



2014 / 15 Grades

- . 98% A* E
- . 73% A* C
- . 47% A* B



Sixth Form Information Booklet 2016

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Results 2015

A selection of destinations from our 2015 cohort

Faith Andrade University of York - Psychology in Education
Katie Ansell Southampton Solent - Psychology (Counselling)
Ali Avci Oxford Brookes - Foundation Planning/Construction

Grace Beegan University of Leeds - Diagnostic Radiography
Robyn Belcher Bournemouth University - Tourism Management

Emily Best Sheffield Hallam - English

Ginny Boswell Apprenticeship - Westerham Nursery School

George Brimble University of Kent - Economics

Jessica Burrell University of Reading - Politics and Economics

Daniel Devlin Wolverhampton - Industry-sponsored degree

Sophie Eagle Chichester University - Musical Theatre & Acting

Sam Eccleston Bournemouth University - Digital Film Production

Oliver Frost Winchester University - Medieval History

Ben Godsell De Montfort University - Criminology and Criminal Justice

Stacey Gardner Canterbury Christ Church - Business Studies
Peter Holman University of Lincoln - Computer Science

Jodie Holyoake Falmouth University - Marine and Natural History Photography

Alex Holland Running his own freelance photography business

Katie Kennedy Hertfordshire - History

Lucy Kinnes Southampton Solent - Interior Design

Emily Latter Ravensbourne - Photography

Will Macadam University of Reading - English Literature

Tom Mills University of Reading - Maths

Charlotte Morgan Roehampton - Criminology & Psychology

Mollie Murphy Hertfordshire - Business studies
Ashley Nowers Apprenticeship - Civil engineering
Summer-Louise Pratt Roehampton - Psychology

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Josh Proud Apprenticeship - Web Design

Chelsea Pugh Gap year, Austria - Ski Rep

Charlie Radford Chichester - PE Teaching

Thomas Read Winchester - Politics and Global Studies
Ashley Read Apprenticeship - Project Management

Morgan Rickman Southampton - Music Kerry Ryan Sussex - English

Leah Sims

Norwich NUA - Fine Art

Eleanor Stephens

Charlie Tiffin

Richard Weekley

Norwich NUA - Fine Art

UWE Bristol - Adult Nursing

Greenwich - Adult Nursing

Southampton - History

Brandon Warne Southampton Solent - Animation

Chloe-Marie Wheeler Southampton - Social Policy and Sociology

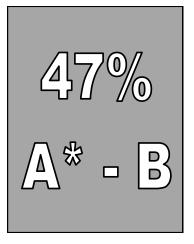
Lauren Wilson Brighton - Biomedical science

Rhys Wrenn Apprenticeship - Mechanical Engineering

Dennile Young Chichester – Dance

98% A* - E

73% A* - C



ALPS Grade 4
at A2
Grade 4 at AS
(Top 30% of
Sixth Forms in
the country)

Welcome to Charles Darwin Sixth Form

As you may know, we are in the second year of A level reform so some of the information in the booklet is still subject to change as we are waiting for new syllabi and decisions about courses.

The main changes to A level study

In the past A levels have been modular. This has meant that the results gained at AS (Year 12) study are carried through and added to the results at A2. It gave pupils the opportunity to re-sit examinations at AS level and improve their results overall. This is no longer the case for the new A levels although the 'old' A levels will continue with this system.

AS reform in some subjects means that the AS has been de-coupled from A2 and are now stand alone qualifications. This means although AS can be taught and examined at the end of the first year, (Year 12) it will not count towards the A2 and the exams will have to be re-sat in a different form/skill set at the end of A2.

Therefore to gain a full A level, all examinations have to be sat at the end of their second year of A level study and it will be a pass or fail situation with results.

In 2015 the following subject were de-coupled from AS:

 English Literature, History, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Sociology, Art, Textiles and Photography have all changed.

In 2016 the following subjects are being reformed:

 Geography, Music, Drama, Dance, French, German, and PE. In addition, all BTEC and technical qualifications have to have an examination element in them so there will be very few 100% coursework subjects.

The final subject reforms will happen in 2017.

Many A levels are now 100% examination at the end of two years or have a very small percentage of coursework attached to them. This means that revision and continual work on examination skills and testing will become a vital part of A level study.

Taking this all into consideration, pupils will be guided on an individual basis into certain subjects depending on GCSE results and academic ability. Each GCSE has a points score attached to it and will be used to assess capability for certain subject entry.

As a rough pathway guide:

- To complete 4 academic A levels you will need 46-48 points and above.
- To take a mixture of academic and vocational A levels you will need 41 points and above.
- To take a mixture of L2 and L3 subjects you will need 30-34 points and above.

To take a complete course of A level study you will need a minimum of the following:

- At least five GCSEs at Grade C or above which must include English Language
- Additional course specific requirements, which can be found listed within each course entry.

How to calculate your GCSE points

GCSE GRADE	NUMBER OF SUBJECTS AT THAT GRADE	POINTS GIVE FOR GRADE	EN	TOTAL
A*	×	8	POINTS =	
А	×	7	POINTS =	
В	×	6	POINTS =	
С	×	5	POINTS =	
D	×	4	POINTS =	
Е	×	3	POINTS =	
F	×	2	POINTS =	
G	×	1	POINTS =	
U / NOT COMPLETED	×	0	POINTS =	0
TOTAL NUMBER OF GCSEs			TOTAL POINTS	
TOTAL POINTS	TOT. GCS	AL NO. OF E SUBJECTS		VERAGE DINT SCORE

Essential information

- Applied GCSEs count as two subjects and have double points
- Half GCSEs have half the points value of a full GCSE
- Vocational qualifications are not counted when calculating the average GCSE points score.

Expectations

What can you expect?

- To be treated with courtesy and respect
- Effective lessons
- Clear targets
- Regular feedback and guidance
- Access to study facilities
- Guidance with coursework
- Guidance or referral over financial, personal or social matters
- Access to a tutor who will monitor progress and offer support when necessary
- Access to careers guidance for employment and higher education
- Parental involvement where your teacher or tutor feels that support is needed outside of school
- Discussion of specific SEN issues for pupils' needs

What can the school expect?

- Completion of homework and coursework to targets and deadlines set
- Study periods are used for study
- To attend registration, assemblies, tutorial and any appointments required
- To be punctual
- That you stick to all targets or agreements reached with teachers or tutors
- That you behave like a young adult and treat the Sixth Form and school environment with respect
- That you take an active part in the Sixth Form enrichment curriculum
- That you sign out if you leave the school site at any time other than at the end
 of the school day
- That, together with the rest of the Sixth Form body, you take responsibility for the Sixth Form areas
- Aim for a minimum of 95% attendance. No holidays to be taken in school time

The Darwin Student: Frequently asked questions

Age: 16 - 19

Education: You must achieve five A*- C grades at GCSE

or equivalent in five separate subjects to Study Level 3 qualifications, including English

and Mathematics at C grade

Attendance: Above 95% attendance in Year 11

Effort: Consistently at 2 (good) or above on reports

Are Darwin students all the same?

No! We are an inclusive Sixth Form and we welcome diversity. Charles Darwin Sixth Form students have a wide range of differing abilities and strengths. We cater at one level for the needs of students seeking to gain places at Universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, as well as those wanting to improve their basic Level 2 qualifications.

Can I apply if I currently attend another school?

Yes! We have lots of external applicants and a support programme for new students to help you settle in to Year 12. It won't be long before you feel part of the furniture.

Why Charles Darwin Sixth Form?

Charles Darwin Sixth Form believes all students should fulfil their potential, both academically and personally. Our ALPS score and results are good as is our latest OFSTED report, but it doesn't stop there. The Sixth Form also offers many enrichment opportunities outside the classroom.

What courses and qualifications are available to me?

We offer GCSEs, BTECs, OCR Nationals, Technicals, A levels, Extended Projects and sports awards. Take a closer look at each course for more information and the necessary requirements you will need for enrolment into the subject of choice.

How do I choose the right courses for me?

It's all about guidance. In this prospectus you can read about the subjects on offer and examine the entry requirements. Ask yourself the following questions:

- What level is the course?
- Will I have the right GCSE grades?
- Do I enjoy the subject?
- Will the subject(s) help me in my career?
- Is my choice of subject combinations sensible?

If you are unsure speak to the people you know; parents, older brothers and sisters, relatives, family friends and of course your teachers.

Do I need to know what I want to do when I leave school?

No! If you already know what you want to do when you leave school, check what examinations you need to pass and at what grades, what further training or study might be necessary and how easily your courses will adapt to other careers if you change your mind.

If you have only a general idea of what you wish to do when you leave school, or if you are leaving your career decision open at present, make use of subject tutors and careers advisors. It may be an idea to choose a broad course of study that will keep your options as open as possible. If you have no definite career plan at present, start by examining two factors: the subjects you enjoy doing and the subjects you are good at.

Every student accepted into Year 12 is given an interview after their results. This is designed to help students select the right courses for their career choice, ability and expectations. With the introduction of new A levels you may be guided into some choices depending on your GCSE results and overall GCSE point score.



Dress Code as discussed and decided by Sixth Form Student Voice

Smart dress is required without logos and should be appropriate to wear in a business environment — skirts and dresses no higher than 5cm above the knee. Jewellery should be discreet and in keeping with the school rules — stud earrings and a small nose stud are permitted.

Male Dress Code:

Your dress should only include:

- Suit or jacket / blazer
- Suit trousers
- Shirt (tucked in) with sleeves
- Tie
- Leather shoes
- Smart, plain cardigan or jumper, which must be worn with a shirt and tie

Female Dress Code:

Your dress should only include:

- Suit or jacket
- Tailored suit
- Suit trousers / skirt
- High necked or collared blouse / shirt
- Tailored dress
- Sensible smart footwear
- Smart, plain jumper / cardigan

Acceptable

- Tailored trousers
- Cardigan, blazer or jumper
- Shoes preferably black, heel no higher than 5cm visible and comfortable.
 Appropriate boots can be worn in inclement weather conditions
- Tops blouse or shirt; peplum; sleeveless vests must cover bra straps and be high-necked
- Dresses: shift dress; skater dresses + skirts; bodycon dress + skirts all of appropriate length



Not acceptable

- See-through, strappy or low cut tops
- Summer dresses
- Trousers with back pockets
- Leggings
- Denim
- Leather or mock leather or shiny jersey (wet look)
- Boots in the summer.
- Polo-necks, hoodies or sweatshirts
- Polo-style shirts
- Trainers / Converse / Vans
- Shorts
- Clothes with logos
- Coats worn in class
- Facial piercings, e.g. eye, lip, including tongue studs

Private Study



The study periods are marked on your timetable as "free". However it means free from teaching not studying. Free periods need to be used effectively for independent learning. It is full-time education.

Every hour in class should produce at least another two hours of study time, research and reading.

Patterns

Everyone will develop their own patterns of private study but the following may help you:

- Getting started is the difficult part so don't procrastinate.
- Good organisation is important; make sure you have what you need with you.
- · Set realistic goals.
- Be independent enough to move away from peers to complete work.

There are computers in the Sixth Form area, the library and around school. However, Universities still work through books and there is an increasing over-reliance on IT. Computers being unavailable should not be used as an excuse to sit and chat in free time. Plan your study time.

When studying:

Do ...

- Turn your phone off
- Focus on your own work
- Use your diary to organise what you will do during your study periods
- Make sure you have everything you need with you
- Ask if you need help
- Think of the needs of others

Don't ...

- Put off work
- Waste time
- Kid yourself that endless searching on the Internet is work!
- Take your lunch during a study period
- Assume that having a pen in your hand and a book open in front of you is the same as learning
- Say "I was just going to"
- Put others off by thoughtless chatter
- Think you can do two things at once

Key Roles in the Sixth Form

Head Girl/Boy and Deputy Head Girl/Boy

Appointed by application, interview and democratic vote by the school and staff

- To act as a role model for students and promote the ethos of the school
- To be an approachable member of Year 13 to whom students can come to for assistance or support
- To be part of the prefect team and lead as appropriate
- To represent the school body at school events
- To liaise with members of the Senior Leadership Team and KS5 Achievement Coordinator
- To attend out of school events as a school representative when required



- To support and enforce school rules appropriately
- To be visual in the school and a role model for all other students

Senior Prefects

Appointed by application and interview

- To act as a role model for students and promote the ethos of the school
- To be someone to whom students can come to for assistance or support
- To maintain the standards, duties and responsibilities of a prefect
- To organise school events
- To attend school events when required
- To attend all meetings as required
- To help ensure school rules are adhered to by pupils
- To report any issues to the Head Girl and Boy or Deputies

Available courses at a glance with their requirements

All students will need at least 95% attendance in Year 11

Level 2 courses

Course	Requirement
GCSE Maths re-take	D grade at GCSE preferred
GCSE English re-take	D grade at GCSE. E grade will be considered
Community Sports Leadership Award (CSLA) moving into Higher Sports Leadership Award (HSLA) in Year 13	Meet Sixth Form Entry requirements
Finance - Certificate in Financial Capability and Careers Development (CeFCCD)	Minimum 3/4 A-C grades with C grade in GCSE English preferred
Project	Minimum of 3/4 GCSEs

Level 3 courses - you need at least 5 A*- C grades at GCSE to qualify

Course	Requirement
Applied Science	Minimum C grade in Core Science and either a C grade at Additional GCSE Science or grade C Applied GCSE Science and grade C Mathematics and English
Art & Design A level	B grade or higher in GCSE Art is recommended
Biology	Minimum B grade in GCSE Additional Science, Biology, Maths and English
Business Studies - AQA Level 3 Extended Certificate	Minimum grade B in Business if taken at GCSE, and Maths and English at grade B
Chemistry	Minimum B grade in GCSE Additional Science, Chemistry, Maths and English
Communication and Culture	Minimum C grade in GCSE English
Computer Science	To have completed computing at GCSE and achieved a B grade. Should also have B grade in Mathematics
Creative Arts Diploma - Cambridge Technical in Art & Design	A creative subject at GCSE is ideal, but not essential. Students may need to submit work to art teaching staff prior to being accepted
Creative Media - Technical	Enthusiasm for creativity and hard work. C grade English is preferred
Dance	A minimum grade B in Dance if taken at GCSE, and Maths and English at grade B. Performing Art students will be considered. Dancers may have to undergo an audition/interview on application to this course
Drama and Theatre	Minimum C grade (B grade preferred) in GCSE Drama and English Language. GCSE History and English Literature an advantage. Audition may be required
English Literature	Minimum B grade in both English Literature and English Language. Grade C maybe considered in some circumstances
Extended Project	Meet Sixth Form Entry requirements
Film Studies	A commitment and interest in film. C grade English preferred
Finance - Certificate (CeFS) and Diploma (DipFS)	5A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent

Level 3 courses

Course	Requirement
Geography	Minimum B grade in Geography GCSE or B/C grade in English and Mathematics . Grade C may be considered in some circumstances
Government and Politics	B grade in English Language preferred. 100% exam
Health and Social Care - OCR Technical	A keen interest in people. Minimum C grade in GCSE English
History	Minimum B grade in English and History GCSEs
Information Technology A level	Minimum B grade in ICT at GCSE level. Minimum C grade in English and Mathematics GCSE
Information Technology BTEC	Grade C in English beneficial. An ICT qualification
Mathematics	An A grade is required. 100% exam
Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) AS only award	Grade B or above in GCSE Mathematics. Grade C may be considered in some circumstances
Further Maths	A* grade in Mathematics GCSE and recommendation from Mathematics staff. 100% exam
Modern Foreign Languages: French or German	Minimum B grade in the relevant language at GCSE. 100% exam
Music	Minimum B grade in Music GCSE. C may be considered. Grade 4/5 standard on instrument or voice. Basic knowledge of music notation
Music Technology	Minimum B grade in Music GCSE. C will be considered. Basic knowledge of music notation and basic keyboard skills
Photography	Creativity. Good effort grades. No previous requirement for photography qualification
Physical Education	Grade C in English and Science, grade B in GCSE Physical Education. Performing in a sport outside of school at a good level
Physics	Minimum B grade in GCSE Additional Science, Physics, Maths and English
Product Design	Minimum C grade in Year 11. Experience of KS 4 D&T course. Ability to draw
Sociology	Minimum B grade in GCSE including English Literature/Language preferred. C grades may be considered
Sport BTEC	Grade C or above at GCSE PE / Merit or above at BTEC Level 2 in sport. Minimum of a C grade at English & Science GCSE. A reasonably good level of fitness will be advantageous although not essential
Textiles	Experience of a Key Stage 4 Art & Design course. A B grade or higher is recommended but not essential
Travel & Tourism	Minimum C grade in GCSE English. Enthusiasm for the travel industry

NB: Subjects printed in blue are Russell Group specific academic/facilitating subjects

Extra Curricular	Requirement
Extended Project (AQA) EPQ	Minimum C grades in English and Mathematics. Must have the ability to work independently
Senior football and netball teams	Offered throughout Years 12 and 13
Sports Leadership awards	Offered throughout Years 12 and 13

Level 2 Courses

GCSE subjects or the equivalent

The Sixth Form provides excellent guidance, in collaboration with a range of agencies, for careers and higher education as well as information to help students cope with the demands of independent life.

GCSE English

Changes under review

Cambridge IGCSE

The course followed for the English re-sit at Charles Darwin School is the Cambridge International GCSE for the November re-sit. A new GCSE may need to be studied for June entry.

The final grade will depend upon the following assessments:

- Written coursework: three pieces worth 40% of the final mark
- Speaking and Listening Assessment: one recorded piece worth 20% of the final mark
- Exam: one exam testing reading skills worth 40% of the final mark

Subject requirements:

Grade D for English GCSE preferred.

For more details contact ... Ms Gillings

GCSE Maths

Level 2 EDEXCEL

Changes for June

A one-year course covering the Foundation Tier GCSE will be offered to students who have previously gained a Grade D. Studies show that a student can increase a GCSE result by a grade with hard work and commitment. However, because time is limited, students will be expected to study some topics independently. There is one November re-sit in this GCSE.

You will follow the EDEXCEL linear course. There is no coursework to complete for this GCSE. Students will sit two papers each worth 50% of the final mark, one of which requires a calculator.

If the C grade is not achieved in November, you will need to study a new GCSE syllabus for the June entry.

Subject Requirements:

Grade D for Mathematics GCSE preferred.

For more details contact ... Mr Watson

Certificate in Financial Capability and Careers Development (CeFCCD)

Level 2 Institute of Financial Services (IFS)

The Certificate in Financial Capability and Careers Development (CeFCCD) has been designed for people who are, or who will shortly be, reaching a life stage when they no longer depend on others for their financial provision. Students taking this qualification will gain knowledge about the practical and legal constraints on the sources and uses of money, the methods of organising their money through personal budgeting, the considered use of appropriate bank and building society accounts and the concepts and consequences of overspending or payment default. The qualification also provides a valuable insight into a range of career opportunities within the financial services sector and gives guidance on methods for enhancing individual employability skills.

CeFCCD consists of four mandatory units which are assessed by multiple choice and extended questions based on stimulus materials:

Unit 1 – Personal Financial Encounters

Unit 2 - Money Management Solutions

Unit 3 – Personal Finance Management

Unit 4 - Careers in Finance

Career Opportunities:

This qualification is a good start in the banking and finance industries and provides the basis of progression to IFS level 3 courses.

Subject Requirement: Minimum 3/4 A-C grades with C grade in GCSE English preferred For more details contact ... Mrs Burge

Community Sports Leadership Award

Level 2

The Community Sports Leadership Award is an ideal choice for students wishing to pursue a career in sports coaching, sports leadership, teaching, exercise class instruction and gym instruction and is a requirement for students wishing to complete the Level 3 Higher Sports Leadership Award. It may be chosen by students wishing to go on to higher education courses in coaching and teaching or by students wishing to go directly into employment as a sports coach, sports development officer or sports professional.

The course will develop organisational, planning, communication and teamwork skills in a practical setting as well as theory lessons. A wide variety of skills and practical experience will be gained and the qualification is a great addition to any student's CV even if they have no wish to enter a career in sport.

Career Opportunities:

Coaching, teaching, leadership

Subject Requirements:

Meet the entry requirements for the Sixth Form.

For more details contact ... Mr Burtonshaw

Project

Level 2 GCSE

The course is included to support a GCSE re-sit programme or add to GCSE qualifications generally and aid literacy development. A Project allows the student to decide on an area of study and to learn skills of research, note-making, presentation and essay writing/proof reading skills. The Project can cover any subject of interest to the student but the title has to be approved by staff and it has to answer a specific research question. The research needs to be taken from at least three different source areas, for example: text book, Internet, journal; notes gathered and the ideas re-written in the student's own words. An artefact with note book, an exhibition or a performance can replace a long written report as the final assessment piece.

This project teaches all the skills to allow pupils to go onto study AS levels or an EPQ (Extended Project) which is completed with minimum supervision and is worth half an A level.

Subject requirements:

Grade C-E for English and Mathematics at GCSE

For more details contact ... Mrs Mortimer



Level 3 Courses

Level 3 courses include AS and A2 levels

Students express themselves with confidence, knowing that their views will receive a prompt response. They are well prepared for future work and study, both through the qualifications they achieve and the skills of team working and problem solving they gain.

Applied Science

Level 3

Under review 2016

The course has been designed to form qualifications which provide knowledge and understanding of this vocational area. They are ideal qualifications for those students who want a broad background in science which will allow them to progress to further or higher education, training or employment. A Level Applied Science is a vocational science pathway designed to advance the learning in science for learners that have a genuine interest in science and wish to carry onto Level 3 qualification but also want to choose a range of other subjects. It is an important vocational pathway into science at higher education/university level.

The final specification is still to be announced.

Career Opportunities:

Nursing, teaching, forensic science, police, environmental health, healthcare, paramedics, agriculture, animal care and many more.

Subject Requirements:

Minimum grade C at Core Science GCSE and either a grade C at Additional GCSE Science or a grade C Applied GCSE Science and grade C in GCSE English and Mathematics.

For more details contact ... Miss Mackay



Art & Design

Level 3 A level

New in 2015

Have you got what it takes to join our successful Sixth Form Art/Design Department? An A level in Art and Design can open doors to many art colleges for a foundation course or to Universities as a third A level to study for a variety of degrees in fine art, graphic design, product design, textiles, fashion, theatre design, web design, interior design, animation, engineering to name but a few.

You will be guided and supported throughout to ensure you get the best possible grade reflecting your potential.

Career Opportunities:

Artist, Web Designer, Architect, Graphic Designer, Interior Designer, Illustrator, Computer Games Designer, Photographer, Teacher and many more.

Subject Requirements:

A*-B grade at GCSE level is desired. Students not meeting this criteria will be considered on an individual basis and may be asked to show a portfolio of work.

For more details contact ... Miss Miller



Biology

Level 3

New in 2015

The course is designed to give students the opportunity to explore the subject through a variety of scenarios by engaging students and developing their knowledge and understanding of the subject. Students will be able to explore the contributions of biologists to society and various applications of biology through the process of scientific enquiry.

This course is an excellent foundation to study any area of biological science at University.

Career Opportunities:

Forensics, medicine, dentistry, nursing, biochemistry, sports science, teaching, lab technician, veterinary science, research and many more.

Subject Requirements:

Minimum B grade at GCSE in two Sciences, Mathematics and English.

For more details contact ... Mr Kelly

Business Studies

AQA Level 3 Extended Certificate (A2 equivalent)

New for 2016

Business Studies helps us make sense of the world around us, whatever job or career you choose, it will be in an organisation with the pressure of managing its budgets, setting aims and objectives and being accountable to stakeholders. Business Studies teaches not only theories and concepts but important skills like problem solving and data analysis so that students can make informed, balanced and well reasoned decisions.

As part of the new national advanced programmes of study, this course takes a practical approach to Business. You will cover units in Financial Planning, Investigating Business, Managing People, Business Planning and Marketing Communications. It will also include an opportunity to demonstrate personal enterprise skills. The assessment is mainly through assignments which account for two units each year, the final one being an externally set examination.

Career Opportunities:

Business is a fascinating subject to pursue at university, not least because of the ability to specialise as your studies progress in areas that interest you most. The understanding of business and organisations relates to any work environment and studying it at level 3 may help you gain more rapid progression in employment because of your insight into the operation of the business you work for.

Subject Requirement:

A minimum grade B in Business if taken at GCSE, and Maths and English at grade B

For more details contact ... Mrs Burge

Chemistry

Level 3

New in 2015

The A level course is a good mixture of academic theory and ideas with practical investigations. All assessments and final grades are based on exam only in the summer of Year 13. However, a set of practical investigations are expected from all and will be reported alongside the final A level result. We rely on chemicals every day of our lives and this course will study the properties of these materials and how they interact with each other.

Career Opportunities:

A level Chemistry can lead to employment in education, medicine, forensic science, health and safety, manufacturing and research and many other fields. It is also a requirement for medical and veterinary schools.

Subject Requirements:

Minimum B Grade GCSEs in Additional Science or Chemistry, Maths and English.

For more details contact ... Dr Piercy

Communication & Culture

Level 3 AQA

Final year of offer

You communicate every day, all the time, using your voice, your body, your clothes. People from different backgrounds communicate in diverse ways. You are part of many different cultures and sub-cultures and these influence the way you live, think and communicate. This course will encourage you to reflect on your everyday life experiences and develop your knowledge of theories and policies that affect you and consists of 50% coursework with one exam each year.

This course is an excellent introduction to University studies in many areas using theories that apply across many disciplines in social sciences and arts subjects. In the A2 year you will receive a grounding in Marxist, feminist, post-colonial and post modern theory, preparing you for undergraduate study in a wide range of subjects.

Career Opportunities:

Many jobs now require presentation and critical thinking skills, which this course will provide. The course might be particularly relevant for those considering careers in teaching, sociology or journalism.

Subject Requirements:

Grade C in GCSE English Language as the exams and portfolios require the use of clear, accurate written English.

For more details contact ... Ms Roberts

Computer Science

Level 3

New in 2015

This Computer Science course will above all else be relevant to the modern and changing world of computing. The course will:

- Focus on programming, building on the GCSE Computing course and emphasise the importance of computational thinking as a discipline.
- Have an expanded maths focus, much of which will be embedded within the course.
- Put computational thinking at its core, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence.
- Allow student to apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems in an exciting and engaging manner.
- Give students a clear progression into higher education, as the course was designed after consultation with members of BCS, CAS and top universities.

The AS will consist of two components, which will be externally assessed and weighted at 50% each. There is no coursework component for the AS.

The A Level will consist of three components, two of which will be externally marked question papers making up 80% of the qualification. The other 20% will be the coursework project, which will retain its current qualities but will be more focused, with a greater emphasis on coding and programming with a simple assessment model and marking criteria.

Career opportunities:

Programmer, Software Engineer, Web Designer, IT Management

Subject requirements:

To have completed computing at GCSE and achieved a B grade together with a B grade in Mathematics

For more details contact ... Miss Edwards / Mr Simpson

Creative Arts Diploma

Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Art and Design

This is a new and innovative course to Charles Darwin which has the flexibility of being chosen as a one or two A level equivalent. The nature of the course, when coupled of an additional creative qualification will provide you with suitable skills and experience, similar to that of a full-time art foundation course.

You will be provided with opportunities to work across a range of art endorsements including; fine art, print-making, ceramics, graphic design, photography and textiles. You will also be provided with experiences to develop your understanding of the art and design industry and improve your core creative skills in order to prepare you for a career or higher education course in this field. You need to be serious about the creative arts in order to choose this course but we can't wait to have you on board.

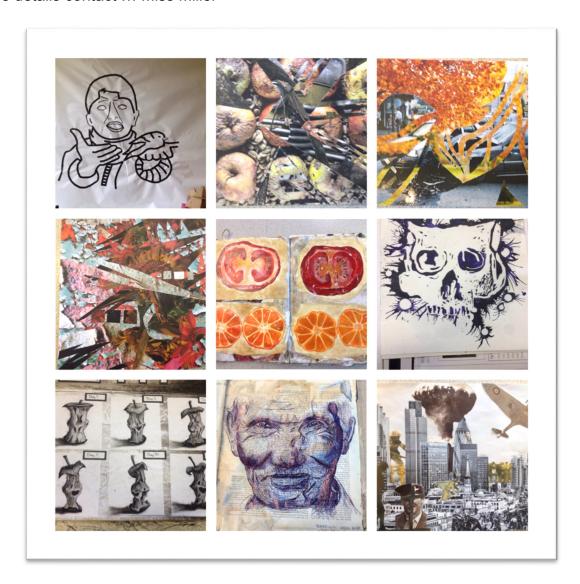
Career opportunities:

Artist, web designer, architect, graphic designer, fashion designer, interior designer, illustrator, computer games designer, photographer to name but a few!

Subject requirements:

A creative subject at GCSE is ideal, but not essential. Students may need to submit work to art teaching staff prior to being accepted.

For more details contact ... Miss Miller



Creative Media

Level 3 OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in Media

The Creative Media course we run at the school is an exciting and (currently) entirely coursework based qualification worth one A-level. We study six units over the two years, with three units completed each year. Work is assessed by a Visiting Examiner, who comes to the school to sample and provide detailed feedback on student outcomes. The philosophy behind the course is to empower students in their creative and vocational aspirations, being strongly rooted in various digital media industry practices. Therefore, all but one unit is a mix of pre-production planning, production experimentation and post-production editing of original materials into a final suitable form for a specific target audience. Scenarios given to the students are based in the real world, reflecting current trends in digital media output.

The exception to this mix of creative and reflective work is the mandatory Unit 1, an extended research and analytical study of a moving image text that students select themselves. The final outcome can be presented as an extended essay or series of powerpoint slides, covering key area such as the text's institutional background, its form and meaning, as well as its impact on the audience and certification. Past examples of texts selected by students include horror films and high concept television series.

Other units cover five digital media forms. Unit 43 covers television production. Unit 17 is based in Film Production (or you can choose Unit 14, a magazine production module if you prefer more photography based work). Unit 46 focuses on music video whilst Unit 18 is centred on a video campaign for a youth-based issue. Finally, Unit 15 allows students to create a print campaign for their favourite production outcome over the two year course. As you can see, this is an extremely diverse and stimulating range of media forms, allowing individuals to really extend their digital skills alongside an engagement with social and cultural issues. So, consider this course if you are independent and creative, enjoying responsibility and active learning.

Career opportunities:

A qualification in Creative Media can lead to jobs in specialist media industries following further education or provide a useful additional set of skills that could add value to your contribution to many employment sectors, so many of which are now reliant on social media networks and self-promotion.

Subject Requirements:

5 A-C grades at GCSE and an interest in Media.

For more details contact ... Mr Archer



Dance

Level 3 AQA

New for 2016

How have choreographers of the past shaped the current dance scene? How do I create my own choreography to reflect a chosen idea effectively? How do professionals do this and is it successful? Why is the dancer's body believed to be the 'fittest' of them all? Do these questions interest you?

Dance helps develop technique, choreography, performance and appreciation. Dance at A-Level requires the exploration of mainly contemporary dance styles, requiring students to build on existing dance training and talent, to express emotions and concepts derived from a variety of stimuli. Recognised by Universities, the course prepares you for numerous roles in Dance/Arts Performance or Teaching.

In Year 12 students will complete the AS Dance course. They are required to complete:

- A solo choreography/performance based on a choice of 4 set questions
- A performance in duo/trio

 A written exam paper (focussing on a compulsory area of study and an optional area of study to be set by the exam board)

Weightings: 50% practical work, 50% written

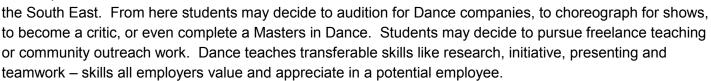
In Year 13 students will complete the A2 Dance course (AS Dance is worth half the overall qualification in this case). They are required to complete:

- A solo performance in the style of a named practitioner
- A performance in a quartet
- A group choreography based on choice of 4 set questions
- A written exam paper (focussing on a compulsory set work and area of study, as well as an optional set work and area of study)

Weightings: 50% practical, 50% written

Career Opportunities:

Dance A-Level can lead to a variety of jobs within the Arts sector. The student may choose to follow Dance onwards to University to study a degree, foundation or diploma. There are a number of well recognised and respected Dance institutions within the London area, as well as in



Subject Requirements:

A passion for Dance with the understanding of professional etiquette e.g. fitted black attire and bare feet. A minimum grade B in Dance if taken at GCSE, and Maths and English at grade B.

Performing Art students will be considered.

Dancers may have to undergo an audition/interview on application to this course.

Commitment to homework and rehearsal is key!

All students will require the confidence to perform and improve technique both in and out of school in their own time.

Trips will be organised to view professional dance companies and workshops will be arranged when possible. Students must be independent and able to manage their own time and others'.

For more details contact ... Mr Jewell / Mrs Rees



Drama & Theatre

Level 3 EDEXCEL

New for 2016

The course provides a natural extension for the work covered at GCSE and balances practical work with theory. Over the A-Level course you will explore two complete texts and three text extracts from different time periods. You will develop your knowledge and understanding of theatre history and style and will practically explore the theories of revolutionary theatre practitioners. You will analyse and evaluate live theatre and consider how it can be used to inspire performance work.

You will undertake the following as part of the two year course:

1. Devising

You will devise your own piece of theatre, inspired by the work of theatre practitioners. A performance text will be the stimulus for this work which you will deconstruct and create your own work from. You will need to create a portfolio, outlining the creative process.

2. Text in performance

You will perform a scripted piece to a visiting examiner.

3. Written exam

You will complete a written exam. The questions will be based on contrasting set texts studied. You will need to be able to interpret the text for performance and analyse your ideas.

Career opportunities

The Arts is the third biggest industry in Britain, offering varied career paths. Drama and Theatre A-Level, would benefit those aspiring for careers in the theatre, TV, film and music. It is a subject which is well respected by Universities and employers due to the development of transferable skills such as creativity, reflective thinking, self expression, analysis and team work. Due to these personal skills, it would also benefit those looking to study teaching or Law at University.

Subject requirements

Drama and Theatre is an academic course where there is a high proportion of written work. A minimum of a C grade in GCSE Drama and GCSE English is required; ideally B grades. Links are made to History and English Literature so these subjects at GCSE level would be an advantage. If you have not studied GCSE Drama or are an external candidate you will need to audition. Attendance on theatre trips is strongly recommended; these are organised throughout the year.

For more details contact...Miss Currie

English Literature

Level 3

New in 2015

Great literature is about life: love, hate, death, revenge, jealousy, friendship, murder, gossip, flirtation, loyalty, betrayal, politics, crime, fate, science, art, ambition, paranoia, dreams, fear, hopes, fantasy, reality...

The list, of course, is endless and encompasses every area of human existence because great literature is really about the human condition – what it is to be a human being on this planet. To adapt a famous quotation: if you're bored of literature then you're bored of life!

Career Opportunities:

Career opportunities with English Literature A level or an English degree are diverse: from publishing to recruitment; from law to journalism. Universities and employers regard this A level very highly and value the skills that it nurtures: namely analysis, insight, creative and fluent use of the English language.

Subject Requirements:

A minimum of a B grade in English Literature and English. This course requires you to read independently.

For more details contact ... Ms Roberts

Film Studies

Level 3 WJEC Film A level

The WJEC Film Studies A level course is the most academically demanding course that we offer at Media Level 3 here at Charles Darwin School. This is because the examined units are worth a higher percentage than the coursework unit, with a split of 60/40. In addition to this, the Film Studies coursework production has an almost equal focus on extended written analysis of a range of micro elements as it does on creative production work. In short, in Film Studies, it is the different theoretical approaches and use of specialist terms that really form the heart of the course. It also specialises in one particular media form, that of Film. So, it is a course only suitable for those with both a passion for film already but also, more crucially, a desire to find out so much more about film history and film cultures in other parts of the world, including Latin America, France and Africa.

For the AS in Year 12, you have an opportunity to explore your own cinematic interests through the coursework unit. You analyse a sequence from a film that you select, using micro areas such as cinematography, editing, sound, performance and mise-en-scene to understand how it has an effect on the audience. You make your own sequence, specialising in one of the areas above. You then analyse the film product you have made. For the exam in Year 12, you study UK Horror films, compare two Hollywood films and develop your knowledge and understanding of the US Film Industry. In Year 13, we study World Cinema, theories of spectatorship, and an analysis of Alfred Hitchcock's 'Vertigo' for the exam and you create another, more extended film product for coursework. Choose this course if you LOVE film!

Career Opportunities:

Teaching, journalism, screen writing and many other jobs within the media industry.

Subject Requirements:

5 A*-C grades plus a commitment and interest in film.

For more details contact ... Mr Archer

Finance - Certificate (CeFS) and Diploma

Level 3 Institute of Financial Services

As an Applied General qualification, CeFS is a comprehensive introduction to personal finance. It develops the knowledge and skills required for young people to make informed financial decisions by introducing them to the risks and challenges involved in personal finance and to tools for effective planning. Through developing core skills of critical analysis and evaluation, synthesis and written communication, CeFS provides a foundation for further study in business and finance-related disciplines, as well as a wide range of other fields. DipFS offers students the opportunity to develop and enhance the knowledge and skills gained by achieving CeFS, by applying them to the wider financial environment. Assessment for CeFS and DipFS is by a combination of multiple choice and case study based extended questions.

Career Opportunities:

IFS qualifications can lead to a career in banking and associated industries and finance can be studied at a higher level whilst in the work place. Given our proximity to the financial markets in London, IFS is provides a brilliant insight into a career in this field. IFS attracts UCAS points for entry to university.

Subject Requirements: 5A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent

For more details contact ... Mrs Burge

Geography

Level 3

New for 2016

"Geography is the study of the earth's landscapes, peoples, places and environments. It is quite simply about the world in which we live." - Royal Geographical Society.

"You can travel the seas, poles and deserts and see nothing. To really understand the world you need to get under the skin of the people and places. In other words, learn about geography. I cannot imagine a subject more relevant in schools. We'd all be lost without it." - Michael Palin.

The world is always changing. Geography gives you the chance to learn about these changes. Sign up for Geography to find out more.

Career Opportunities:

With a Geography A level or degree there are a wide range of careers varying from environmental management, education, disaster response, city and county planning, community development and many more.

Subject Requirements:

Ideally a B grade or above at GCSE Geography although applicants without Geography who have at least a C grade in Mathematics and English will also be considered. A genuine interest in the world in which you live is also an important prerequisite.

For more details contact ... Ms Partridge

Government & Politics

Level 3 EDEXCEL

Why study politics? Simply because it affects everything you do! The age you can marry, drink alcohol, join the armed forces, vote, drive is all decided by politicians. They also decide how loudly you can play music, whether you stand up or sit down at football matches, what you study in school and so much more that affects your daily lives.

This course allows students to develop a good understanding of British, European and international politics in the twenty-first century. At a time of enormous political tension and change in the world, students will find the debates which are central to this subject fascinating. This subject is highly prized by Universities and links well with History, English and Business courses.

Career Opportunities:

Government and Politics is a useful subject for a wide range of careers including: the Civil Service, local and central government, journalism and the media, charities and lobby groups, the police, finance and teaching, as well as many more.

Subject Requirements:

B Grade preferable in English Language. A keen interest in the world around you is beneficial.

"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors." - Plato.

For more details contact ... Mr Boyden

Health & Social Care

Level 3 OCR Cambridge Technicals

Thinking about working with people whatever their age, gender, ability or background?

These qualifications are ideal for those studying for employment and not just in the health, social care and early years sectors. Future roles where you will be expected to use your understanding of people, principles of health and core values of life would benefit from this course. The qualification is ideal for students who wish to progress to study other qualifications, academic or vocational, or who wish to enter the world of work especially the public sector services.

The Cambridge Technicals Certificate is taught over one year and is the equivalent of an AS level. It comprises of three units, two mandatory and one optional. The Cambridge Technicals Introductory Diploma is the equivalent of an A2 taught over two years. It comprises of six units - the three taught for the certificate plus an additional three units.

The mandatory units are: Developing effective communication in Health & Social Care; Development through the life stages; Health Safety and Security in Health & Social Care; Equality, Diversity and Rights in Health & Social Care. The optional units are: Caring for Young Children and Young People; Nutrition for Health & Social Care.

Career Opportunities:

Nursing, childcare, physiotherapy, chiropody, care assistant, catering, midwifery, radiography, occupational therapy, teaching and more.

Subject Requirements:

5 A*-C grades in different GCSE subjects one of which must be English.

For more details contact ... Mrs Sheehan

History

Level 3

New in 2015

The syllabus followed at Charles Darwin is designed to offer a stimulating and wide choice of content. Two units are studied:

Unit one is a breadth study of British history from 1783-1885 and includes the social, political and economic developments of this period. It provides a fascinating overview of this fundamental period of British history which has been so important in creating the nation that we live in today.

Unit two is a depth study of Russian history from 1917-1953. This is an essential study for any pupil who wants to have a grasp of present day Russia, its impact on the rest of Europe and the legacy that it has created in international relations.

Finally all students will need to complete a personal study which will require them to independently investigate and analysis a particular historical controversy covering a period of time, for example the Arab - Israeli conflict.

History offers a natural progression from GCSE and supports the leap into further study at University. There is a combination of assessment techniques with students required to undertake extended writing exercises alongside evaluation of sources to assess the significance of events, individuals, beliefs and movements, before reaching a substantiated judgement.

It is challenging, thought provoking and immensely rewarding.

Career Opportunities

A history qualification opens many doors. It will enable you to access a University place and is a sought after requirement for courses in law, criminology, journalism, social work and administration, politics and government and any profession where an individual is required to show initiative, analytical skills and ability to argue a case and make a judgement. It is highly regarded by employers such as the police, the Ministry of Defence, the diplomatic service, broadcasters, the library service......

Subject requirements:

A minimum of Grade B in History and English in GCSE.

For more details contact Mr Lamb



Level 3 BTEC National Certificate & Subsidiary

Are you looking for a vocational qualification which provides a springboard to a University degree in an IT-related discipline or allows you to progress straight into employment?

In the future are you looking to work within an employment sector that holds an array of existing and constantly evolving technologies and presents a stimulating and challenging working environment?

The BTEC National Certificate in IT is equivalent to a GCE AS level and the Subsidiary Diploma is equivalent to a GCE A2 level.

Career Opportunities:

The BTEC Nationals qualification will give you the essential knowledge, understanding and skills to allow you to progress into a specific area of work which will incorporate the use of IT, e.g. systems networking and product development or into a specific job such as IT product developer, computer games designer and systems analyst.

Subject Requirements:

5 A*-C grades in different GCSE subjects. A grade C in English would be beneficial and, in addition, the interest and potential to succeed in achieving the qualification. You do not need to have taken an IT qualification at KS4 to get to grips with this course although this would be beneficial.

For more details contact ... Miss Edwards

ICT

Level 3 OCR

Do you want to be the solution to the growing need for individuals who can master and manipulate new technologies such as Bluetooth, Broadband and Global Positioning systems? Do you want to learn skills for the real business world?

Do you want a course with practical elements and tasks that aim to inspire and challenge you?

A level ICT allows you to develop a broad range of ICT skills, knowledge and understanding which will give you the skills you'll need to enter today's business world. In today's world, where ICT is constantly changing, ICT skills are now as essential as the skills of numeracy and literacy.

Career Opportunities:

There are a wide range of ICT careers including: IT Product Developer, Systems Analyst, Project Manager and Programmer.

Subject Requirements:

At least a B grade GCSE in an IT qualification at Key Stage 4 to get to grips with this course. 5 A*-C grades at GCSE including English and Mathematics.

For more details contact ... Miss Edwards

Mathematics

Level 3 AQA

Why choose Mathematics? Surveys show that graduates in Mathematics have the lowest level of unemployment and earn approximately 25% above the graduate average!

The course is designed to develop students' understanding of Mathematics, develop their abilities to reason logically and extend their range of mathematical skills. Students will develop an understanding of how different areas of Mathematics are connected and the relationship between "real world" problems and mathematical models.

A Further Mathematics course is available, subject to demand and suitability of candidates. We follow the Edexcel Further Mathematics course with units selected to maximise the candidates potential.

Career Opportunities:

Architecture, engineering, accountancy, computing, economics, medicine, environmental studies and many more.

Subject Requirements:

A grade GCSE Mathematics is required.

For more details contact ... Mr Watson

Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) New in 2015

Level 3 AQA

Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is a new qualification designed for students who have achieved a grade C or above at GCSE.

It helps to develop students' mathematical skills and thinking and supports courses such as A-level Psychology, Sciences and Geography as well as technical and vocational qualifications.

The new courses will allow pupils to build on their maths skills using more advanced methods and techniques. They have been developed with the support of employers, universities and professional bodies to ensure they offer pupils the relevant knowledge and skills to progress to further study and the world of work.

Pupils will learn how to apply maths to analyse situations, giving them the confidence they need to tackle problems in their adult lives. Examples of topics to be covered include using different data sources to determine changes to average house prices over the course of a year and how to calculate the value of a mortgage loan in any given year.

Students will also develop a more advanced understanding of statistics, financial maths and modelling - for example, understanding investments, analysing trends in population growth or calculating new ways to improve a process. There will also be an emphasis on using maths in business settings, with pupils asked, for example, to calculate costs, estimate demand and set a selling price for products in order to maximise profits.

Subject Requirements:

C grade or above at GCSE Mathematics.

For more details contact ... Mr Watson

Modern Foreign Languages

Level 3 AQA

New for 2016

Good foreign language skills are in short supply and can be used in many different jobs or maybe you will use your skills and understanding of French or German culture to make your holidays more enriching and enjoyable. Either way, there are many benefits of learning one or more languages in the Sixth Form.

The AQA specification has been designed to provide a stimulating course of study, whether as an end in itself or as a stepping stone towards further study at University. The topics involved allow a clear progression from GCSE and to address the needs and interests of post-16 students including the culture of the foreign country. In the final examination you will be tested in the four essential skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, including open-ended tasks that require you to express and justify opinions. You will also need to understand and apply appropriate grammar and structures.

Career Opportunities:

Translating, interpreting and the travel industry all require linguists but so do many other areas of employment: financial services, marketing, engineering, journalism, logistics, general commerce and media, to name just a few.

Subject Requirements:

Minimum grade B at GCSE in the relevant language.

For more details contact ... Mrs Kaye-Chubb

Music

Level 3 EDEXCEL

New for 2016

Do you know your rock from your baroque? Are your compositions up there with the best? Do you have the practical skills to perform music? If so, then this could be the course for you.

NB: This information is subject to change with the introduction of the new A level

Music at A level encompasses many skills: performing, composing, studying musical techniques and pieces and listening analytically to music so that you become a good, well-rounded musician.

The course focuses on a student's performance ability, on your instrument/voice, on composition techniques and tasks based on the study of other composers' particular techniques of writing plus one original composition of your own. You will respond to music in a listening exam and write analytically about music you have studied in the second exam component.

Career Opportunities:

Music teaching; instrumental tuition; professional musician; music administration; music journalism; orchestral manager; music librarian; part preparation; music composition and arranging and many more.

Subject Requirements:

GCSE Music at Grade A*-B, (Grade C candidates will be considered on an individual basis). You will also need a basic knowledge of music notation and grade 4 standard on an instrument or voice. It is recommended that students consider applying for instrumental/vocal lessons to support their studies on this course.

For more details contact ... Miss Mace

Music Technology

Level 3 EDEXCEL

Have you always wondered what those buttons do on a mixing desk?

Fancy yourself as the next sound engineer in a local radio station or open air gig?

Can you see yourself arranging music using music technology software for musicians to perform and record?

Can you make computer sound as good as live musicians?

Then this might be the course for you.

Music Technology at A level encompasses many skills: recording, sequencing, arranging, composing using technology and analytical listening, as well as a good general knowledge of the development of technology.

Career Opportunities:

Recording Engineer; Studio Technician; Music and media; Radio Technician and many more.

Subject Requirements:

GCSE Music at Grade A-B (Grade C candidates will be considered on an individual basis). It would be helpful to have a basic knowledge of music notation and basic keyboard skills.

For more details contact ... Miss Mace



Photography Level 3 OCR

New in 2015

Photography A level is an excellent opportunity for anyone wanting to enter the creative industry as this course provides you with all the skills necessary to become a professional photographer. You will be guided on a well-structured course that is designed to develop your camera control, compositional technique, analytical and critical understanding and confidence.

You will have all the freedom of a 'professional' working environment and the use of all photographic equipment, an excellent ever expanding studio full of specialist lighting, a dedicated photography library and professional tutors that will help you every step of the way.

You will not only develop your photographic technique but will broaden your horizons with gallery visits, confidence building '15 second portraits' and the possibility of a residential trip to Paris.

If you are interested in a course that provides much more than just a qualification then this is the course for you. (There are additional costs associated with this course.)

Career Opportunities:

Photographer in specialist areas, fashion, advertising, packaging, photojournalism, editorial, portraiture, sport, travel, events, paparazzi, designer, artist, glamour, web, animator, curator, forensics, macro, aerial, underwater, the list is endless.

Subject Requirements:

Grade C in English preferred, GCSE Art is useful but not required. You will need a working digital camera.

For more details contact ... Mr Chubb

Physical Education

Level 3 AQA

New for 2016

A-level Physical Education builds on students' experience from GCSE; enhancing their knowledge and increase their understanding of the factors that affect performance and participation in Physical Education. The qualification aims to equip students with skills and knowledge required for higher education or the world of work. The content of the A-level Physical Education specification is designed to follow on from GCSE Physical Education, enabling a smooth transition from one to the other. The exam consists of three different components:

Component 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport (35%)

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

Component 3: Practical performance in physical activity and sport (30%)

The subject content covers applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, sport and society, biomechanical movement, sport psychology and the role of technology in sport. The new and contemporary topics are relevant to today's sporting world and will help students to develop a well-rounded skill set.

You will sit two written papers and complete an internal assessment, external practical moderation in your chosen sport. In component 3 students are assessed as a player/performer or coach in the full context of one activity, worth 15% of their overall qualification. You will then complete written or verbal analysis and evaluation of either their own or the performance of another performer for a further 15% of their overall grade.

Career opportunities:

Physical Education teacher, Physiotherapist, Personal trainer, Nutritionist, Sports psychologist, sports journalism and media, leisure centre manager, running a sports coaching business.

Subject requirements:

Grade C in English and Science, grade B in GCSE Physical Education. Performing in a sport

outside of school at a good level.

For more details contact ... Miss Curwood



Physics

Level 3 OCR

New in 2015

Physics A level is accepted by all Universities. Physicists end up in all sorts of interesting jobs and are virtually never unemployed because of their broad training and adaptability.

If you enjoy learning and want to really understand things, and you like thinking, then you should consider becoming a physicist. You will find the subject fascinating. The ideas themselves will motivate you to study, and learning will be an enjoyable adventure. However, like anything that is worth being proud of, it is also quite hard work.

All assessments and final grades are based on exam only in the summer of Year 13. However, a set of practical investigations is expected by all and will be reported alongside the final A level result.

Career Opportunities:

A physicist could...

- Develop clean, unlimited fusion energy.
- Design a laser to fix people's vision problems.
- Research maglev technology to prototype high speed trains.
- Simulate a roller coaster ride on a computer.

Subject Requirements:

Minimum B Grade GCSEs in Additional Science or Physics and Maths and English.

For more details contact ... Mr Doig

Product Design

Level 3 AQA

New for 2016

Product Design is all about understanding the world around us to enable new, better and different products to be developed. During the course you will investigate and deconstruct products, design and develop your own inventions, and skilfully make a range of prototypes.

The qualification will open candidate's eyes to the exciting and rich world of design and prepare them for the wealth of careers and courses at work and higher/further education. It would suit a wide range of interests from those who want to become plumbers, kitchen fitters and builders, to those who aspire to University and beyond to become the next Philippe Stark, James Dyson or Richard Rogers.

Career Opportunities:

Thousands of career opportunities exist within the many areas of design such as architecture, model making, designing and developing products. Everything around us is a product designed by someone, Jonathan Ive is Apple's principal product designer.

Subject Requirements:

Students considering this course should have experience of a Key Stage 4 Design & Technology Course (Textiles, Resistant Materials, Product Design, Systems and Control, Graphics, BTEC). You must be able to draw as it is required every lesson.

For more details contact ... Mr Baker



Sociology

Level 3 AQA

New in 2015

Sociology at Charles Darwin is a highly successful A level, with students achieving excellent grades at both AS and A2. It offers the opportunity of developing the essential knowledge and understanding of central aspects of sociological thought and methods. It is designed to encourage students to gain a range of skills and sociological themes.

Future Career Paths

Students of Sociology have gone on to University to study a range of subjects including Sociology, Criminology, History, Police and Social work. Some employers including local and central government, industry, commerce, the NHS and charitable organisations seek Sociology students.

Subject Requirements

A minimum of five A* to C grades in GCSEs including English Literature/Language.

For more details contact ... Mrs Mortimer

Sport BTEC

Level 3 EDEXCEL

New examination element

The world of sport is big business and continues to be one of the fastest growing areas of employment in the UK. Opportunities exist in sports development, coaching, fitness training and gym class instruction, sports therapy and teaching.

It is an interesting and active course with a strong emphasis on practical lessons. The course covers many topics including: fitness training, sports leadership, fitness testing and sports nutrition, practical sport, officiating, the body in action and sports development. The qualification is mainly coursework based and covers 7, 10 or 15 units over two years.

Students will have the option of completing the one, two or three A' Level equivalent. This will give them the opportunity to combine other A' level courses or focus all of their efforts on sport.

Career Opportunities:

Teacher, Leisure Centre Manager, Personal Trainer, Physiotherapist, Nutritionist, Sports coaching.

Subject Requirements:

A grade C or above at GCSE PE / Merit or above at BTEC Level 2 in sport. Minimum of a C grade at English & Science GCSE. A reasonably good level of fitness will be advantageous although not essential.

For more details contact ... Mr Eckersall

Textiles

Level 3 A level

New in 2015

Textiles provides you with opportunities to develop your creative skills and experiences whilst exploring a range of textile media, techniques and processes. You will be working within several areas which could include: fashion; printed and/or dyed fabric and materials; domestic textiles and wallpaper; interior design; constructed textiles; textile installation. Throughout the course you will be developing your practical skills in: dyeing, printing and construction, whilst exploring the work of textile designers and artists and developing your own individual style

of working.

Career Opportunities:

This course would suit anyone considering a career in the creative industries including those who want to become involved in the fashion, interior, textile and surface design industries. Aside from practical knowledge and skills it will prepare you to become analytical and independent thinkers who are innovative within their work.

Subject Requirements:

Students considering this course should have experience of a Key Stage 4 Art & Design or Design & Technology course.

For more details contact ... Miss Miller



Travel & Tourism

Level 3 AS & A2

Under review 2016

This course is aimed at young people who are seeking a career in the travel and tourism industry. It has been developed to recognise candidates' knowledge, understanding and skills of the way in which the sector operates. Achieving an AS or A2 in Travel and Tourism will prepare pupils for entry into employment at practitioner level in many parts of the industry. Students completing the AS level will complete 2 units and a further 2 units will then be studied at A2. Units comprise of a range of topics to give pupils a good understanding of the industry and the challenges it faces in recent times.

AS Units

T&T1 – Introducing Travel and Tourism - 1 ½ hour Written Paper 20%

T&T2 – Investigating Tourism Destinations - Portfolio Assessment 30%

A2 Units

T&T5 – Tourism Impacts and Tourism Developments - 2 hour Written Paper 20%

T&T8 – Event Management in Travel and Tourism – Portfolio Assessment 30%

Grading

Grades A-E are obtainable for AS Level with the additional A* being obtainable at A2.

Career Opportunities

This qualification can lead into industry specific careers such as airport ground staff, travel agent assistants and tour operator workers as well as many different customer service jobs in a range of industries.

Subject Requirements

In order to study for this qualification, the equivalent of 5 A*-C grades at GCSE are needed with a minimum Grade C in English. An enthusiasm for travel combined with a willingness to work hard is also desired as well as the ability to produce coursework to deadlines.

For more details contact ... Miss Allum

Extended Project

Level 3 AQA

Level 3 students will be offered the chance to complete an extended project at the end of Year 12. It is a stand-alone qualification to develop and extend study. The topic of study is chosen by students and it is worth AS UCAS points. An A* can be awarded. Universities look *very* favourably on this award.

What is involved?

Planning	Decision making	Research	Problem solving
Proposal	Transference of skills	Log/record	Initiative
Presentation	Enterprise	Reflection	Report writing

End product:

- an artefact, model or construction
- a CD/video/DVD of performances
- a slide of PowerPoint presentation
- a photographic record of the project

All projects must include a report between 1,000 and 5,000 words. A project solely of written work should be 5000 words: report of investigation, exploration of hypothesis and extended essay or artefact.

Entry Requirements:

This project is a mini dissertation in research, analysis and production. Anyone looking to go to University should consider completing the EPQ, but it is a huge commitment.

For more details contact ... Mrs Mortimer or Mrs Green



1987 Austin Mini restored by a Sixth Form student as part of his EPQ

Extra Curricular



Buddies

Support Year 7 students as they settle in to school life. From face painting to football, from cookery to creative writing, you will be involved in planning and delivering activities.



Sports

We have successful netball and football teams. You can try out for school teams or just play against your friends. Every Wednesday afternoon is given over for competitive sport.



Social Committee

The Social Committee organises numerous events for the student body throughout the year as well as the Leavers' Year Book.



Trips, Excursions and Gallery Exhibitions

Students from Art, Media and Photography visit various public exhibitions and have had their work displayed in various public exhibitions. There are Geography field trips and trips abroad.



Performing Arts

The Sixth Form regularly take part in school productions and concerts.



Charity Events

The Sixth Form Charity Team decides on who they want to support and raise thousands of pounds every year. 'Pink Day' supports the Teenage Cancer Trust.



Volunteering in the School Community

There are numerous volunteering opportunities to show school spirit. You can support a year disco, help out during Open Day, lead clubs, join societies, debate, play chess, become a Senior Prefect or even become Head Boy or Head Girl.

The Sixth Form spend an hour a week volunteering their time in the community.

Expanding Horizons

One of our major roles in the Sixth Form is to ensure that students leave us with the skills to excel either in the work place or in further education – University. We therefore deliver a full tutor/tutorial programme to 'widen horizons', expand knowledge of current affairs and broaden interests and experiences.

The change from GCSE to Sixth Form study can be daunting at first which is why we have a Taster Day at the end of Year 11 where you will attend taster sessions as well as an induction morning to establish our expectations of a 'successful independent student' from the outset. This is followed by a parental information evening in September.

The tutors in Year 12 prepare students with a careers portfolio including CVs, application letters, achievement certificates and voluntary work diaries. All Year 12 students are expected to do at least one hour's community service in the school to support the learning of others and many choose to complete extra time supporting charities or junior schools in the community. Sustained voluntary work is an important requirement on application forms. Alongside this, the Sixth Form have their own charity and social committees organising events for all to be involved throughout the year.

Debates are a key part of the tutor programme using a '6 Hat' research programme. Tutor groups are pitted against each other to argue their points and a full vote is taken in assembly, summing up the key issues raised from the discussions.

Assemblies are taken by the students to enhance their speaking and presentation skills, giving them confidence in public speaking and eventually interview technique. Specific interview training is completed during Horizons weeks at the end of Year 12 along with University preparation which continues into Year 13 tutor time.

The tutorial programme often has outside experts visiting to explore society issues. These range from driving safety, drugs, alcohol and sex awareness, mental health, domestic violence, stop and search and many other related issues for teenagers today. They are designed to promote discussion as well as impart information.

Year 12 culminates in 8 days of 'Horizons' which involves key skill development and finally a week of work experience which is almost a compulsory element of job and University applications in today's society. For more information or to speak to a member of staff ...

Charles Darwin Sixth Form

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enquiries@cdarwin.com
www.cdarwin.com

What now?

NOT SURE?

If you want a more in-depth look at what we have to offer, you can book a tour of the Sixth Form.

WANT TO APPLY?

If you don't already have an application form this can be collected from reception or downloaded from the school website.

WILL I BE ACCEPTED?

This is all down to you.

If you can show that
you make an effort with
your studies and have
attendance above 95%
there is no reason why
you should not secure
a place. Some
students are invited
to interview
and this is your
opportunity
to shine.

Charles Darwin: About the Application

- All offers are subject to 95% or above attendance, exam results and behaviour.
- Some specific offers will mean we need to see improvement in attitude, effort, behaviour and/or results before we make a final decision (you will be informed by letter).
- Applications should be placed in the box in reception after work reviews. They will be numbered in the order they are received and interviews will take place in that order, commencing in September.
- Certain courses have limited places, so the earlier the application, the better the chance of securing a place on that course.
- You will need two referees to write their actual comment on the application form. The
 form needs to be neat, accurate and completed in full or the form will be returned
 and your place in the order process will be lost.
- We are asking you to express interest in 5 subjects you might like to take at AS/A2 level or whether you think you will be on Level 2 courses or a mixture of courses.
- You need to rank the subjects in order of preference.
- There is no guarantee that you will get all of these subjects but we will try to accommodate your requests.
- You will need to study four subjects. In the spring term the option blocks will be finalised in order for you to make "firmer" choices from the option blocks indicated.
- Formal interviews will take place about choices following examination results in August.
- In early July you will attend an induction day so you can experience taster lessons.

Please keep this copy for your reference and hand in the copy overleaf

OPTION CHOICE	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	Reserve choice	



Please com	plete this	page and hand to a member of staff
FULL NAM	E:	
CURRENT (if not CDS		
OPTION CHOICE	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	Reserve choice	