progression from GCSE. You take the examination at AS after one year of study. The examination consists of two units of written assessment with a third assessment in the form of a Practical Assessment/ISA. Examination papers will consist of short answer questions and some longer answer questions. There will be no choice on the papers. The new AS course has three components:-

1. Cells, Exchange and Transport

In this module you will learn about the ultra-structure of cells, including the structure and function of the major organelles. You will be taught about magnification, scale and resolution using the senior optical microscopes, as well as analysing micrographs taken with more powerful electron microscopes.

The second part of this module looks at the structure and function of transport systems in animals and plants, including lung, heart, blood vessels and plant vascular tissue.

2. Molecules, Biodiversity, Food and Health

In this module you will learn the basics of biochemical reactions that occur in cells, so a good working knowledge of chemistry is essential.

The Biodiversity section looks at how organisms can be measured in the environment and data analysed in a statistical way, while Food and health covers the basics of a balanced diet before moving on to study the complexities of the human immune system.



3. Practical work

This is assessed by a practical examination in the form of an ISA and is worth 20% of the AS marks. Training for ISAs occur throughout the course via informal practical sessions.

You may then, subject to satisfactory AS grades, continue to A2 for a further year and take three more units plus a further practical exam.

An A Level qualification in Biology could prepare you to study Biology or one of the Biological Sciences in Further or Higher Education. There is a great range of courses on offer, some being quite specialised while others are very broad allowing you to delay your decision to specialise. Biology at A Level provides a good foundation for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, animal health, physiology, biochemistry, microbiology, genetics, environmental science, geography, geology, agriculture, plant science and many others.

M S MOODY
Head of Biology



BUSINESS STUDIES AQA 2130

No prior study of Economics or Business Studies is required. The course lays a suitable foundation for further study at higher level of the same or a related subject. It also familiarises students with the various career specialities open to them, e.g. Accountancy, Human Resource Management, Finance, Production, Marketing. The course is also suitable for those who wish to enter the world of work on completion of their A-Level studies. In addition, all students will acquire knowledge of the world of business and firms which will stand them in good stead irrespective of their choice of career.

AIMS

1. Students are encouraged to develop a critical understanding of organisations and markets – principally the workings of a private sector firm and how it interacts in a changing world.
2. Students should develop an awareness that a business can be studied from a variety of perspectives and that a variety of disciplines are needed for successful analysis.
3. Students will acquire a range of skills such as the ability to analyse and evaluate case studies and where appropriate use numerical analysis.

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

In the first year, students will study two modules:

- Planning and Financing a Business
- Managing a Business

The course focuses on all aspects of the firm and the broader environment in which it operates.

Module 1 is assessed in January and the second in June. This will consist of two written papers of 1.25 to 1.5 hours in length.

In the second year similar topics are studied in more depth. Assessment for the A2 qualification is by two 1¾ hour papers.

GENERAL

Students who are considering pursuing Business Studies at degree level might consider taking a Maths qualification. Degree level Business Studies can advantageously be taken as a combined course with another suitable subject such as a European foreign language, statistics, and information technology amongst others.

T M WALSH
Head of Economics



CHEMISTRY

OCR

H034(AS)

H434(A2)

Reasons for taking Chemistry

An interest in the subject and the desire to learn more about it, and the part it plays in the world about us. It will also support other subjects such as Biology, Physics, Maths, Geology, and Geography and is an essential preparation for any medically-based career. It is a useful subject for a general science-based course.

Course Content

The course builds directly on the work of Years 7 – 11; two modular units, including an 'ISA' type internally assessed practical component, will be examined in Year 12 to comprise the AS qualification. Aspects of organic, inorganic and physical chemistry will be covered in this course. Two further modular units and internal practical work, which will also span all aspects of the subject, will be assessed during Year 13 for the A2 qualification.

The new specifications have been designed for students with a background of Dual Science.

At AS the two modules you will study are as follows;

Atoms, Bonds and Groups – includes a deeper appreciation of bonding and structure, and the Periodic Table, and further quantitative work. This module is examined in January.

Chains, Energy and Resources – looks at Organic Chemistry in much more depth, energy considerations and calculations and introduces the interesting new field of Green Chemistry.

Course Requirements

An A* in Core Science and an A in Additional Science or an A or B in Chemistry GCSE are preferable, together with an interest in the subject. A reasonable ability in Mathematics (GCSE Grade A) and related subjects such as Physics, is an advantage, as is the ability to think logically and write concisely. You will of course need to achieve satisfactory AS grades to continue to A2 work.

Teaching Organisation

Depending on numbers, there may be two or three teaching sets, and the work will be divided equally between two teachers, Miss Howard, Dr Porter or me.

Practical work, usually performed individually, plays an important part and at least one period will normally be used in this way each week.



Career Openings with Chemistry

Chemistry is helpful in production industries where purity of materials is important – food, medicines, and drinks. It is needed for research and development, and as a background for biochemistry, medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, pharmacy, chemical engineering, fuel technology, agriculture, teaching, photography. It is also a useful training for prospective lawyers and accountants. The skills learnt in a Chemistry course, numeracy, problem solving analysis are extremely useful in many management based careers.

M MASON
Head of Chemistry

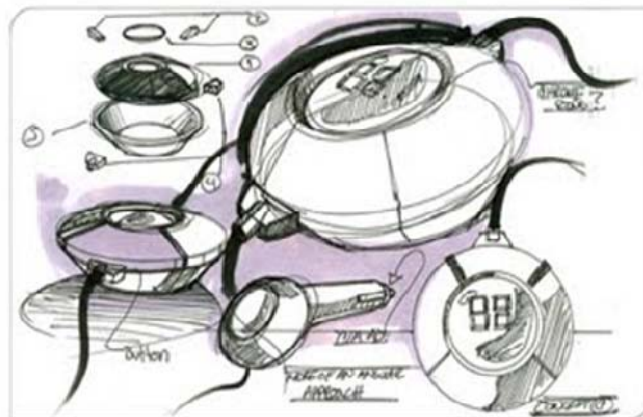


GCE AS/A Level Design & Technology (3d Design)

Specification: AQA course code 2550

http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/dt_product_design_new.php

Product Design provides students with the opportunity to investigate the world of design and manufacture quality products which solve problems.



The successful student will have an enthusiasm for investigating materials, their properties and how they are worked. The ability to skilfully analyse design situations and think creatively, are skills which will be developed during the course.

Course Description

The course is delivered through interactive lessons, and focused study time with the manufacture of 3d artefacts being a key focus. Students will use Computer Aided Design (CAD) software extensively to generate 2d and 3d design sketches and proposals. Computer Aided Manufacturing equipment (CAM) will also be used to raise the quality of students' outcomes and replicate industrial practices. A recent significant investment in CAD / CAM technology raises provision in this area to a very high level.

Key areas of study include:

- Developing an understanding of the physical and mechanical properties in a broad range of materials and components
- The broader issues for the designer including the environmental sustainability of products and their manufacture
- Methods in which materials and components can be manipulated to manufacture products
- Health and safety issues relevant to working with materials
- Computer aided design (CAD) and computer aided manufacture (CAM)
- Ergonomics and anthropometrics, inclusive design, and consumer safety
- The life cycle of products including manufacture, use and functional aspects and final disposal.
 - * Classifying materials and identifying, testing and comparing their application to product manufacture
 - * The implications of Health and Safety as an element of design activity
 - * Examination of alternative designs and redesigning existing products
- Use of natural resources, materials utilisation, conservation, waste disposal/management, pollution, recycling

Is this course for me?

If you enjoy creative activities, and applying yourself to solving problems, then YES!

The practical skills and understanding of materials and their properties are particularly useful to many of today's 'in-demand' career choices. Future areas of study which this course might lead to include:

- Product/Industrial design
- All branches of engineering, including architecture and surveying
- Scientific research
- Materials research
- Graphic design

It is not essential to have studied Design and Technology at GCSE level, however, students with previous experience will find it an advantage.

Assessment:

The course is assessed through written examination and coursework (50%). The coursework becomes a key focus, and students will be progressively challenged to identify real-world problems, then design and manufacture high quality solutions to satisfy these identified needs.

Self motivation and excellent presentation skills are essential for the product designer; these will be developed during the course.



INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

AQA 1521(AS) 2521(A)

Why study Information and Communication Technology?

This new specification brings the study of ICT up to date for the 21st century. The AQA course has the backing of a range of industries, higher education establishments and the National Computing Centre. With this new specification, students will be able to truly engage with their studies by becoming active investigators rather than passive learners.

The specification has been developed for students who wish to progress to higher education or to the world of work, where understanding how ICT can be used in society and organisations, and the implications of its use, will be a valuable asset.

Course Content

Year 12

The AS course comprises two written examination papers which are externally marked, although

Info 1 Practical Problem Solving in the Digital World

*1½ hr Exam
25% of A2*

*This module will provide students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the development of ICT systems through **practical experience** in using a range of application software in a structured way. Students will then be able to apply the skill, knowledge and understanding gained from this practical work to the solution of problems.*

Info 2 Living in the Digital World

*Coursework
25% of A2*

Today's students are living in a world where the use of ICT surrounds them. This module will give students the wider picture of the use of ICT and to enable the understanding of basic terms and concepts involved in the study of the subject. Students will be able to discuss and comment on issues from a position of knowledge and understanding that underpins the whole subject.

Year 13

The A2 course comprises one written examination paper which is externally marked, and one coursework assignment which is internally marked and externally moderated.

Info 3 The Use of ICT in the Digital World

*1½ hr Exam
30% of A2*

This module looks at the fast changing subject of ICT, including developments in technology and ICT system capabilities, and how this might affect the world that makes use of ICT. Students will address issues of management of ICT and its use within organisations.

Info 4 Coursework: Practical Issues Involved in the Use of ICT in the Digital World

*1½ hr Exam
20% of A2*

This module will give students the opportunity to complete a substantial project involving the production of an ICT-related system over an extended period of time. In so doing students will enhance their transferable practical skills.



Specific Entry Requirements

You should opt for this course only if you have a genuine interest in ICT and computers and you have performed well across all your GCSEs, achieving a minimum of Grade B in Mathematics. It would be helpful if you have studied ICT for GCSE, although prior knowledge is not essential. What is important is that you enjoy solving problems and using computers as a tool.

Beyond Skinners'

A qualification in ICT will provide you with an essential skills-base. Keyboard and computer skills will be a pre-requisite for most further education or career paths, whatever the field. Should you wish to follow further education or employment in Computing or ICT you could consider areas such as software and hardware development, computer systems management, computer networking, communications, web design, and business management.

N HUBBARD
Head of ICT



AS/A2 DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES AQA

Why choose Drama and Theatre Studies?

During your future education or employment you will almost certainly be expected to:

- Manage your time
- Communicate
- Respond critically and sensitively to problems
- Make decisions
- Work as a member of a team
- Face challenges
- Critically examine and manipulate research
- Write essays/reports
- Debate and discuss
- Strive for excellence

All of these skills are encompassed in the AS/A2 Theatre Studies course.

Students can pursue their interests and develop their skills in a range of practical drama elements including acting, directing, costume, setting, mask and technical design. However, the requirements of the course, with its 60% written paper weighting, will also enable students to gain an entry qualification for courses in higher education, whether in the area of drama and theatre studies or in a host of other subjects.

The course offers students the freedom to choose both the content and the form of their practical presentations at each level. At AS, students perform an extract from any play selected to illustrate their understanding of an influential director, designer, theatre company or other practitioner. At A2, candidates devise drama on any topic to be performed in a theatrical style of their choice.

The A Level course allows the students to experience a range of opportunities to develop a variety of dramatic and theatrical skills, enabling them to grow creatively and imaginatively in both devised and scripted work. As individuals they need to be able to communicate meaning to an audience as well as engaging them in the dramatic work. All 4 units require the students to make the connections between theory and practice and the process of text to performance.

The A level course is divided into 4 units as follows:



The structure of AS assessment comprises of two units.

Unit 1 - Live Theatre Production Seen and Prescribed Play 60% of AS (30% of A Level)

Section A – response to live theatre seen during the course.

There will be regular visits to the theatre in order to build a portfolio of reviews and performance analysis in preparation for this written paper. The student needs to become an informed member of the audience.

Section B – study of one set play from a choice of six. Both published plays for unit 1 and 2 must be varied in terms of period and genre. Students are also required to understand how each play relates to its historical, social and cultural context.

Unit 2 – Presentation of an Extract from a Play 40% of AS, (20% of A Level).

A practical performance by a group of an extract from a published play.

The assessment also includes students' preparatory and development work and supporting notes throughout the preparation period. This includes focusing, researching and applying the work of at least one influential director, designer, Theatre Company or other practitioner who has made a significant contribution to theatre practice.

The structure of A2 assessment comprises of two units.

Unit 3 – Further Prescribed Plays including Pre-Twentieth Century 30% of A Level

This unit involves the study of two further set plays. One of which is pre twentieth century and one of which is twentieth century or contemporary. The written paper focuses on being able to write from the perspective of actor, director and designer.

Unit 4 – Presentation of Devised Drama 20% of A Level

A practical performance by a group of devised drama (an original piece of drama created by the students.) The assessment also includes students' preparatory and development work and supporting notes throughout the preparation period.

Facilities

The drama department is situated in the newly refurbished Byng Hall – The Thomson Theatre. The theatre is a fully equipped multi-purpose performance space.

F LENNON
Head of Drama



ECONOMICS

AQA 2140

No prior study of Economics is required. We do ask that you have an interest in contemporary economic affairs and in exploring how the economy impacts on our modern world. The course lays a suitable foundation for further study at higher level of the same or a related subject. In addition, all students will acquire knowledge of the economy and firms which will stand them in good stead irrespective of their choice of career.

AIMS

1. Students will develop an understanding of economic concepts and theories through a critical appreciation of current economic issues.
2. Students will learn to apply concepts and theories and to learn their value in explaining real world phenomena.
3. Students will acquire a critical appreciation of the workings of the free-market economy.

CONTENT and ASSESSMENT

The course looks at the major questions in economics, for example, who decides what is to be produced, for whom and for how much – why do inflation and unemployment occur – how much should the state intervene in the economy? Throughout the course much reference is made to contemporary events and students are required to take an active interest in becoming familiar with current affairs and developments.

In Year 12, students will study two modules:

Microeconomics: markets and market failure
Macroeconomics: the national economy

This AS component is assessed in June near the end of the first year of study. This will consist of two written papers of 1 hour and 15 minutes in length involving data response type questions.

In Year 12, students will again study two modules, similar to the above but in considerably more depth:

Business Economics and the Distribution of Income
The Global Economy

Assessment is by two written exams each of 2 hours.

Students who are considering pursuing Economics at degree level should consider taking a Maths qualification, certainly at AS Level.

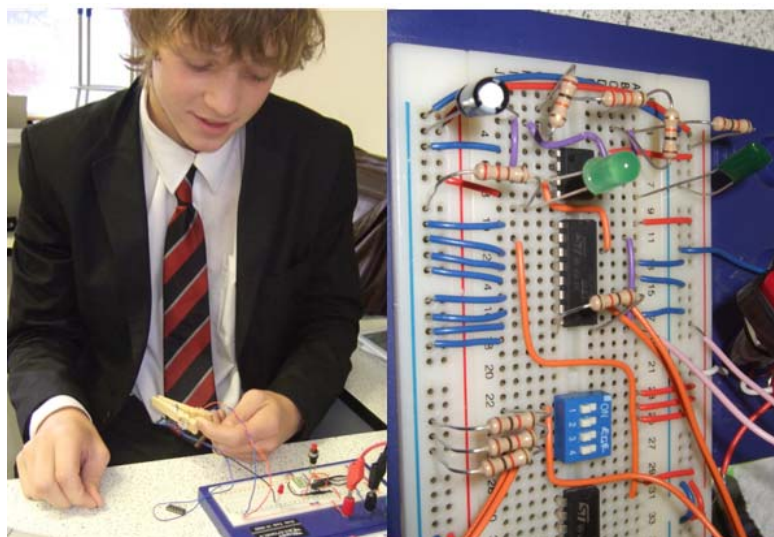
T M WALSH
Head of Economics



ELECTRONICS

AQA 1431 (AS) 2431 (A2)

A 'hands on' approach is used to introduce the fundamentals of microelectronics. Basic circuits are incorporated into working systems. Typical AS projects: digital thermometer, reaction timing, electronic tape measure, car alarm, audio amplifier, wah wah box for electronic guitar, lottery number generator, metronome, heart beat monitor, etc.



Fred Trusselle with his heart beat monitor GCSE project

The first two (theory) modules cover the following topics:

Boolean logic, digital systems, transistors, capacitors, MOSFETS, Zener diodes, filters, operational amplifiers, 555 timers, counters, monostables, bistables, astables

The first two units are assessed by written exam; the project (module 3) is internally assessed and externally moderated.

For more information go to the Electronics pages on our website: www.skinnersscience.com

A B MEAD
Head of Science and Electronics



ENGLISH LITERATURE

OCR F661/F662 (AS) F663/F664 (A2)

From your GCSE Course, you will have some idea about how well you can write and talk about literature, and how much you enjoy a variety of reading. Your GCSE grades should be at least Bs to cope with the demands of the course. In the Sixth Form, English requires greater depth of study, a willingness to look at several points of view and the development of the ability to argue and support a case. Students of English go on to an enormous range of careers, as the training in analytical skills and discussion is widely seen as excellent preparation for many careers in management, the arts and the business world.

We propose to offer the following course in the Sixth Form:

ENGLISH LITERATURE:-

This will involve taking an AS examination at the end of Year 12:

Poetry and Prose (Unit 1)

One novel and a selection of poetry. There is a choice of novel selected by the teacher. This year the two groups have either *The Great Gatsby* or *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*. The poetry selections are based on one poet; this year we have selected Robert Frost and Wilfred Owen. The poem to be analysed in the examination is printed on the examination booklet, although the candidate should also refer to other poems. The novel is closed book, so quotations must be learned.

(Unit 2)

Two internally set pieces of coursework – one of 1000 words and one of 2000 words. The larger piece compares two texts of different genres. The shorter piece focuses on one text.

Most candidates then go on to A2 examinations at the end of Year 13:

Poetry and Drama pre 1800 (Unit 3)

One selection of poetry and one play; for example, *The Pardoner's Tale* and *Dr Faustus*. These are taught for a closed examination.

Coursework (Unit 4)

A folder of c.2000 words on a variety of texts (three) in agreement with your teacher. Under normal circumstances, one core text will be taught and the student then makes appropriate selections.



Books should be bought by the student, with the exception of the AS poetry and some of the AS coursework.

Intelligent wide reading around texts studied will be essential for high grades. Many subjects combine well with English at this level – either those using similar skills of analysis and essay writing or those which develop skills of, for instance, numeracy and ICT.

Teaching Groups will normally have two teachers sharing the lessons during the week and a wide variety of literature to study. We hold a meeting shortly before Year 11 go on examination leave where the outline of the course is given to potential students and a suggested reading programme given for the summer.

D HALIFAX
Head of English



GEOGRAPHY

AQA 2030

A wide variety of useful skills are developed through the study of Geography. They include skills of communication, numeracy and graphics, problem solving, data collecting, analysis and the presentation of statistics, computing, use of instruments, simulations, role play, and social skills. Fieldwork in particular allows the study of the real world by first hand experience.

Geography integrates a number of subject areas and can be usefully combined with Science or Arts subjects. It allows the Science specialist to use his/her knowledge in Physical Geography and to develop important literacy skills, and the Arts specialist to develop important numeracy and graphical skills. Geography avoids the problems inherent in over-specialisation.

The AQA Examining Board places greater emphasis on the understanding of processes, the skills of handling, applying and analysing data, the development of judgment and evaluation abilities, than on acquiring factual knowledge.

In Year 12

Unit 1: (70% of AS)

Core Physical

**Rivers, Floods and Management
Coastal Environments**

Core Human

**Population Change
Food Supply Issues
2 hour written paper**

Unit 2: (30% of AS)

Geographical Skills

1 hour written paper

In Year 13

Unit 3: (30% of A Level)

Contemporary Geographical Issues

**Human and Physical Options
2 hour 30 written paper**

Unit 4: (20% of A Level)

Geography Fieldwork Investigation

1 hour 30 written paper (No project)

**C FLEMING
Head of Geography**



HISTORY

OCR H106(AS) H506(A)

The Course

The new A level History course requires students to study for 4 units. The first two, set at Advanced Subsidiary level, will be taught in year 12 and the remaining 2 units, designated A2, will be taken in Year 13.

Content

Unit 1	British Period Study: Conservatives and Liberals
Unit 2	World History Enquiry using sources: The Origins of the American Civil War
Unit 3	Coursework consisting of two 2,000 word essays
Unit 4	Historical Themes Paper: American Civil Rights 1865-1992

Assessment

Units 1, 2 and 4 will be assessed by written examination. Unit 3 will be marked internally and moderated externally.

Period Studied

As the GCSE syllabus concentrated on the 20th Century we offer a different period of study in the Sixth Form, namely English and World History 1800-1992.

Teaching

Normally each Sixth Form group is taught by two members of staff, who divide the Units and the teaching time between them.

What you need to bring to the course:

- an interest in studying History in greater depth than at GCSE Level;
- intellectual curiosity;
- a willingness to argue both orally and on paper;
- the ability to evaluate sources critically;
- an understanding that note-making is an essential tool of the successful candidate, rather than a boring waste of time;
- a sense of humour;
- an ability to write clearly and logically;
- the maturity to appreciate that study is a partnership between teacher and taught.

Qualifications:

Those who have taken History at GCSE should have obtained at least a grade B. The department is willing to consider candidates who did not take GCSE History.

**L. ANDERSEN
Head of History**



MATHEMATICS

EDEXCEL

A Level Mathematics is a much sought after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full-time courses in Higher Education. An AS in Mathematics is very valuable as a supporting subject to many courses at A Level and Degree Level, especially in the sciences, engineering, economics, geography, psychology, sociology and medicine.

To study AS or A Level Mathematics, it is normal to have at least a grade A at GCSE. A capacity for sustained work is also needed for good success.

We follow a modular specification which divides the subject into four branches:

Core/Pure Mathematics

When studying pure mathematics at AS and A Level you will be extending your knowledge of such topics as algebra and trigonometry as well as learning some brand new ideas such as calculus. This is a compulsory element to the course and is fundamental to all other areas of Maths.

Mechanics

When you study mechanics you will learn how to describe mathematically the motion of objects and how they respond to forces acting upon them, from cars in the street to satellites revolving around a planet. You will learn the technique of mathematical modelling; that is, of turning a complicated physical problem into a simpler one that can be analysed and solved using mathematical methods.

Statistics

When you study statistics you will learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions about it. You will extend the range of probability problems that you started for GCSE by using the new mathematical techniques studied on the pure mathematics course. You will learn how to decide whether the results achieved from statistical techniques are significant and gain a deeper understanding of the information that can be gleaned from data.

Decision Mathematics

You will study a range of methods, or algorithms, which enable computers to be programmed, business to be managed and profits to be maximised. At the moment it is only available in Year 13.



Further Maths

This is an option available to those boys in Set M who are studying Pure Mathematics in Year 11. In Year 12 boys will complete their A Level in Mathematics. In Year 13 students will then go on to study for a Further Mathematics A Level. This will result in two A Levels from one option, but there are lessons in addition to the standard nine every two weeks. It covers all of the three applied options in addition to the core mathematics.

This is a particularly valuable option for those students who wish to study Mathematics, Physics, Engineering or Computer Science at one of the top universities.

Courses

We hope to offer a variety of courses, subject to demand and the viability of groups. Students will be able to study for one year only to AS Level, or continue to A Level in Year 13.

The courses involve a study of Core/Pure Mathematics for two thirds of the time together with Mechanics or Statistics. Three modules are examined after one year for the AS award, and a further three a year later for the A Level. If staffing permits, A Level students may be able to study a Decision Maths module in Year 13 (instead of the Second Mechanics/Statistics module). Each module will be examined by a 90 minute paper. There is no coursework requirement.

K A ALLEN
Head of Mathematics



MODERN LANGUAGES

WJEC

FRENCH	2191(AS)	3191(A)
GERMAN	2221(AS)	3221(A)

Events, such as the expansion of the European Union, the lifting of the Iron Curtain, the opening of the Channel Tunnel and the development of the Internet have made an advanced knowledge of foreign languages a valuable asset. French and German have thus become increasingly important, and those with a high degree of proficiency in these languages will without doubt be in great demand.

The Department offers courses in French and German aimed at the AS and A2 GCE examinations. We follow the new WJEC syllabus.

The new Advanced Subsidiary (AS) course represents progression from GCSE, focusing particularly on the acquisition of language skills, grammar and vocabulary. The examination at the end of the Year 12 will consist of two units assessing students' skills in listening, reading, speaking and writing.

For those continuing their studies in the Year 13, the new Advanced Level (A2) course will build on the language work of the AS course, introduce French or German literature and promote understanding of the culture and society of the target language countries. The A2 examination consists of a further two units to be assessed at the end of the course. These comprise an oral unit, French and German topics or texts, and a multi-skilled language unit. Further in-depth details can be requested from Mr Green.

The practical nature of the course should enable every student to converse fluently on current issues and to understand newspaper articles, radio and television programmes on completion of his studies. We expect candidates to develop a high level of critical awareness, using the foreign language to evaluate and argue points of view whilst at the same time showing a thorough understanding of complex grammatical systems as listed in the specification.

All cases will be considered individually, but it would usually be expected that a prospective A level candidate would achieve at least a Grade B and preferably a Grade A at GCSE if he is to be successful.

P GREEN
Head of Modern Languages



MUSIC

AQA 1271 (AS) 2271 (A2)

The new specifications give candidates a wide range of options within each module. This gives scope for strengths or new interests to be explored and an individualised path created for each candidate that will maximise their potential.

There is a pathway that focuses on Music Technology and its practical applications.

Good practical skills are an important component of the course, and students need to be well motivated independent learners because Lower and Upper 6th are taught in the same option block.

AS Examinations AS Award 1271

Unit 1 – MUSC1

Influences on Music

1 hour 45 minutes written examination - 80 marks

Candidates should acquire, explore and apply musical language and context by the consideration of two Areas of Study and set works from:

AoS1 The Western Classical Tradition (compulsory)

AoS2a Choral Music in the Baroque Period

AoS2b Music Theatre: a study of the Musical from 1940 to 1980

AoS2c British Popular Music from 1960 to the present day.

Unit 2 – MUSC2

Creating Musical Ideas

Externally Assessed Coursework - 60 marks

Candidates demonstrate their ability to create and develop musical ideas with technical control and expressive understanding, making creative use of musical devices, conventions and resources in response to **one** of three briefs as follows:

Brief A Compositional techniques

Brief B Free composition or pastiche in response to a given genre

Brief C Arranging.

The briefs will be released on 1 November in the examination year and will be externally assessed by AQA. Candidates should be offered a maximum of 20 hours, supervised in the centre, in which to complete their compositions.

Unit 3 – MUSC3

Interpreting Musical Ideas

10–16 minutes - 80 marks

Candidates offer **two** performances chosen from the following:

(a) a solo performance on an instrument

(b) a solo performance on voice

(c) a solo performance on a second instrument

(d) an ensemble performance

(e) a technology-based performance 1 – Sequencing

(f) a technology-based performance 2 – Multi-track/close microphone recording.

Each performance should last 5–8 minutes.



A2 Examinations A Level Award 2271

Unit 4 – MUSC4

Music in Context

2 hours 15 minutes written examination

100 marks

Candidates should acquire, explore and apply musical language and context by the consideration of **two** Areas of Study and set works from:

AoS1 The Western Classical Tradition (compulsory)

AoS3a English Choral Music in the 20th century

AoS3b Chamber Music from Mendelssohn to Debussy

AoS3c Four decades of Jazz and Blues 1910–1950.

Unit 5 – MUSC5

Developing Musical Ideas

Externally Assessed Coursework - 60 marks

Candidates demonstrate their ability to create and develop musical ideas with technical control and expressive understanding, making creative use of musical devices, conventions and resources in response to **one** of three briefs as follows:

Brief A Compositional techniques

Brief B Free composition or pastiche in response to a chosen brief

Brief C Arranging.

The briefs will be released on 1 November in the examination year and will be externally assessed by AQA. Candidates should be offered a maximum of 20 hours, supervised in the centre, in which to complete their compositions.

Unit 6 – MUSC6

A Musical Performance

15 minutes Externally Assessed - 60 marks

Candidates offer two (or more) contrasting pieces to form a short programme for either acoustic performance and/or performance via music technology chosen from:

(a) solo acoustic performances

(b) technology-based performances

(c) one solo performance and one technology-based performance – each performance to be at least 5 minutes.

The programme should last 10–15 minutes. The pieces will be chosen to show variety of style, technique, period and/or approach.

Candidates may perform their own compositions if these make sufficient technical and expressive demands on them.

J HENDRY
Head of Music



PE AND GAMES

Wednesday afternoons see two periods devoted to an extensive games programme. Sixth Formers are required to devote their energies to the major sports of Rugby, Hockey and Cricket with a variety of minor sports on offer for those not selected for the major sporting teams. A full and demanding midweek and weekend fixture list operates for the major sports and the school enjoys a hard won reputation on one of the toughest schoolboy sporting circuits in the country.

The 1st XV Rugby squad were ranked seventh in the country last season and play many of the country's top rugby schools. Boys are regularly watched by professional club scouts - this has seen some boys gain semi-professional contracts at National League and Premiership clubs. The squad have full sponsorship deals with major companies and is run with a very high level of expectation.

Hockey is played at Hawkenbury Astroturf and the Hockey squad train throughout the winter term in preparation for their season. Again, they play on a very competitive circuit with many of Kent, Sussex and Surrey's top independent schools featuring on their fixture list. Senior Hockey also has full sponsorship and the 1st XI and 2nd XI enjoy a competitive rivalry in training.

The Summer Term sees Cricket played as the major sport. Regular batting clinics are held throughout the Easter Term in preparation for the season and an extensive programme of development is underway for this sport. The school is fortunate enough to have two ex professional cricketers on the staff and coaching sessions are of the highest level. Regular fixtures against the MCC, 40 Club and many top school 1st XI's sees 1st and 2nd eleven cricket played to a very high level. Tours to the Caribbean run every other year, the department aims to raise cricket's profile in the school community.

The school also seeks to involve all its pupils in other sports making full use of the facilities on offer in the borough and beyond.

Below is a list of the sporting options available to senior boys during the year on Wednesday afternoons:

Football	Basketball	Rugby 7's	Fitness
Squash	Shooting	Sailing	Swimming
Tennis	Golf	Cross Country	Horse Riding
Weights	Judo	5-a-side	Fly Fishing

It is the aim of the Physical Education Department to include every student in sporting activities. We thoroughly believe that a healthy body creates a healthy mind and on our part we aim to deliver as varied a sporting programme as possible and ensure every student who leaves Skinners' finds a physical activity he can take with him to University and beyond.

N OLDHAM
Head of Physical Education



PHYSICS

AS: AQA Physics A 1451

Unit 1 – Particle Physics, Quantum Phenomena and Electricity.

You will study subatomic particles, matter and antimatter, the four fundamental forces at work in nature, the photoelectric effect, spectra and energy levels, wave-particle duality, dc and ac circuits. Included are aspects of “How Science Works”, in particular the historical development of relevant models and theories.

Unit 2 – Mechanics, Materials and Waves.

You will study scalars and vectors, linear motion and motion graphs, projectiles, Newton’s laws, energy and work, the behaviour of materials under stress, wave characteristics, polarisation, interference, diffraction, refraction and step-index fibre optics. Again, “How Science Works” is an integral part of the course.

Unit 3 - Investigative and Practical Skills.

You will complete a set of practical tasks to build up your skills, and there will be a practical exam.

A2: AQA Physics A 2451

Unit 4 – Fields and Further Mechanics

This builds on the key concepts of AS, and includes circular motion, simple harmonic motion and resonance, gravitational fields, electric fields, capacitors, magnetic fields, flux and electromagnetic induction.

Unit 5 – Nuclear and Thermal Physics, Plus Optional Topic

The core material includes radioactive decay law, instability and nuclear radius, mass-energy equivalence, induced fission, specific heat capacity and ideal gas laws. In addition there is a choice of topics from astrophysics, medical physics, applied physics and turning points in physics.

Unit 6 – Investigative and Practical Skills

Develops the skills acquired during the AS course.

Physics is a rewarding and challenging subject. We strongly recommend that you have *at least an A grade in your additional science physics* GCSE, and that ideally you *study maths to at least AS level*.

The skills of analysis and evaluation you will develop as a physicist are in great demand in the jobs market.

R MEAD
Head of Physics



RELIGIOUS STUDIES – PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION & RELIGIOUS ETHICS

OCR

H172 (AS)

H575 (A)

“An unexamined life is not worth living” – Socrates 469 – 399 BCE

Religious Studies offers a varied, interesting and wide ranging syllabus, dealing with stimulating material of past and present concern.

Philosophy of Religion examines responses through the ages to some of the deepest and most profound questions that man has asked himself. The study of Ethics asks us how people establish their concepts of right and wrong, of good and bad behaviour. From theory, we pass to practice, applying what we have learnt to current ethical dilemmas. Topics studied include:

AS

- An introduction to Greek thinkers – Aristotle and Plato.
- God and Existence – you will examine the claims of scholars and philosophers to prove the existence of God.
- Religion and Science
- Suffering and evil – why is there suffering in this world? Is this compatible with the supposed existence of a loving God?
- The challenge of psychology – Are there other ways of interpreting religious faith?
- What do we mean by right and wrong?
- Ethical theories
- An introduction to the work and ideas of some great philosophers e.g. Aquinas, Mill, Kant.
- Medical ethics – the problems of genetic engineering and embryo research; abortion, euthanasia and the right to a child.

A2

- Miracles – do they happen today and how can they be interpreted?
- Life after death – an examination of the different views.
- Is there such a thing as free will?
- Conscience – what is conscience and what does it do?
- Environmental Ethics.
- Sexual Ethics.
- War, Peace and Justice.



Religious Studies is suitable for anyone with skills in the general arts subjects, who enjoys discussing topical issues and is prepared to think through his own views of life. Personal religious belief is not necessary but an open and enquiring mind is! It is **not** necessary for candidates to have taken the subject at GCSE.

The subject is highly suitable for all careers and Further and Higher Education courses where passes in unspecified subjects are required at A Level.

The syllabus covers many issues, scientific, technological, medical, sexual and overtly religious, all of which make the course relevant to life and we hope, interesting. The subject will allow you to display an awareness of the world in which we live and an understanding of the human problems involved.

L WILSON
Head of Religious Education



SKINNERS' LIBRARY

Entering the Sixth Form at Skinners' to study in depth the subjects of your choice will add a new dimension to how you study and learn. Greater emphasis will be put on independent research and individual time management. The Library can help you achieve both of these skills.

Time Management

The Library is open from 8.30am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday and is staffed at all times. As a member of Sixth Form you are allowed to use the resource during your private study time as a quiet space to research, study and revise.

The library catalogue is accessed via the computer system which will allow you to identify resources and their availability quickly. Staff are always happy to help and a photocopying service is offered for items which cannot be removed from the Library at a cost of 5p per A4 sheet.

Independent Research

Every subject offered in the Sixth Form curriculum is supported by a well stocked section in the Library. Each Head of Department is regularly invited to review their subject area and asked to suggest titles to enhance the range offered. This ensures that we can offer relevant, up-to-date resources to support your research and additional reading.

The fiction section is a rapidly expanding resource offering a wide variety of genre and author. Whilst most titles are there for your enjoyment during your relaxation time you will find that some offer additional support in subjects such as History, Philosophy and, of course, English Literature.

To keep you up-to-date with current affairs the Library offers a selection of daily newspapers and a local paper plus a variety of general interest magazines.

The internet is also available. As an extra service we now offer a range of stationery (paper, pens, files etc) for sale at low prices.

Usual library rules apply – production of your individual library card is required should you wish to borrow resources. Fines are charged if items are returned later than the two week allotted period, although extended loans can be arranged. Damaged or lost items are billed at full replacement cost. The library is a space for SILENT study.

Skinners' Library offers you the space and the resources to help you get the best out of your time in the Sixth Form. I look forward to seeing you there.

**Mrs T Weaver/ Mrs C Deller
Librarians**



INTERNAL STUDENT APPLICATION FOR ENTRY INTO THE SIXTH FORM

SEPTEMBER 2010

Name: _____

Form: _____

AS Level Subjects requested:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

Interests/Hobbies: _____

Any other information you wish to communicate (All information will be treated as confidential).

Please return this form to the School Office by 12th February 2010.