



The Sandon Sixth Form

Prospectus 2019

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SIXTH FORM

Head of Upper School	Miss S Taylor
Head of Year 12	Miss H Peaty

WELCOME TO THE SANDON SIXTH FORM

Dear Applicant

Thank you for your interest in applying to The Sandon Sixth Form. We are pleased that you are considering continuing your education with us because we know that, as well as being able to offer you good quality teaching, The Sandon Sixth Form can provide you with many opportunities to gain experience that you will be able to take with you to the next step in your future - wherever that may be. We hope that, once you have read through this Prospectus, you will feel confident that we can offer you the right environment in which to achieve your academic goals.

The Sandon Sixth Form Prospectus has been designed to help you make informed choices about your future in Further Education; it contains detailed information about the courses available to study in Years 12 and 13.

Research carefully

From experience, we know that students make the best decisions when they have researched widely and asked the right questions of the right people. As well as carefully reading the information in this Prospectus, we would like to encourage Year 11 pupils to research as thoroughly as possible before making their application to join The Sandon Sixth Form. *Depending on where you envisage your future to lie, there are many opportunities to research. Make sure you do the following before making your application:*

- ask subject teachers questions about their subjects, and ask to see textbooks and other course materials to check that the course content really is going to hold your interest;
- visit the relevant examination board websites to have a look at the specifications and assessment materials - this is an excellent way to make sure that you are fully prepared for the material you will be studying;
- take the chance to speak with Key Stage 5 Subject Ambassadors in school - Year 12 and 13 students can give you a student's perspective on studying specific subjects;
- visit www.UCAS.com for links to university websites to check whether your intended future degree course requires certain subjects at A Level;
- visit some other Further Education providers, such as colleges and other school Sixth Forms, to see what other types of courses are available;
- speak to our careers advisor in school, Wendy Wood, to check which courses are appropriate for you.

Your application to The Sandon Sixth Form

If, having researched thoroughly, you think that The Sandon Sixth Form is the right place for you to continue your education, applicants from Sandon School will receive an on-line Application Form and applicants from other schools can access an application form via the school website Tuesday 8 January 2019. Completed applications should be returned to Mrs Peel in the Student Administration Office **no later than Friday 18 January 2019**. *For applications received after this date, we cannot guarantee that your preferred programme of study will be available.*

We hope very much that, once you have researched the choices available to you, you will make an application to continue your education with us, and we look forward to welcoming you to The Sandon Sixth Form in September 2019.

Yours sincerely

Sam Taylor
Head of Upper School

ADMISSION TO THE SANDON SIXTH FORM 2019

In The Sandon Sixth Form, students benefit from expert teaching at A Level standard. Success in a Sixth Form programme of study demands an even higher level of ability, commitment and motivation than study at GCSE level. Consequently, we set minimum entry requirements, so that we are confident that students beginning a programme of study in the Sixth Form can achieve success. Students applying for The Sandon Sixth Form will be expected to demonstrate that they intend to take their studies seriously, and successful entry will depend upon your attainment at GCSE level. We ask all students to write a personal statement in support of their application and we may invite you to attend a formal interview. We seek references for applicants from other schools.

1. Students will be admitted into The Sandon Sixth Form from the age of 16 in accordance with the following criteria:
 - The student must achieve an average point score of 5 or greater across all subjects taken at GCSE (or equivalent) level as clarified in the sixth form prospectus
- And
- The student should meet any subject specific grades as identified in the sixth form prospectus;
2. The school cannot guarantee a chosen programme of study;
 3. The Governors reserve the right to admit a student to The Sandon Sixth Form where they do not achieve an average point score of 5 due to extenuating circumstances previously made known to the school, where their predicted average point score was 5 or greater;
 4. In the event of over subscription to the sixth form, priority will be given to students currently attending The Sandon School, thereafter the school's general admissions criteria will apply.
 5. In the event that a student is admitted without a 5 in English or Maths, this is with the caveat that they will resit to achieve at least a 5.

Research carefully

If you may be interested in applying for university, we recommend that you visit www.UCAS.com for links to university websites to check your intended future degree course's requirements - for example:

- some economics degree courses state a preference for mathematics A Level (and will certainly require a good grade in GCSE mathematics)
- some biology degree courses require chemistry A Level
- some nursing, midwifery, and paramedic science degree courses require a science A Level (check which subjects are accepted as a science)
- medicine, dentistry and veterinary degree courses usually require chemistry A Level
- some architecture courses require mathematics A Level

Not all degree courses require you to have studied that subject at A Level, but many do - so check!

Choose sensible combinations of subjects

- if you want to apply to a Russell Group university, consider traditional subjects
- if you want to study one science at A Level, consider a second science - especially if you think you are likely to achieve grade 7 or above in all the sciences at GCSE
- if you want to study physics, consider also opting for mathematics - students have found that studying mathematics helps understanding of physics
- if you're keen to study history, consider also studying English literature (or vice versa) as they complement each other well
- if you're unsure what you want to do after Year 13, keep your options open by opting for a traditional, broad based programme that spans a range of curriculum areas.

STUDYING AT THE SANDON SIXTH FORM

Choosing the right programme of study

Students in Years 12 and 13 will study three subjects of their choice. A Levels, and other Level 3 courses, are much more demanding than GCSEs, and it is vital that all students choose their programme carefully to maximise their chances of achieving success. We ask applicants to wait until they have received their mock GCSE results before applying because these results are a very good indicator of likely success at A Level.

Examination based assessment or a mix of examination and project based assessment?

The types of course students choose to study in the Sixth Form should reflect their strengths at GCSE - for example, if you work best when there is an element of coursework, you may wish to consider opting for one or more of our combined examination and project based courses - the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificates in Business, ICT or Health and Social Care (40% examination and 60% internal assessment). Please note that these BTEC courses are equivalent to A Level qualifications in terms of UCAS tariff points; students are advised to check individual university course requirements.

Enrichment

To complement their academic programme, we support students with careers planning throughout Years 12 and 13, including university visits and a range of careers events both in school and out of school. We encourage students to undertake periods of work experience and to widen their knowledge and understanding through alternative modes of learning such as MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). Students are also expected to undertake some form of 'community service' in school; this often takes the form of supporting younger students in their learning.

Preparatory work

All students applying to The Sandon Sixth Form are expected to spend some time during their 'summer holiday' undertaking preparatory work for their Sixth Form studies. Subject areas advise on this work at the end of the summer term.

Academic Monitoring

Although the focus in the Sixth Form is very much on independent learning, we are well aware that Year 12 students need time to adjust to the different style of teaching and learning in the Sixth Form, and consequently students are closely monitored and supported throughout their studies. In our experience, it is not uncommon for students to find the transition from GCSE to A Level a difficult one. Subject teachers report regularly on progress and attainment, and students identified as needing extra monitoring and support are identified early on; these students are supported and encouraged to take responsibility for liaising with their subject teachers to ensure that suitable targets are negotiated and quickly met. There is close supervision of this process. We work with students to devise their own personal goals, and regularly review their progress against their targets and goals.

Your Responsibilities

As a member of the Sixth Form, you are expected to set a good example to lower school students. Students in Years 7 to 11 look up to Sixth Formers, and this means that you must always be mindful of your conduct and the impression it creates

Sixth Form Dress Code

Students are not expected to wear a school uniform, but we rely on Sixth Formers to support the lower school uniform policy. Consequently, there is a Sixth Form Dress Code. The Dress Code has been devised in consultation with students. The spirit of the dress code is very simple - students should dress appropriately for a learning environment, ensure that their dress does not offend anyone, and set a good example to the rest of the school.

Attendance

Year 12 students are expected to be in school for the duration of the school day. Attendance to all timetabled lessons is compulsory; this reflects the importance of students taking every opportunity to benefit from subject teachers' expertise. Poor attendance to lessons raises questions about commitment to study. Attendance to morning and afternoon registrations, and Tutorial sessions, is also compulsory; this reflects the importance of the role that the Tutor plays in students' academic success. In Year 13, students may apply for a Home Study Arrangement.

Sixth Formers and the Whole School Community

There are a number of school community projects in which Sixth Formers can become involved, such as: organising student participation in a range of House Activities; helping to organise assemblies; working with lower school students as part of the Community Service enrichment option; representing the school at various school functions; running an extra-curricular activity or club at lunchtime or after school; showing visitors around the school; assisting in the organisation of the School Council; supporting teachers and pupils in lower school lessons.

The Head Student Team

The Head Student Team is a very important group of students in the Sixth Form. They work actively to develop and enhance the experience of Sixth Form students and they are well respected by staff and students. Students aspiring to be part of the Head Student Team in Year 13 address their peers at a formal hustings. This is followed by a ballot, in which students and staff have an opportunity to vote, followed by a formal interview process to decide positions of responsibility within the team.

Advice and support for Higher Education and employment

Specialist advice and support is available in school to help students with the university application process (UCAS). We have many years' experience in guiding students through the application process and every year the majority of our students go on to study for a degree at university. Some students decide to continue their studies at specialist colleges for Art, Drama or Music. Whatever your choice, you can access up to date information from the school and arrange for visits and discussions with Higher Education staff, employers and others offering advice on alternative routes after Sixth Form study.

For all students, we have a careers guidance programme in the Sixth Form, including interview experience, and we offer opportunities to meet with ex-students, governors and contacts from various employers to help with decisions about post Sixth Form progression.

Part-Time Employment

You may want to undertake part-time employment outside of school hours during the school term. Such employment must not interfere with your study programme or preparation for important examinations or assessments. We recommend that the maximum amount of time spent on part-time employment in the Sixth Form is one evening per week and one day at the weekend.

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PLEASE NOTE:

Although we hope to offer all of the courses detailed in this section, any individual course will only run if there are sufficient students to ensure its viability.

ART and DESIGN

WJEC Eduqas Art and Design (Fine Art)

WHY STUDY ART and DESIGN?

This qualification is structured to: provide an intensive course designed to equip students with skills and concepts required to embark on a personal creative journey; explore and develop a range of techniques and processes through the experimental and investigatory use of a wide variety of materials; widen students' visual and intellectual awareness of artists, designers, and the world around them through gallery visits and contextual referencing; gain a greater focus of ideas, techniques and use of specific materials thus further developing skills and individual style; to continue to enhance critical and analytical skills through continuous review and evaluation of progress.

THE PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Over the course of the programme, students will engage in integrated critical, practical and theoretical study in art and design. This will involve: greater specialisation in media and processes; extended development of particular themes, ideas or issues; further theoretical research and increased requirement to demonstrate understanding through integrated practical and written forms, and other means of communication; how ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts; how images and artefacts relate to the time and place in which they were made and to their social and cultural contexts; continuity and change in different genres, styles and traditions; a working vocabulary and specialist terminology; recording experiences and observations, in a variety of ways using drawing or other appropriate visual forms; undertaking research; and gathering, selecting and organising visual and other appropriate information; exploring relevant resources; analysing, discussing and evaluating images, objects and artefacts; and making and recording independent judgements; using knowledge and understanding of the work of others to develop and extend thinking and the informing of their own work; generating and exploring potential lines of enquiry using appropriate media and techniques; applying knowledge and understanding in making images and artefacts; reviewing and modifying work; and planning and developing ideas in the light of their own and others' evaluations; organising, selecting and communicating ideas, solutions and responses, and presenting them in a range of visual, tactile and/or sensory forms.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

It is generally expected that the traditional route onto Higher Education degree courses in Art and Design related themes would involve a Foundation Course in Art and Design. Here students will experience a range of creative opportunities before specialising in their chosen field of study. This would then be the area that they would study further at degree level. However, it is possible for a high – achieving, technically proficient student to successfully gain a place on a specific art – based degree.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

In the first year of the course I built a strong foundation of skills and knowledge through experimentation with different media and exploration of diverse subjects. In doing so I have gained a stronger understanding and appreciation for different artistic styles other than my own. The independent nature of the A2 course facilitates everyone's needs; it allows me to project and develop my own personal style and engage in topics that interest me as an individual. The possibilities are endless due to the support of the teachers and the flexibility of the course itself.

- Lucy Jones, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students will have achieved at least a grade 5 in Art at GCSE level as well as already possessing a high standard of technical ability. Dedication, a prolific work ethic and a proven record of efficient deadline – meeting are presumed if students are to successfully adapt to the intense structure and content of the course.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION *please contact Mr S Wadwell swa@sandon.essex.sch.uk*

BIOLOGY

AQA 7402

WHY STUDY BIOLOGY?

In A Level biology you will study the living world in greater depth. You will investigate the chemicals and genes which code for all living things, the cells which make up our bodies, the fundamentals of respiration and photosynthesis, oxygen transport and the cutting edge technology of genetic engineering. If you are interested in how life works and the majesty of the natural world, biology is the subject which can give you a greater understanding of how we stay alive.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms and exchange of substances with their environment.
- Genetic information, variation, and relationships between organisms
- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Responses to changes in internal and external environment
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students who have taken biology have gone on to study for degrees in many different science subjects, medicine & medical science, engineering, mathematics, economics and law to name just a few. The analytical and statistical skills alongside the ability to draw logical conclusions from evidence are valuable in many careers. As well as biological research, medical and life sciences, biology can lead onto a wide range of other professions in both the private sector and public services.

STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES

"By studying A Level biology you discover how complex and utterly fascinating life is! The vastness of the course means you will always learn something new and interesting every lesson."
- Sean Jones, former student

"Studying this subject at A Level provides you with an insight in to how living components function, from DNA to photosynthesis."
- Lucy Jessup, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have studied either: (i.) Trilogy Science GCSEs, in which case they must have achieved grade 5-5 (plus a minimum of grade 5 in GCSE mathematics); or (ii.) Separate Sciences GCSEs, in which case they must have achieved at least a grade 5 in GCSE biology, plus a grade 5 in one other science and a grade 5 in GCSE mathematics. Grade 4 or higher is also required in GCSE English.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION *please contact Mr J Kenning*
jke@sandon.essex.sch.uk

BUSINESS

Edexcel 9BSO

WHY STUDY BUSINESS?

This qualification is designed to enable students to: develop an enthusiasm for studying business; gain an holistic understanding of business in a range of contexts; develop a critical understanding of organisations and their ability to meet society's needs and wants; understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives; generate enterprising and creative approaches to business opportunities, problems and issues; be aware of the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities faced by organisations and individuals; acquire a range of relevant business and generic skills, including decision making, problem solving, the challenging of assumptions and critical analysis; apply numerical skills in a range of business contexts.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Theme 1: Marketing and people

- meeting customer needs
- marketing mix and strategy
- managing people
- entrepreneurs and leaders

Theme 2: Managing business activities

- raising finance
- financial planning
- managing finance
- resource management
- external influences

Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy

- business objectives and strategy
- business growth
- decision making techniques
- influences on business decisions
- assessing competitiveness
- Managing change

Theme 4: Global business

- globalisation
- global markets and business expansion
- global marketing
- global industries and companies

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students apply their knowledge and understanding to real-life business contexts, with updated content to reflect the issues impacting on modern businesses, using real business case studies. They will develop transferable skills that support higher education study and the transition to employment, including numeracy, communication, an understanding of the business environment and commercial awareness.

Students can progress from this qualification to higher education courses such as business management, business administration, accountancy and finance, human resource management, marketing, retail management, tourism management and international business. Career opportunities include banking, sales, product and general management to working in public sector organisations or charities.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"Business studies has given me the opportunity to understand and access important knowledge inside the world of business, something which will come of great use in years to come!"
- Charlie Seagrave, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE business studies grade 5, if studied, plus grade 5 or higher in GCSE English and mathematics.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Mrs R Brittain
rbr@sandon.essex.sch.uk

BUSINESS BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

PEARSON 601/7159/5 (single award)

WHY STUDY BTEC BUSINESS?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved and consulted in order to confirm that the content is also appropriate for and consistent with current practice for students planning to enter employment directly in the business sector. The qualification gives students the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin the business sector to prepare them for further study or training at a higher level.

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

The programme of study includes the opportunity for students to choose one unit from a selection of options, to supplement the mandatory units that reflect the key topics within business.

- Everyone taking this qualification will study three mandatory units. They are :
- Developing a Marketing Campaign
- Personal and Business Finance
- Exploring the Business Environment

Plus one optional unit chosen from a range of topics including human resources, accounting, marketing and law.

In addition to the business sector specific content, the requirements of the qualification mean the student develops the transferable and higher order skills that are highly regarded by HE and employers.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers on its own as meeting admission requirements to many relevant business courses, for example:

FdA Marketing with Events Management

FdA Business

Fda Business, Communications and Management

HND Business and Management.

When studied with other qualifications within the study programme, students can progress into higher education on combined courses, for example:

BA (Hons) in Business with French (or other languages), if taken with A Level French

BSc in Business and Computer Science, if taken with Computing/IT BTEC Extended Certificate or A Level

BSc in Business and Economics, if taken with A Level Economics or Maths

BA in Accounting with Finance, if taken with A Level Maths.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"It is a course that has a large workload but is perfect for those not comfortable with just exam assessment, with some interesting business knowledge you'll pick up on the way."

- Joe Pettit, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students should have achieved a grade 4 or higher in GCSE English and grade 4 or higher in GCSE mathematics. Those that have studied GCSE Business Studies are expected to have achieved grade 4 or above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Mrs R Brittain
rbr@sandon.essex.sch.uk

CHEMISTRY

AQA 7402

WHY STUDY CHEMISTRY?

If you like logical problems, and thinking hard - really using your brain - then chemistry is for you. If you want to know what makes up the world around you, you are a natural chemist. It is like seeing with new eyes all that is before you, within your food, on product labels, in cosmetics, in fuels, in the atmosphere, in the chemistry of life, and in the chemistry of the newest products.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Physical chemistry

- Atomic structure
- Kinetics
- Rate equations
- Amount of substance
- Chemical equilibria and Le Chatelier's principle
- Equilibrium constant K_c for homogeneous systems
- Bonding
- Oxidation, reduction and redox equations
- Electrode potentials and electrochemical cells
- Energetics
- Thermodynamics
- Acids and bases

Inorganic chemistry

- Periodicity
- Group 2, the alkaline earth metals
- Group 7(17), the halogens
- Properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides
- Transition metals
- Reactions of ions in aqueous solution

Organic chemistry

- Introduction to organic chemistry
- Alkanes
- Halogenoalkanes
- Alkenes
- Alcohols
- Organic analysis
- Optical isomerism
- Aldehydes and ketones
- Carboxylic acids and derivatives
- Aromatic chemistry
- Amines
- Polymers
- Amino acids, proteins and DNA
- Organic synthesis
- Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy
- Chromatography

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Chemistry students have gone on to study for degrees in many subjects, including the sciences, medicine, nursing and engineering.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"In chemistry you'll explore the intriguing world of atoms and reactions. It's an incredibly rewarding and interesting course!"

- Sean Jones, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have studied either: (i.) Trilogy Science GCSEs, in which case they must have achieved grade 5-5 (plus a minimum of grade 5 in GCSE mathematics); or (ii.) Separate Sciences GCSEs, in which case they must have achieved at least a grade 5 in GCSE chemistry, plus a grade 5 in one other science and a grade 5 in GCSE mathematics. Grade 4 or higher is also required in GCSE English.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Mrs A Harman aha@sandon.essex.sch.uk

COMPUTER SCIENCE

AQA 7517

WHY STUDY COMPUTER SCIENCE?

The course is not about learning to use tools or just training in a programming language. Instead the emphasis is on computational thinking. Computational thinking is a kind of reasoning used by both humans and machines. Thinking computationally is an important life skill.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

- Fundamentals of programming
- Fundamentals of data structures
- Fundamentals of algorithms
- Theory of computation
- Fundamentals of data representation
- Fundamentals of computer systems
- Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture
- Consequences of uses of computing
- Fundamentals of communication and networking
- Fundamentals of databases
- Big Data
- Fundamentals of functional programming
- Systematic approach to problem solving
- Non-exam assessment - the computing practical project

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This specification has been designed for students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where knowledge of computing would be beneficial. Courses studied can be computer science, medicine, law, business, politics or any type of science.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"It's a really good way of being creative with your intellect. The course has allowed me to explore programming in Python and extend my skill set. I have also learnt about how the computer works in real life scenarios."

- former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students should achieve a Grade 5 in GCSE computing, if studied. At least a grade 5 in GCSE mathematics is required to meet the demands of the computing algorithms studied. You must be committed to doing a lot of work in your own time to learn the skills required to be a competent programmer. Grade 4 or higher is also required in GCSE English.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION *please contact Mrs R Brittain*
rbr@sandon.essex.sch.uk

DESIGN and TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN (3D)

OCR H460

This creative and thought-provoking qualification will give students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers - especially those in the creative industries.

You will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put your learning in to practice by producing products of your choice. You will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education institutions and employers.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

CONTENT OVERVIEW	ASSESSMENT
<p>This paper is set out through four sets of questions that predominantly covers technical principles. Learners will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Analyse existing productsDemonstrate applied mathematical skillsDemonstrate their technical knowledge of materials, product functionality, manufacturing processes and techniques	<p>Principles of ... Written Paper 26.7% of total A Level</p>
<p>This component has a series of longer answer questions that require learners to demonstrate their problem solving and critical evaluation skills. Learners will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Apply their knowledge, understanding and skills of designing and manufacturing prototypes and productsDemonstrate their higher thinking skills to solve problems and evaluate situations and suitability of design solutions	<p>Problem solving Written Paper 23.3% of total A Level</p>
<p>The 'Iterative Design Project' requires learners to undertake a substantial design, make and evaluate project centred on the iterative process of explore, create and evaluate.</p> <p>Learners identify a design opportunity or a design problem from a context of their own choice and create a portfolio of evidence in real time through the project to demonstrate their competence.</p>	<p>Iterative Design NEA (coursework) 50% of total A Level</p>

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Studying product design at A Level can contribute to entry into creative industries through further and higher education, or through modern apprenticeships with a wide variety of employers in the manufacturing, engineering and design sectors.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"Studying Design and Technology has allowed me to gain valuable knowledge into how products are professionally made and how to do so myself. The teachers have been endlessly supportive in helping me and the rest of my class with this, making the overall experience very enjoyable. I have enjoyed studying Design and Technology as it has allowed me to be creative in what I design and I have also been given the freedom to express my ideas. Design and Technology as a whole is a fun subject to take."

- Matt Byrne, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students wishing to pursue this course need to have demonstrated adequate capability (grade 5 or above) in Design and Technology and/or other appropriate disciplines at GCSE level. Grade 4 or higher is also required in GCSE English and mathematics.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Mrs Angela Williams
awm@sandon.essex.sch.uk or Mr G White gwh@sandon.essex.sch.uk

DRAMA and THEATRE

EDEXCEL 9DR0

WHY STUDY DRAMA and THEATRE?

This is a new and exciting course which will appeal to those with a love of theatre, acting, directing, designing and the study of theatre history. Researching, exploring a variety of play texts, creating plays and improving your ability to interpret solo/duologue and ensemble scripts are key to your success. Watching professional plays at the theatre and learning to critically analyse performance and production elements are also integral elements to the course.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Devising (40%)

- Group creates an original performance from an extract of play text.
- Portfolio - an analysis of the process of creating and performing each piece.

Text in Performance (20%)

- A group performance of a key extract from a play text.
- A monologue or duologue performance from a different play text.

Theatre Makers in Practice (40% written exam)

- Question A: Live theatre evaluation
- Question B: Page to stage questions about a play studied in class.
- Question C: Interpretation of text – your production concept for a play studied in class compared to its original performance conditions.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

University to study drama, performing arts, theatre, film, media, English literature or any arts or humanities degree; Drama School e.g., RADA, Central School of Speech & Drama, Bristol Old Vic; higher apprenticeship e.g., at BAFTA or the BBC; any career valuing excellent communication skills, leadership, team work, analysis, creativity, design and research.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"Drama has been both interesting and enjoyable and has improved my confidence massively. The creativity of performance and skills of essay writing have been a great mix. I hope to study it at University with English Literature."

- Ellie Blake former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You will need to have achieved a grade 5 or above if you have studied Drama at GCSE, although it is not a requirement to have studied Drama before, or to be a good actor! Students are also required to have achieved a grade 5 or above in GCSE English as there is an important written element to the course. It is also crucial that students are committed and self-motivated and able to attend rehearsals after school hours occasionally. Grade 4 or higher is also required in GCSE mathematics.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Mrs H Davis hda@sandon.essex.sch.uk or Mr G Danko gda@sandon.essex.sch.uk

ECONOMICS

EDEXCEL 9EBO

WHY STUDY ECONOMICS?

The aims and objectives of the specifications are to enable students to: develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, economics; appreciate the contribution of economics to the understanding of the wider economic and social environment; develop an understanding of a range of concepts and an ability to use those concepts in a variety of different contexts; use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of economics and develop an ability to think as an economist; understand that economic behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives; develop analytical and quantitative skills, together with qualities and attitudes that will equip them for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult and working life.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Theme 1: Markets, consumers and firms

- Scarcity, choice and potential conflicts
- Enterprise, business and the economy
- Introducing the market
- The role of credit in the economy
- Market failures and government intervention
- Revenue, costs, profits and cash

Theme 2: The wider economic environment

- Business growth and competitive advantage
- Firms, consumers, elasticities of demand
- Productive efficiency
- Life in a global economy
- The economic cycle
- Introduction to macroeconomic policy

Theme 3: The global economy

- Globalisation
- Economic factors in business expansion
- Impact of globalisation on global companies
- Impact of globalisation on local and national economies
- Global labour markets
- Inequality and redistribution

Theme 4: Making markets work

- Competition and market power
- Market power and market failure
- Market failure across the economy
- Macroeconomic policies and impact

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students will develop transferable skills that support study in a wide range of subjects at university and the transition to employment, including quantitative and analytical analysis, forming and testing hypotheses, and commercial awareness. The development and application of quantitative skills prepare students for study of economics and related courses at university. Skills developed on the course will support a wide range of careers ranging from finance, banking, insurance, accountancy, management and consultancy, to becoming professional economists.

STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES

Economics is a current and diverse subject, which has widened my knowledge of the financial world we live in. I like it because it has given me a greater understanding of the world and daily happenings of the financial sector, which we all take for granted.

- Megan Theobald, former student

"I would 100% recommend Economics to any prospective A Level students because it is certainly interesting and gives an insight into the world around us.

- Matt Player, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students must achieve grade 5 or higher in mathematics and English at GCSE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Mrs R Brittain rbr@sandon.essex.sch.uk

ENGLISH LANGUAGE and LITERATURE

AQA 7707

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE and LITERATURE?

The aim of this course is to provide you with an integrated understanding of both language and literature texts in a practical, critical and analytic manner. You will have the opportunities to:

- Lead in activities through presentations, research and critical analysis
- Talk and express personal opinions, about HOW texts are created.
- Develop your understanding of the structures which writers use in their writing.
- Respond to a variety of texts using literary and linguistic terminology
- Gain an understanding of how language works in both the written and spoken word.
- Develop your ability to write creatively as well as analytically.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Views and Voices

- Imagined Worlds: closed book examination
- Poetic Voices: closed book examination.

People and Places

- Anthology about Paris: closed book examination
- Re-creative writing with critical commentary

Telling Stories

- Anthology about Paris: closed book examination
- Two prose from set texts: open book examination
- Poetry set text: open book examination

Exploring conflict

- Writing about society: open book examination
- Dramatic encounters: open book examination
- Personal investigation: non examination assessment (2500-3000 word personal investigation in literary and non-literary discourse)

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The syllabus provides a good basis for the study of English, linguistics and foreign languages. English Language and Literature is an excellent preparation for any university course and is regarded highly amongst all universities. Students not intending to go to university have an excellent basis for entry into fields such as management or personnel work.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"I recommend this course because it builds crucial core and academic skills that can be used throughout all subjects, and is an excellent preparation for the future."

- Nathan Andrews, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have achieved grade 5 or higher in GCSE English literature AND English language. Grade 4 or higher is also required in GCSE mathematics.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Ms Jackie Henderson
jhe@sandon.essex.sch.uk

ENGLISH LITERATURE

AQA 7712

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE?

Students will have the opportunity to:

- talk, and express personal opinions, about HOW literature reflects society;
- read widely and independently from a range of modern and traditional texts;
- learn through supported lessons how to articulate and control lines of argument;
- develop the ability to write creatively as well as analytically;
- challenge conceptions independently to consider opposing viewpoints.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Love through the ages

Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play.

- Shakespeare: closed book examination
- unseen Poetry: closed book examination
- comparing Texts: open book examination

Texts in shared Contexts

Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the present day. Study of three texts: on prose, one drama and one poetry.

Independent critical study

Texts across Time: non exam assessment. 2500 word extended essay

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Studying English literature will help develop the skills and ability to tackle the longer more disciplined writing many university courses demand, including law and history. English literature is an excellent preparation for any university course and is regarded highly amongst all universities, including Russell group universities. Students not intending to go to university have an excellent basis for entry into fields such as journalism, management or personnel work.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

“Studying this course offers a great opportunity to explore a rich and vast literary heritage. It prepares students well for all academic courses at university.”

- Louis Dearmer, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have achieved grade 5 or higher in GCSE English literature AND English language. A knowledge and understanding of social history, both current events and a strong historical perspective, is **vital**. Students **MUST** be prepared for both this and the **very wide independent reading** which is necessary for this course. Grade 4 or higher is also required in GCSE mathematics.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Ms Jackie Henderson

jhe@sandon.essex.sch.uk

FILM STUDIES

WJEC Eduqas A670QS

WHY STUDY FILM STUDY?

Film is one of the main cultural innovations of the 20th century and a major art form of the last hundred years. Those who study it characteristically bring with them a high degree of enthusiasm and excitement for what is a powerful and culturally significant medium. Film Studies offers the opportunity to investigate how film works as a medium of representation and as an aesthetic medium. Production work is a crucial part of this specification and is integral to learners' study of film. The subject offers the opportunity to explore a range of important ideas and emotions, reflect on art and technology and connect theory and creative practice in ways which are designed to provide an absorbing and motivating experience. 11 films, from the areas below, are studied in total.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Component 1:

Varieties of Film and Filmmaking

- Hollywood 1930 – 1990
- American Film since 2005
- British Film since 1995

Component 2:

Global Filmmaking Perspectives

- Global Film
- Documentary Film
- Film Movements – Silent cinema
- Film Movements – Experimental film

Component 3: Production

Produce a creative short film of between 4 and 5 minutes in length with a written evaluation. (Students must study at least 3 short films from the exam board prescribed list to inform their production). Films are edited on Apple computers using Final Cut Pro X editing software.

Components 1 and 2 are assessed by separate examinations at the end of the second year of study. Each examination is worth 35% of the total A Level marks.

Component 3 is started in the first year of study and finished in the second year. Component 3 accounts for 30% of the overall A Level marks.

Students are encouraged to experiment with photography initially as a way in to film making. Small production tasks are completed throughout the first year to develop skills, leading on to basic editing software and then advanced software. Electronic blogs are encouraged to centralise notes and ideas that inform student production work.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This is the second year of this course. Past Media Studies students, though, have enrolled on a range of courses both media related and non-related. Common choices have included video or film production, business and marketing, media production and film and television studies courses and general media studies courses. I am expecting Film Studies students to follow similar courses at a higher level.

Students are also encouraged to apply for the Film Academy programme, sponsored by the British Film Institute, which enables students to receive professional tuition in film making and related disciplines. After the programme, successful applicants are given opportunities over a number of years with a view to encouraging students at some point to enter the British film industry'

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

If you have studied GCSE Film Studies, then you are expected to have achieved grade 5 or above. Students will be required to have grade 5 or above in English GCSE and a grade 4 or higher in mathematics GCSE. You do not need to have studied Film Studies at GCSE level.

CURRENT STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

'Film Studies is challenging, but very rewarding. You get to research great films and to dissect their meaning. This course will change how you see films.' -Joseph Fox, Year 13

'Film Studies offers an enthusiastic in-depth view of the actual meaning of a film. What you can implicitly see in a scene will always hide a hidden meaning, which is always exciting to explore.'

-Sophie Ellis, Year 13

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION *please contact Mr A Morris amo@sandon.essex.sch.uk*

FRENCH

EDEXCEL 9FR0

WHY STUDY FRENCH?

This course will appeal to students who: are good at languages; are interested in communication; enjoy learning about other cultures and ways of life; are interested in the business world, in travel or tourism.

The course helps students build on skills learned at GCSE. They gain an insight into another culture and society, communicate facts and ideas in both speech and writing and learn to understand a huge variety of written and spoken sources. It also favours students' applications to the top universities.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

- Listening, reading and translation (40%)
- Writing (30%)
- Speaking (30%)

Topic areas:

- Immigration
- The French National Front
- France in WW2
- French society
- Music
- Festivals and traditions
- Family
- Media
- Education and work
- Politics

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This course can lead onto higher education in French, Languages or more general higher education courses. Students could combine French at university with other subjects such as Business Management Law, Business Studies, Accounting, Journalism, Media Studies and many other subjects. With further training, they could go into a job related to French or Languages such as teacher, translator, or they may wish to use their French to study or work over in France. An ability to speak French and English is an advantage on the international job market. As the world's fifth biggest economy and number-three destination for foreign investment, France is a key economic partner.

STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES

'Studying French has been so much fun; not only has it broadened my horizons and introduced me to areas of study I never would have considered but it's also left me with many good memories'
- Harriet Gray, former student

'I took A Level French because it is a brilliant opportunity to study the language and culture of another country. Being able to speak another language is a skill that lots of employers look for and it's a very good subject to take if you're looking to go to a good university!'
- Louis Dearmer, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You will be expected to have achieved grade 5 in GCSE French and to have sufficient linguistic ability to meet the demands of the course. Grade 4 or higher is also required in mathematics and English at GCSE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Mrs V Allanson-Delcroix
vad@sandon.essex.sch.uk

GEOGRAPHY

AQA - 7037

WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

Geography gives you an insight into the modern world. It gives you an understanding of our environment and some of the great global issues of our time. It bridges the Arts and the Sciences so appeals to a wide range of students. There is an opportunity to go on a residential field trip in which you are able to apply knowledge and skills to real life investigations.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Physical Geography

- water and carbon cycles
- coastal systems and landscapes
- hazards

Human Geography

- global systems and governance
- changing places
- population and the environment

Geographical Fieldwork Investigation and Skills

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Geography is regarded as an academic A Level when considering university and career choices. There are both BA and BSc courses in Geography, depending on a student's interest. It is possible to combine Geography with a range of Arts and Science disciplines. In relation to careers, the subject provides a range of key skills, such as communication, working with others and problem solving, which makes Geography a favoured subject with employers.

STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES

"Geography for me is not just a subject but an intricate study of the physical and human world. I personally really enjoy learning about geography because I love to travel and learn more about our planet" - Natasha Walker, Year 13

"Geography is a very current subject, for example you learn about natural disasters as they happen, not a few months later. No other subject does this." - Dan Smith, Year 13

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students must usually have achieved a grade 5 or above in GCSE geography in order to provide the required foundation for advanced studies. Grade 4 or higher is also required in mathematics and English at GCSE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Mr J Briggs jbr@sandon.essex.sch.uk

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate
PEARSON 601/7197/2 (single award)

WHY STUDY BTEC HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved and consulted in order to confirm that the content is also appropriate for and consistent with current practice for students planning to enter employment directly in the health and social care sector. The qualification gives students the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin the health and social care sector to prepare them for further study or training at a higher level. This course provides a broad basis of study for the health and social care sector. This qualification is designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate Level 3 qualifications.

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

The programme of study includes the opportunity for students to choose one unit from a selection of options, to supplement the mandatory units that reflect the key topics within health and social care. Everyone taking this qualification will study three mandatory units. They are:

- Human lifespan development – external examination unit
- Working in health and social care – external examination unit
- Meeting individual care and support needs – internal assessment unit

Plus, one internal assessment unit which is chosen from a range of topics including sociological perspectives, psychological perspectives, supporting individuals with additional needs, and physiological disorders and their care.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This course, if studied alongside other appropriate Level 3 qualifications, can support students to progress onto courses such as teaching, nursing, midwifery and paramedic science. Biology A Level is often a good complement to this course for students wishing to pursue a career as a health professional.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

““Health and Social Care gives you many life skills for everyday life.”

- Molly Harris, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students should have achieved a grade 4 or higher in GCSE English and grade 4 or higher in GCSE mathematics. Those that have studied Health and Social Care in Key Stage 4 are expected to have achieved at least grade 5, or equivalent.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, *please contact Miss Underwood*
NUN@sandon.essex.sch.uk

HISTORY

EDEXCEL 8H10 and 9H10

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

History is an engaging, rewarding and exciting journey into the past. You will develop a wide range of skills from independent research, source analysis, constructing an argument and analysing historians' controversial viewpoints. It is a highly respected qualification that any university or work place will appreciate. If a student enjoys history at GCSE then this is an obvious path to pursue.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Breadth study with interpretations (30%)

Taught by Miss Coleman

- Route F: In search of the American Dream, the USA 1917-96.
- Topics: America entering WW1; the Roaring Twenties; Wall Street Crash; the quest for Civil Rights (Martin Luther King); the Cold War; WW2; role of the Presidents (FDR, JFK, Nixon and Reagan); changes in society (role of sportsmen, movie stars, music, celebrity)

Depth Study (20%)

Taught by Mr Welsh

- Route F: South Africa; 1948-94. From Apartheid State to Rainbow Nation.
- A study in depth of South Africa during its transition from white minority rule to the free elections of 1994, a long, and at times, dramatic process in which South Africa changed from an apartheid state into a multi-racial democracy. The role of Nelson Mandela and the ANC is explored as well as life under an apartheid regime.

The British experience of warfare 1790-1918 30%.

Taught by Mrs Gower

This British course will give you a huge overview of British conflicts from fighting Napoleon in the French Wars, to the horrors of the Crimean War, the change in tactics in the Boer conflict to the Total War of the First World War. Students will learn about changes in recruitment, technology, leadership and tactics and their impact on British warfare. We will also focus on changing attitudes of the public to the conduct of war.

Coursework (20%) will be conducted at the end of Year 12 and will be completed by March of Year 13. The coursework question is a controversy of the student's choice. It is up to 4,000 words. Students are expected to independently source 3 historians and write about the historian's view. Coursework is internally assessed and moderated by the exam board.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

History opens doors to teaching, civil service, law, research careers, journalism, Heritage management and librarian careers. History is highly regarded amongst all universities, including Russell Group universities.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

A level History has been really interesting and I have enjoyed learning about different areas of world history which was unbeknown to me before. It has been challenging, and has forced me to work on and improve my essay writing and analytical skills but ultimately has been very rewarding and I have loved doing it.

Ellie Blake, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students must usually have achieved a grade 5 or above in GCSE history. Grade 5 or higher is required in GCSE English and grade 4 or higher in GCSE mathematics.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Mrs C Gower
cgo@sandon.essex.sch.uk

ICT BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Information Technology, 360G

WHY STUDY ICT?

In today's world, where ICT is constantly changing, individuals will increasingly need technological and information literacy skills that include the ability to gather, process and manipulate data. These skills are now as essential as the traditional skills of numeracy and literacy. The impact of ICT on society is enormous and as the percentage of businesses and households connected to communication networks such as the internet grows, so does the need for individuals who can master and manipulate these new technologies. As well as the rapid development of new technologies that gather, organise and share information, familiar technologies like television, telephone and computers are evolving and being expanded by digitised information, causing a convergence of technologies. BTEC ICT encourages you to become a discerning user of ICT. It allows you to develop a broad range of ICT skills, knowledge and understanding. This could form a basis for progression into further learning, including progression towards a university degree and/or employment. The course covers a wide range of practical skills that employers are increasingly requesting when recruiting staff. You will leave this course with solid ICT skills that will place you in a strong position to progress to degree level study and/ or gain employment in the IT industry.

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems. Written 2 hour examination set and marked by the exam board, out of a total of 90 marks.

Unit 2: You will study the design, creation, testing and evaluation of a relational database system to manage information. A task set and marked by the exam board and completed under supervised conditions. The supervised assessment period is ten hours arranged over a number of sessions in a 1 week assessment period timetabled by the exam board. Completed using a computer and submitted electronically, this is out of a total of 66 marks.

Unit 3: You will explore how businesses use social media to promote their products and services. Learners also implement social media activities in a business to meet requirements.

Unit 6: You will investigate website development principles. They will design and develop a website using scripting languages. This qualification is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information, alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

ICT Degrees, Multimedia Degrees, Software design /database design courses. CISCO Microsoft certified courses. Careers in software design, database management and IT support

A CURRENT STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE

"This course is a real challenge. We are learning skills that will help us in all our subjects and at university."

- Year 12 student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You must have achieved at least a grade 5 in ICT GCSE, or equivalent. Grade 4 or higher is also required in mathematics and English at GCSE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION *please contact Mrs R Brittain*
rbr@sandon.essex.sch.uk

LAW

OCR H415

WHY STUDY LAW?

A Level law gives many transferable skills including problem solving, applying theory to real situations, communication skills, research and using evidence to reach logical, objective conclusions. Success in Law demonstrates academic acumen and higher level thinking skills. In addition, legal knowledge is interesting and relevant to daily life. Students find that knowing about civil and criminal law and the legal process gives them a deeper understanding of current affairs and encourages them to find out more about important legal issues.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Likely content will include:

- **Legal system:** civil dispute resolution, criminal courts and legal personnel, legal funding.
- **Criminal law:** elements, fatal offences, non-fatal offences, property offences, defences, attempts.
- **Law making:** Sources of law including legislation and precedent.
- **Tort law:** negligence, occupiers' liability, trespass, vicarious liability, defences, remedies.
- **Further law:** nature of law, morality, justice, society.
- **Contract law:** formation and vitiating factors, essential elements, terms and conditions, exclusion clauses, remedies.
- **Nature of law:** the role it plays in society, civil v criminal law, law and morality and the rule of law.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Progression in Further Education could include a Legal Secretarial or CILEX course which can lead to a career as a Legal Executive. In Higher Education, Law can be studied as a degree on its own or as a joint honours degree. The legal knowledge gained is useful in many future careers such as banking, retail, insurance, policing, criminal justice and, of course, work in the legal professions as a solicitor or barrister. Students always find it an interesting and useful option choice for their future plans.

STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES

'Law is very interesting and is a great A Level to have on applications for jobs, apprenticeships and university. The course is challenging but rewarding'

- Lauren Harvey & Natasha Wheeler, former students

'I've found Law a lot more interesting and I've enjoyed it a lot more than I thought I would. It is relevant to everything!'

- Megan Brown, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Good English skills and logical thinking are required and students must be prepared to research cases and write detailed essays. Students will be required to have grade 5 or above in GCSE English and a grade 4 or higher in GCSE mathematics.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION *please contact Mrs W Reading*
wre@sandon.essex.sch.uk

MATHEMATICS

EDEXCEL 9MA0

WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS?

Mathematics is a challenging but rewarding subject, building on the foundations students have in place from GCSE. For this reason, students ideally need to have achieved GCSE Mathematics grade 7, 8 or 9. A Level Mathematics extends many of the topics previously studied at GCSE, and introduces students to new areas of mathematics, such as calculus and mechanics. Other subjects that work well alongside A Level Mathematics include Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Economics, Computing, Geography and other Social Sciences.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Component 1

proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, vectors

Component 2

proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry, sequences and series, trigonometry, differentiation, integration, numerical methods

Component 3

statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, hypothesis testing, quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws, moments

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students with an A Level in Mathematics can progress to degrees such as Mathematics and Engineering, as well as the Sciences, Social Sciences (e.g., Economics) or Computing. Very good careers beckon A Level mathematicians - e.g., Actuaries, Accountants.

STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES

"We have found it a really interesting subject, stretching us beyond GCSE. It's very satisfying and rewarding when you get a challenging question right!"

– Lucy, Tom and Alex , former students

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

It is very difficult to succeed at A Level Mathematics without a strong grasp of higher level GCSE mathematics, particularly algebra. Therefore, only students gaining grade 7, 8 or 9 at GCSE will be given automatic entry onto the course. Students gaining grade 6 may be considered on an individual basis provided they have studied the full higher tier GCSE mathematics course, have successfully completed the summer holiday bridging pack, and have had a conversation with either Miss Flawn or Mrs Forrester before beginning the course. Students will also be required to have grade 4 or above in GCSE English.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Miss C Flawn cfl@sandon.essex.sch.uk or Mrs C Forrester cfo@sandon.essex.sch.uk

MUSIC

WJEC Eduqas: Option A (Performance) A660PA; Option B (Composition) A660PB

WHY STUDY MUSIC?

Do you... love playing an instrument and performing? Like exploring and creating new music? Enjoy listening to music from a range of styles? Wonder about how and why music has developed the way it has? If yes, then the A Level Music course is for you! Where else can you play music and get coursework credit for it, create your own music, listen to music in class, and learn about different genres of music? This exciting course produces well-rounded musicians with knowledge of a full range of musical genres and styles

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Component 1: Performing

Option A: Performing (35%) A performance consisting of a minimum of three pieces (10-12 minutes). One performance must be as a soloist, the other pieces may be either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble.

Option B: Performing (25%) A performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces with one as a soloist, and the other either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble (6-8 minutes).

Component 2: Composing

Option A: Composing (25%, 4-6 minutes). Two compositions, one in response to a choice of four briefs set by WJEC. The second is a free composition.

Option B: Performing (25%) A performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces with one as a soloist, and the other either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble (6-8 minutes)

Component 3: Appraising. Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes. 40% of qualification

Study of a combination of set works and unprepared extracts examining the Western Classical Tradition, Rock and Pop/Musical Theatre/Jazz, and music in the Twentieth/Twenty First Century. This component includes a listening examination assessing the following skills:

1. Set work analysis with a score;
2. Extended responses on wider context;
3. Unprepared extracts of music with and without a score;
4. Comparison questions.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This course provides an excellent basis for lifelong learning and for a range of higher education courses, including performance, composition, musicology, ethnomusicology, sound engineering, conducting, popular music and jazz, and music education. The list is endless - see the Music department for a full range.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"Music has always being a passion of mine, so choosing A Level music really appealed to me. There are countless opportunities to help broaden and perfect your performing skills both as a soloist and as part of an ensemble, as well as allowing you to pursue your interests in investigating all the different things that make up a piece of music through both analysis and composition. If you're passionate about music, I fully, fully advise you to do it!"
- Natasha Lee, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have achieved: grade 5 or higher in GCSE Music and Grade 4 or higher in GCSE English and GCSE mathematics; grade 4 standard on one instrument or voice; sound knowledge of music theory (at least grade 3 standard). Students receive a **free weekly half an hour** instrumental / singing lesson arranged during Independent Study Periods. They will also be expected to participate in extra-curricular music groups to develop ensemble skills and general musicianship.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Miss S Johnson sjo@sandon.essex.sch.uk

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

AQA 7582

WHY STUDY PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

This subject is ideal for students who are interested in a career in physical education or in the leisure industry. The opportunities are vast. The subject can be pursued at degree level in a wide range of courses (see below). Sport and Physical Education is an ideal accompaniment to science subjects, particularly for a Sports Science degree. It is equally useful as one of a combination of subjects for any of the other sports degrees.

THE LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Students will be assessed within two two hour exams that cover factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport and factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport. Examination topics include; applied physiology, skill acquisition and sports psychology and sport and society and technology in sport. Students will also be assessed practically as a performer in the full sided version of one activity. This assessment must take place within a fully competitive context. Within this element students will also need to provide written and or verbal analysis of performance. The balance of theory to practical within the A Level programme of study is 70% theory and 30% practical.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

There are endless opportunities. Recent students have gone on to study at degree level in: Sport and Exercise Science; Sports Psychology and Coaching Sciences; Football Business and Marketing and Sports Coaching; and Physical Education.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"I really enjoy A Level PE because it is so varied. The two areas I like most are the psychology component and practical sport. The practical component allows me to be assessed in my best sport of football. It helps that I took GCSE PE in year 11."

- Amy Day, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students are usually required to achieve a 5 grade or above in GCSE PE. Students must also achieve grade 4 or higher in English, mathematics and science at GCSE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Mr R Sutton rsu@sandon.essex.sch.uk

PHYSICS

AQA 7408

WHY STUDY PHYSICS?

From the birth and death of stars to the fleeting interactions of tiny particles, Physics studies how our world works. To do this it uses ideas ranging from force and energy, easily understood and every-day, to quarks and quantum mechanics, rather more abstract and fanciful! It is a fascinating subject, driven by the desire to find out how and why matter behaves the way it does.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and materials
- Electricity
- Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Fields and their consequences
- Nuclear physics
- Astrophysics

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Physics is not only interesting, it is also highly marketable. With an A Level in Physics you will have proved that you possess a wide range of key skills, exactly what employers and universities are looking for today. Transferable skills from the use of IT in data-logging experiments (downloading data from sensors to spreadsheets); to the numerical skills that are the bedrock of the subject, essential in problem-solving and in practical work; to skill in written expression needed to write explanations.

STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES

"Physics is a challenging subject, but finding the answer to hard questions is a great reward."

- Liam Draper, former student

"Physics is fun and interesting because it lets you learn about the universe around you".

- Nicole Vale, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have studied either: (i.) Trilogy Science GCSEs, in which case they must have achieved grade 5-5 (plus a minimum of grade 5 in GCSE mathematics); or (ii.) Separate Sciences GCSEs, in which case they must have achieved at least a grade 5 in GCSE physics, plus a grade 5 in one other science and a grade 5 in GCSE mathematics. Grade 4 or higher is also required in GCSE English.

NB: *Essential* Mathematics skills include algebra, geometry and trigonometry.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Mrs A Freeman
afr@sandon.essex.sch.uk

PSYCHOLOGY

OCR H567

WHY STUDY PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is for thinkers. It is a modern science that draws on the thinking and principles of philosophy, mathematics, science, humanities, and the arts. Psychologists share common interests, questions and skills with sociologists, lawyers, mathematicians, scientists, geographers, artists and historians. Psychology not only helps you to gain an insight into yourself and others, it can provide you with many transferable skills such as critical thinking, logical evaluation and statistical analysis. Psychologists apply scientific methodology to explain human behaviour. They formulate theories, test hypotheses through observation and experiment, and analyse their findings with statistical techniques that help them draw valid conclusions. If you are interested in studying scientific research that investigates why people behave the way they do, how the brain works, and whether science can be applied to helping people in the real world, then psychology A Level could be for you.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Areas of psychology and psychological themes through core studies

- the biological area - regions of the brain and brain plasticity
- the social area - responses to people in authority and responses to people in need
- the cognitive area - memory and attention
- developmental psychology - external influences on children's behaviour and moral development
- individual differences - understanding disorders and measuring differences

Applied Psychology

- Issues in Mental Health
- Child Psychology
- Criminal Psychology

Research Methods

- How psychologists use scientific techniques to study human behaviour

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Psychology is one of the most popular degree subjects in this country; this is because it has a big impact on all areas of life, from education and health, to the economy and crime. A thoroughly academic degree with aspects of meticulous scientific research, it is a psychology graduate's understanding of human thinking and behaviour that gives them that extra edge when applying for jobs. The mixture of human, theoretical and scientific understanding make psychology graduates some of the most versatile and attractive graduates in the market.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"Studying psychology has definitely given me a wider perspective on the world and opened my mind towards the behaviour of myself and others. It stretches me to think critically and makes me want to question even more."

Megan Hastings, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students must achieve grade 5 or higher in GCSE English and mathematics.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Mrs H Newman
hne@sandon.essex.sch.uk

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

EDEXCEL 9RS0

WHY STUDY RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

Religious Studies provides an excellent opportunity to explore a range of Philosophical and Ethical questions. It helps to develop an enquiring and critical mind-set as well as the ability to analyse a range of issues. Students of this subject have a range of opportunities to explore their own viewpoint on a range of thought-provoking questions, as well as developing an appreciation for other opinions. The skills developed are highly valued by both employers and providers of further education.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Philosophy of Religion

- Philosophical issues and questions;
- The nature and influence of religious experience;
- Problems of evil and suffering;
- Philosophical language;
- Works of scholars;
- Influences of developments in religious belief

Religion and Ethics

- Significant concepts in issues or debates in religion and ethics;
- A study of three ethical theories;
- Application of ethical theories to issues of importance;
- Ethical language;
- Deontology, Virtue Ethics and the works of scholars;
- Medical ethics: beginning and end of life issues.

New Testament Studies

- Social, historical and religious context;
- Texts and interpretation of the Person of Jesus;
- Issues of relationship, purpose and authorship;
- Ways of interpreting sources;
- The Kingdom of God, conflict, the death and resurrection of Jesus;
- Scientific and historical-critical challenges, ethical living and the works of scholars.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Religious Studies is regarded as an academic or facilitating A Level when considering university and career choices. As a subject which helps you develop knowledge of how to think, not what to think, it is highly valued beyond Sixth Form. Universities value this subject for the enquiring and critical approach it develops. Beyond this, career opportunities are not limited to particular areas. Students end up working with almost every type of employer in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

“Studying RE allows you to debate and enlightens you to the world around us. From the ontological argument, to the synoptic problem, from natural moral law to analysing philosophical texts. RE is far wider than you may have anticipated”

– Jack Walters, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to gain a grade 5 or above in RE at GCSE and grade 4 or higher in English and mathematics.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Mr M Robin mro@sandon.essex.sch.uk

SOCIOLOGY

AQA 7192

WHY STUDY SOCIOLOGY?

If you are fascinated by the behaviour of others and why we act the way we do, then sociology is for you. Sociology investigates the effect social class, gender, age and ethnicity may have on both individuals and groups in society and how our family, education, mass media, religion and the government impact our lives. Sociologists believe that by understanding how different social groups in society are treated then we can improve the lives of people in a society by challenging governments, changing laws and making life better. We investigate why certain groups have more power and opportunities compared to others and why we allow this to continue.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Paper 1 Education with methods in context

Paper 2 Health, mass media and research methods

Paper 3 Crime and deviance with theory and methods

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Sociology trains you to ask question about the world around us, giving you a competitive edge in the job market and providing a strong intellectual background for students. Sociology is incredibly useful for the following careers: working in the government, market research, criminology, the legal profession, teaching, journalism, public relations, marketing, the police.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"I have really enjoyed sociology as I get to learn about how someone's ethnicity, gender, age and social class can affect their lives. It challenges our ideas on what we think is right and makes us question why we think this. Are we free individuals or are we brainwashed by those in power?"

- Sam Rye, former student

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to have achieved a grade 5 or above in GCSE Sociology, if studied. Examinations are essay based, and students that have not studied GCSE Sociology must have achieved a grade 5 or higher in GCSE English. The course will cover sensitive and sometimes controversial issues and therefore a mature and open-minded approach is needed. You will be expected to have an awareness of current affairs throughout the course. Grade 4 or higher is also required in GCSE mathematics.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION *please contact Miss Underwood*
NUN@sandon.essex.sch.uk

SPANISH
EDEXCEL 9SP0

WHY STUDY SPANISH?

Students will enhance their Spanish language skills beyond GCSE using authentic texts and media. Literary and film studies of works by Federico García Lorca, Ramón J. Sender and films directed by Pedro Almodóvar and Guillermo Del Toro will enable students to communicate fluently and confidently in Spanish and develop critical thinking skills and the ability to debate and challenge established ideologies. Language skills gained at AS and A Level greatly favour students' applications to the top universities and benefit almost all career paths.

THE A LEVEL PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Spanish Language course covering 2 main themes:

Evolution of the Spanish Society

- Family
- Work
- Tourism in Spain

Political & Artistic Culture in the Spanish Speaking World

- Music
- Media and Festivals & Traditions.

The course continues with a further two themes based on Immigration and Spain's Multicultural Society and The Franco Dictatorship and the Transition to Democracy.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Spanish A Level will provide opportunities in a range of careers, including: international commerce, law, interpretation and translation, international advertising, the travel and leisure industry, army careers, politics and education.

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You will be expected to have achieved Grade 5 or above in GCSE Spanish and to have sufficient linguistic ability to meet the demands of the course. Grade 4 or higher is also required in mathematics and English at GCSE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Mrs J Quieros
jq@sandon.essex.sch.uk

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Application forms are available from the school from Tuesday 8th January 2019.

If you would like to apply for a place to study with us, you should complete an application form after you have received your mock GCSE results and return it to Mrs Peel in the Student Administration Office no later than FRIDAY 18th JANUARY 2019.

Applications can be completed by hand or electronically. Full details of how to apply will be provided at the start of the spring term.

For applications received after the 18th January 2019 deadline, we cannot guarantee that your preferred programme of study will be available.

Please wait until you have received your Mock GCSE results before making your application.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

When we receive your application:

- we will send you an acknowledgement of your application during February;
- we will review applications and set option blocks;
- we may invite you for an interview;
- we may contact you to discuss alternative subject choices, particularly if you have applied late;
- at the end of March we will send you a conditional offer of a place, with a reminder of the entry requirements for the subjects you have chosen;
- on GCSE Results Day, you must be available to confirm your preferred Sixth Form programme of study;
- if you are an applicant not currently attending The Sandon School, we will invite you into school for an opportunity to meet with Sixth Form students and teachers so that you can ask questions and 'get a feel' for the school.

The Sixth Form Admissions Calendar appears on the next page.

**THE SANDON SIXTH FORM
ADMISSIONS CALENDAR**

Thursday 18 October 2018	Sixth Form Open Evening 7pm - 9pm
Tuesday 20 November 2018	Sixth Form Taster Day - for Sandon School Year 11s only
Tuesday 8 January 2019	Application forms available
Friday 18 January 2019	Sixth Form Applications Deadline
February - March 2019	Review of applications and selected interviews
End of March 2019 / beginning of April 2019	Conditional offers made
Thursday 22 August 2019	GCSE results published