

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve



Sixth Form Information Booklet 2022 Entry

2020/21 A Level outcomes

31% at A*-A

58% at A*-B

88% at A*-C

99% at A*-E

Destinations 2021

A sample of destinations for the class of 2021

Hailey Atkinson	Psychology with Child Development – Winchester University
Louie Ball	Sports Journalism - Bournemouth University
Erbilin Berisha	Cyber Security – Kingston University
Hanna Blunt	Music and Musical Theatre – University of Chichester
Blake Bonthron	Accounting and Finance – University of Leeds
Elise Brenton	Modern and Contemporary History - Royal Holloway University
Charlie Brooks	History - Reading University
Frankie Cattermole-Blain	Digital Marketing – Portsmouth University
Abbey Churchill	Nursing - Kings College
Macy Cole	Finance and Accounting - University of Brighton
Helen Cotzias	Nursing Apprenticeship
Nicola Damms	English - University of York
Max Derbyshire	Broking Apprenticeship
Walter Dombojena	Law and Economics – University of Kent
Molly Farmer	Criminology and Criminal Psychology – University of Greenwich
Megan Firth	Sports Psychology - London South Bank University
Connor Fleming	London Institute of Banking and Finance
Kai Grant	Medicine - University of Southampton
Cameron Hallett	Computer Science - University of Exeter
Heather Hannaford	Performing Arts and Dance - Performers College
Jade Helps	Interior Architecture and Design - University of Portsmouth
Charlie Hough	PE and Sport - University of Greenwich
Timotej Illes	International Business Management - University of East Anglia
Tayler Jefferies	Media and Communications - University of Greenwich
Niamh Johnston	Politics and International Relations - University of London
Bailey Marks-Belaon	Sports and Exercise Science - University of Chichester
Izabelle Mazouz	Fashion Photography - Leeds Arts University
Macy Mckenna	Media and Communications - University of Greenwich
Ortvin Meskelevicius	Cyber Security with Law - University of Winchester
Molly Newall	Sociology and Politics - Goldsmiths
Annelise Persson	Professional Dance and Musical Theatre - Urdang Academy
Maria Smith	Criminology – University of Greenwich
Andrew Stevens	International Business with Japanese – Edinburgh University
Scott Strawson	Accounting and Finance – University of Plymouth
Abbie Summerscales	Architecture - University of Bath
Louise Walker	Veterinary Science - University of Bristol
Samuel Walker	Physics with Astrophysics - University of Bristol
Natasha Withers	Criminology and Psychology – University of Swansea



Charles Darwin School

Operated by the Charles Darwin Academy Trust

Headteacher: Sunil Chotai, BSc



November 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians

Charles Darwin School has a very successful Sixth Form where students thrive both academically and socially; it offers a learning environment that is vibrant, stimulating, inspiring and challenging - providing wonderful opportunities for success.

Our students consistently achieve very well in public examinations at A Level and in equivalent vocational courses. Past students from our Sixth Form regularly go on to prestigious universities and from there to have super careers that make worthwhile contributions in wider society.

Our aim with students is to make sure that we make good use of our understanding of them as individuals, enabling them to make the best of their many talents and undoubted potential. Our approach allows students to mature and grow in confidence, secure in the knowledge that they will be well supported and guided skilfully to be the best that they can be - all according to their level of need and confidence.

During the next month or two students will begin the decision making process for the next year. The vast majority of our Year 11 choose to stay with us in the Sixth Form, however they will also be joined by a limited number of external applicants. Those who join us from other schools have found Charles Darwin to be a warm and welcoming place where settling in, making new friends and progressing with their studies is straightforward.

This prospectus has been compiled to give you an introduction to courses available here and to enable you to gain an understanding of the details necessary for making an informed choice. Once choices have been drafted each applicant will have a meeting with a senior member of staff during which the courses chosen will be confirmed. Our aim being that all will have a clear picture of what the study intentions are for next year as soon as possible.

Whilst academic study and achievement are at the centre of life at Charles Darwin Sixth Form, there is much more to it than that. Students are involved in a variety of social events, charitable fundraising schemes, debates, voluntary work, school excursions and much more. Being a Sixth Former offers more freedom and opportunities and with that comes responsibility. It is expected that all students will promote our positive values and do their utmost to enhance our good reputation, whilst of course working hard to ensure their own success.

Yours sincerely,

Sunil Chotai
Headteacher

The main changes to A Level study

As you may know, A Levels have undergone considerable reform in recent years.

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.

AS and A2 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.

Therefore to gain a full A Level, all examinations have to be sat at the end of their second year of A Level study. Most of our A Level courses are now 2-year courses only.

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.

In choosing your programme of study you must be particularly mindful of the individual subject entry requirements. Once applications are received all cases will be viewed on an individual basis and applicants may be asked to attend an enrolment meeting in August, in strict order of receipt of application, prior to being accepted into the Sixth Form and embarking upon a programme of study in September.

The general expectation is that to study in the Sixth Form pupils must have at least 5 grade 9 - 4 at GCSE or equivalent at L2.

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. It is likely that you will be assigned times when you are allowed to make your own decision about where you study and times when you will have designated independent study periods which are roomed and supervised. Attendance at these is compulsory.

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.
- Effective time management and finding the right place to study alongside 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.

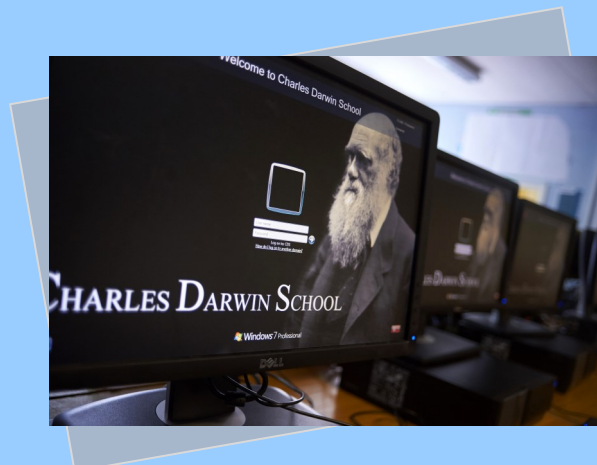
When studying:

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

Senior Prefects

Appointed by application, interview and for Head and Deputy Head Prefects, 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 maintain the standards, duties and responsibilities of a prefect
- To organise and represent the school body at school events
- To attend all meetings as required
- To liaise with members of the Senior Leadership Team and KS5 Pastoral Team
- To attend out of school events as a school representative when required
- To support and enforce school rules appropriately
- To be visible in the school and a role model for all other students
- To take an active role in one of the Sixth Form committees: Buddies, Charity, Social, Leavers, Diversity or Communication

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.

English Language

GCSE AQA

Course Overview

As with GCSE, there are two exam papers for English Language, worth 50% each, and both 1h 45 in length.

Paper 1 (8700.1) looks at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques in texts to engage the interest of readers. The aim of this literary fiction paper is to engage students in a creative text and inspire them to write creatively themselves.

Paper 2 (8700.2) looks at how different writers present a similar topic over time. The aim of this non-fiction paper is to develop students' insights into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives.

Course Structure and Assessment

Students will have their first re-sit opportunity in November (with results published in January), and the second in the summer (results published in August).

Career Opportunities

A Grade 4 or above in English Language is essential for many careers, future training and further education courses.

For more details contact ... Mr Nunn/Miss Playle

Mathematics

GCSE EDEXCEL

Course Overview

A one-year course covering the Foundation Tier GCSE will be offered to students who have previously gained a Grade 3. 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 along with the summer re-sit.

Course Structure and Assessment

You will follow the EDEXCEL course, which is linear. There is no coursework to complete for this GCSE. Students will sit three papers each worth a third of the final mark.

Career Opportunities

A grade 4 or above in Mathematics is essential for many careers, future training and further education courses.

For more details contact ... Mr Watson

Level 3 Courses

Sixth form students have a tremendous thirst for knowledge, making good progress and achieving well, so that they are prepared for their next steps in education, training or employment.

January 2018



Accountancy

A Level AQA

Course Overview

This course helps students to understand the responsibilities of an accountant and the impacts of their recommendations on the business and the wider environment. The topics emphasises both financial accounting and the recording of past events, and management accounting as a means of planning and decision making.

Students will build knowledge and understanding of key concepts, principles and techniques that they can apply to real-life scenarios, developing the ability to solve problems logically, analyse data methodically, make reasoned choices and communicate effectively.

Course Structure and Assessment

Assessment – 2 papers:

Paper 1 – 3 Hours - 50% of overall grade

Paper 2 - 3 Hours. - 50% of overall grade

Both papers have 3 sections – Multiple choice, structured questions and extended essay style.

Career Opportunities

Students can progress to higher education course such as Accounting and Finance, Business and Accounting, Business Management, Management Accounting, Auditing and a wide range of Accounting, Business and Finance degrees and apprenticeships

For more details contact ... Miss Gillespie



Art & Design

A Level AQA

Course Overview

During this course you will undertake a wide variety of experimental workshops and practical activities, complete artist/designer analysis, learn to develop your work and create exciting and personal outcomes. You will need to be prepared to work independently and come up with your own ideas. Independent study is vital if you want to succeed.

Course Structure and Assessment

The course is made up of:

Component 1 (a personal investigation) - This is your body of course work worth 60%. This also includes a written essay which supports your practical work

Component 2 (externally set assignment) - This is worth 40%. There is a preparatory period and 15 hour exam

Art and Design students must show evidence of working in two or more areas such as fine art (drawing, painting and printmaking), photography, graphic communication, textile design and three dimensional design.

Career Opportunities

Students have a wide variety of directions they can pursue, ranging from Foundations courses, apprenticeships and degree courses. There are a wide variety of courses available at UCA, Goldsmith, Ravensbourne, London College of Fashion, UAL and Central Saint Martins.

The creative sector is the largest growing industry, it is growing at four times the rate of the UK work force and now accounts for 1.9 million jobs such as Animator, Architect, Gallery Curator, Art Therapist, Tattoo Artist, Illustrator, Fine Artist, Graphic Designer, Prop Maker, Art Critic, Logo Design and Printmaker.

For more details contact ... Miss Doughty/Mrs Doig

Biology

A Level AQA

Course Overview

The course is designed to give students the opportunity to explore different branches of Biology and develop investigative skills valued by employers and universities. Students will be engaged by cutting edge content which is relevant to real world experiences and inspire them to pursue further study in courses like biological sciences and medicine.

Biology is an experimental subject that is moving forwards rapidly thanks to modern day technological advances. Students are provided with numerous opportunities to link theory with reality through practical work which doesn't contribute to their overall grade but is essential to completing the course. We follow the AQA exam route and all assessments are written exams which are completed at the end of Year 13.

A Level Biology is notoriously one of the most challenging A Level subjects to study due to its range and depth of content. Being successful over the two year course will take a large commitment of time and effort but may be the course for you whether you are indulging your interests in the natural world or pursuing your aspirations to become a Neurosurgeon.

Course Structure and Assessment

Year 12 Topics:

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Assessment:

Paper 1 – 2 hours, 91 marks (worth 35% of A level grade)

Paper 2 – 2 hours, 91 marks (worth 35% of A level grade)

Paper 3 – 2 hours, 78 marks (worth 30% of A level grade)

Year 13 topics:

5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

Practical skills are assessed in the written papers but students must keep a lab book and demonstrate a range of practical skills throughout the course to be awarded the practical endorsement.

Career Opportunities

Forensics, Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Biochemistry, Sports Science, Teaching, Lab Technician, Veterinary Science, research and many more.

For more details contact ... Mr Culver

Business

A Level EDEXCEL

Course Overview

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business is structured into four themes and consists of three externally examined papers. Students are introduced to business in Themes 1 and 2 through building knowledge of core business concepts and applying them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work.

Breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, with applications to a wider range of contexts and more complex business information, are developed in Themes 3 and 4, requiring students to take a more strategic view of business opportunities and issues.

Course Structure and Assessment

Assessment - 3 Exam Papers

Paper 1 - 2 Hrs. Based on Theme 1 and 4. Worth 35% of overall grade.

Paper 2 - 2 Hrs. Based on Theme 2 and 3. Worth 35% of overall grade.

Paper 3 - 2 Hrs. Based on All 4 Themes. The questions will be based on a pre-released case study that comes out in the March before the exam.

Career Opportunities

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 and a wide range of careers ranging from banking, sales, product management and general management to working in public sector organisations or charities.

For more details contact ... Mr Manchester

Chemistry

A Level OCR (specification) H432

Course Overview

Chemistry is a vibrant and exciting subject. Chemistry is the connection between all sciences – from the making of new materials to understanding biological systems, and from the food we eat to the medicines which keep us healthy. We rely on chemicals every day of our lives and this course will help you understand and link different concepts and ideas together.

The A Level course is a mixture of academic theory and application with supporting practical investigations. All A Level grades are based on final exams only in the summer of Year 13. However, a set of practical investigations are undertaken by all and is reported alongside the final A Level result.

Course Structure and Assessment

Module 1 – Development of practical skills

Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry

Module 3 – Periodic table and energy

Module 4 – Core organic chemistry

Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements

Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis

At the end of the 2 years, pupils sit 3 exams: paper 1 (2hr 15mins) assesses modules 1,2,3 and 5 and is weighted as 37%; paper 2 (2hr 15mins) assesses 1,2,4 and 6 and is weighted as 37%; paper 3 (1hr 30mins) covers all modules 1-6 and is weighted as 26%.

The course is supported by an A Level practical endorsement which is continuously assessed over the 2 year course.

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.

For more details contact ... Dr R Piercy

Computer Science

A Level OCR

Course Overview

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 Computer Science 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 students 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.

Course Structure and Assessment

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

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

Dance

A Level AQA

Course Overview

The AS and A Level dance course teaches students how to compose, perform and appreciate dance to an advanced level. Candidates will analyse dances and develop an understanding of the role dance plays within society. They will also learn how to view dance as a tool of expression and explore how choreographers use dance to comment on human issues. Students are required to compose dances, which will require them to apply their knowledge of choreographic devices. The content of a range of professional dance works are studied and also consider the context from which they come. Knowledge of dance history will be covered to allow a breadth of understanding of the development of dance within specific areas of study. The lessons comprise both theoretical and practical activities and cover a range of dance genres, from varying cultures and origins.

Course Structure and Assessment

AS:

Component 1: Practical exam 50% of AS Level

Component 2: Written exam 50% of AS Level

A Level:

Component 1: Practical exam 50% of A Level

Component 2: Written exam 50% of A Level

Career Opportunities

Career opportunities can include, but are not limited to: a Dancer in a dance company, Teacher, Freelance Dance Artist, Community Outreach, Choreographer, Technician, Manager, Promoter, Producer, Publicist, Physiotherapists, Writers and Critics. Students may choose to follow Dance onwards to university to study a degree, foundation or diploma.

For more details contact ... Miss Abbotts / Mrs Rees

Digital Media

OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate

Course Overview

The OCR Technical Level 3 course is an exciting vocational qualification, full of refreshing and exciting content that's up to date, engaging and fit for purpose. This relatively new course has been designed following extensive consultation with universities, employers and industry specialists to make sure that students gain the right combination of knowledge, understanding and skills required for the 21st century.

Course Structure and Assessment

Year 12: Mandatory examined unit with 2 practical units, development of a proposal and creating the opening sequence to a TV product created by the students (both internally assessed)

Year 13: 2 (internally assessed) case work units developing a show reel and advertising unit.

Externally examined unit on pre-production and planning.

Career Opportunities

Take this course if you are independent, creative and enjoy responsibility and active learning. It will suit anyone interested in a wide range of creative media forms. The focus on creative production units means that students have to be organised and focused, willing to put in extra time after school.

OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Certificate in Digital Media (AS)

OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Digital Media (A2)

For more details contact ... Mr Archer

Drama & Theatre

A Level EDEXCEL

Course Overview

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

Course Structure and Assessment

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. You will deconstruct this text and create your own piece from it. A key aspect of this assessment is the creation of a portfolio where you will outline and analyse the creative process.
2. Text in performance: You will perform a scripted piece and either a monologue or a duologue to a visiting examiner.
3. Written exam: You will complete a written exam. The questions will be based on two contrasting set texts studied.

You will need to be able to interpret these texts in performance and analyse your ideas. You will also analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance that you have seen during the course.

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 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, it would also benefit those looking to study teaching or Law at university. Attendance on theatre trips is strongly recommended; these are organised throughout the year.

For more details contact ... Miss Currie

English Literature

A Level OCR

Course Overview

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!

Course Structure and Assessment

Two exams, both of which are worth 40% each of the final mark.

Two pieces of coursework, with combined scores that count for 20% of the final mark.

- Paper 1, currently we study Shakespeare's 'Measure for Measure' for Part A, while, for Part B, we study Webster's 'The Duchess of Malfi' and Chaucer's 'The Merchant's Tale'.
- Paper 2, we study American Fiction 1880-1940 for an unseen question in Part A; while, for Part B, we study Fitzgerald's 'The Great Gatsby' and Wharton's 'Age of Innocence'.

For the coursework element we study, for a comparative essay, Margaret Atwood's 'The Penelopiad' with Carol Ann Duffy's 'The World's Wife'; for the re-creative element, we study Bennett's 'The History Boys'.

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.

For more details contact ... Ms Roberts

Extended Project (EPQ) AQA

Course Overview

The Extended Project is an independent study producing either a written case study report of 5000 words or an artefact with mini-case study of 2000 words. It is worth half an A Level in terms of UCAS points and is regarded highly by all universities, some (Southampton and Bath plus others) will drop their entry requirements with A*/A/B grade EPQ, whereas other Russell Group Universities, like Oxbridge, expect it will be part of their application and entry.

The choice of study is your own personal idea/interest but has to be approved to achieve the assessment objective outcome. This is negotiated at the start of the project with your supervisor. It will take at least a year to complete and you must be self-motivated and able to research information on your own. The only delivered curriculum is about skill acquisition - not content. It is not an easy qualification to achieve and requires personal commitment and determination to complete.

Title examples: Explore the chemistry behind the baking of a Victoria Sponge; Investigate the inherent problems that form the London Housing Crisis; What makes the Mini an iconic car in British History?; Analyse the truth of the world's plastic problem; Explore how to creatively write a short story to produce one in your chosen genre.

Course Structure and Assessment

Assessment is 100% coursework based on case study reports. You are marked on: Planning and Organisation; Reading; Problem Solving and Accurate Communication; Reflection and Development.

Everyone must complete: a Candidate Record Form (CFR or Production Log), a full presentation to a set audience and the case study of about 2000 words. Candidates can then choose either to complete a reading report of 4000 words or an artefact with workbook.

Career Opportunities

If you are aiming for the top universities, then you should complete an EPQ. However, it is also a qualification that allows you to study an area of interest in depth so it is a superb preparation for interviews into university, apprenticeship or jobs.

For more details contact ... Mrs Mears

Film Studies

A Level WJEC

Course Overview

The Film Studies A Level is an academically demanding but stimulating and wonderfully varied course of study. This new and upgraded specification differs slightly from the previous course that has been running here successfully for some time now, but keeps at its core the opportunity to lose yourself in film and be fascinated by the history and power of the screen image.

This course requires the study of films from different historical periods, such as the Silent Era, films made between 1930 and 1961, as well as and alongside contemporary developments in the cinematic art form. More specifically, the film studies course offers students a set of analytical tools that will help them to understand and enjoy films even more than already, as well as offering cinematic experiences. Film is the most open, stimulating and diverse art form, so if you want to find out more about the way it reflects experiences, messages and values about the world, choose this course!

Course Structure and Assessment

Two examined units 70%

One coursework unit, single short film production 30%

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. Therefore, it could no longer fairly be called a creative, production based course, but closer to the English Literature model of evaluating texts.

Career Opportunities

Teaching, Journalism, Screen Writing and many other jobs within the Media industry.

For more details contact ... Mr Archer

Finance

Level 3 Certificate and Diploma

Course Overview

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.

Course Structure and Assessment

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 provides a brilliant insight into a career in this field. IFS attracts UCAS points for entry to university and high achievement grades have attracted a bursary support at university in the past.

For more details contact ... Mr Manchester/Miss Allum

Geography

A Level EDEXCEL

Course Overview

"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.

Course Structure and Assessment

Paper 1:

Tectonic processes and hazards
Coastal landscapes and change
The water cycle and water security
The carbon cycle and energy security

Paper 2:

Globalisation
Shaping place (regenerating places)
Superpowers
Global development and connections

Paper 3:

Looks at three synoptic issues and focuses on; players, attitudes and actions and futures and uncertainties

An independent investigation also accounts for 20% of the overall grade.

A residential field trip to Bournemouth and local day field trips are important elements in understanding how these topics are relevant to us in the real world. It is also an opportunity to collect data for students' independent investigations. These trips are subject to change during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak.

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.

For more details contact ... Ms Partridge

Health & Social Care

OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate

Course Overview

This is a level 3 course equivalent to an A Level. It is a 2 year course and students will need to complete the course to be awarded a grade of a Distinction * (A*), a Distinction (A) a Merit (C) or a Pass (E).

There are coursework units and examined units to complete, some are mandatory but the optional units are chosen by the teaching staff. The topics are varied as shown below. An organised opportunity to complete some work experience in the local community helps to fulfil the requirements of Unit 1.

Course Structure and Assessment

There are 6 units. 4 are mandatory and 2 optional. 3 units are examined and 3 are coursework units however the majority of the marks are based on the examined units.

- Mandatory units:
1. Building positive relationships in Health and Social Care (coursework)
 2. Equality, diversity and rights in Health and Social Care (examined)
 3. Health, safety and security in Health and Social Care (examined)
 4. Anatomy and physiology for Health and Social Care (examined)

- Optional Units:
10. Nutrition for health (coursework)
 13. Sexual health, reproduction and early development (coursework)

Career Opportunities

Any career working with people including the Emergency Services: Ambulance, Fire and Police; any Health Care or Social Work from Teaching to Midwifery to Hospital Receptionist to Occupational Therapist.

For more details contact ... Mrs Sheehan

History

A Level AQA

Course Overview

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

- 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.
- 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.

Course Structure and Assessment

Unit One: 40% (2.5 hour exam)

Unit Two: 40% (2.5 hour exam)

Finally all students will need to complete a personal study; 20%; which will require them to independently investigate and analyse a particular historical controversy covering a period of time. We will be studying the Arab-Israeli conflict from 1907 to the present. It will include an investigation into the role of the great powers, the importance of oil and the impact of terrorism. A true study in international relations.

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, Ministry of Defence, Diplomatic Service, Broadcasters, the Library Service and many more.

For more details contact ... Miss Swinscoe

IT National Certificate/Extended Certificate

BTEC

Course Overview

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?

Course Structure and Assessment

The BTEC National Certificate in IT is equivalent to a GCE AS Level and the Extended Certificate which is the full BTEC course is equivalent to a GCE A2 Level qualification.

The full BTEC course consists of four units, two of which are externally assessed through a written paper or a practical exam and the remaining units are assessed internally through scenario based assignments, whilst the Certificate consists of one of these internal and external units.

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.

For more details contact ... Miss Edwards

Mathematical Studies (Core Maths)

AS Level AQA

(one-year course)

Course Overview

Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Mathematics) is a qualification designed for students who have achieved a grade 4 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.

This course will allow pupils to build on their mathematical skills using more advanced methods and techniques. It has been developed with the support of employers, universities and professional bodies to ensure that it offers pupils the relevant knowledge and skills to progress to further study and the world of work.

Course Structure and Assessment

Pupils will learn how to apply mathematics 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 mathematics 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 mathematics 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.

Career Opportunities

Progression onto A Level Mathematics. Mathematics is essential for many careers, future training and further education courses.

For more details contact ... Mr Watson

Mathematics & Further Mathematics

A Level EDEXCEL

Course Overview

Mathematics deals with highly abstract topics which require considerable imagination combined with the discipline of 'proof'. It also underpins virtually all the practical developments in Science, IT and Economics, which have formed our modern world.

A Level Mathematics gives you the opportunity to study topics such as geometry, calculus and trigonometry (pure mathematics) and to use these ideas within the 'applied' topics such as mechanics and statistics.

You can develop a yet deeper and broader understanding of mathematical concepts by studying Further Mathematics as a separate A Level qualification. There are a wide variety of topics and applications of Mathematics which can be studied at this level.

Course Structure and Assessment

A Level Mathematics consists of two main areas: Pure Mathematic, and Applied Mathematics (consisting of Statistics and Mechanics). Pure mathematics, develops algebraic and geometrical reasoning, and underpins the other disciplines. The applied maths require mathematical modelling to make sense of real-life problems. You will need to use technology where appropriate; for example, the use of spreadsheets and graphical calculators to support statistical analysis. In addition, strong skills in algebraic manipulation are vital.

The work you do in and out of class will develop your ability to produce well-reasoned answers to extended questions. Although maths is highly logical, it also requires imagination and determination to work well on your own with an enthusiasm for problem-solving, a willingness to try a variety of approaches and the tenacity to keep going in the hunt for possible solutions to awkward problems.

Career Opportunities

Mathematics and Further Mathematics are highly respected A Levels and support progression to a wide range of degree courses and careers. All science-based degrees require good maths skills, and so too do Engineering and many Computing and Economics-based and Social Science degrees.

For more details contact ... Mr Watson

Medical Science (Applied Diploma)

EDUQAS

Course Overview

Medical Science is the science of dealing with the maintenance of health and the prevention and treatment of diseases. The Level 3 Applied Diploma in Medical Science is for learners who are interested in careers related to healthcare and medical research. Medical scientists are at the forefront of healthcare services, as they are vital in the diagnosis of disease, determining the effectiveness of treatments and searching for new cures.

The main purpose of the qualification is to provide learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills in key scientific principles to support progress to higher education or employment in areas of Medical Science, such as job roles in physiological sciences or clinical laboratory services.

The qualification covers the key topic areas of health, physiology and disease, as well as providing the opportunity to study the areas of pharmacology, physiological measurement, clinical testing and medical research.

Course Structure and Assessment

Learners need to complete the six units to achieve the WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Medical Science.

- Human Health and Disease
- Physiological measurement techniques
- Medical Science research methods
- Medicines and treatment of disease
- Clinical laboratory techniques
- Medical case study

External assessment

- written exams for unit 1 and unit 6
- an externally set and marked, task based assessment for unit 5

Grades are A-E, these are awarded from the combined score from each unit

Internal assessment (coursework)

These units are internally assessed and externally moderated:

- Unit 2
- Unit 3
- Unit 4

Career Opportunities

Job roles such as those within the areas of life sciences, i.e. carrying out a range of laboratory and scientific tests to support the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Alternatively there would also be opportunities to progress to job roles within the physiological sciences, working directly with patients, measuring and evaluating particular organs and systems, such as scientists working in neurophysiology recording the electrical activity in the brain. A significant proportion of career opportunities in this sector are at degree level.

When supported by other appropriate qualifications, the Level 3 Applied Diploma in Medical Science will enable progression to higher education to a range of Applied Science programmes, such as Biomedical Science, Life Sciences and Physiology.

For more details contact ... Mrs Mackay

Modern Foreign Languages (French)

A Level AQA

Course Overview

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 culture to make your holidays more enriching and enjoyable. Either way, there are many benefits of learning a language in the Sixth Form.

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 have a deep understanding of grammar and be able to apply the structures in your written and spoken work.

Course Structure and Assessment

Core content:: 1. Social issues and trends, 2. Political and artistic culture, 3. Grammar, 4. Works: Literary texts and films (optional)

Assessment 1: Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes, 100 marks, 50% of A Level

Assessment 2: Written exam: 2 hours, 80 marks in total, 20% of A Level

Assessment 3: Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time), 60 marks in total, 30% of A Level

Career Opportunities

Travel and Tourism industry, Business industry, Translator, Interpreter

For more details contact ... Mrs E Kaye-Chubb

Modern Foreign Languages (German)

A Level AQA

Course Overview

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 German culture to make your holidays more enriching and enjoyable. Either way, there are many benefits of learning a language in the Sixth Form.

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 have a deep understanding of grammar and be able to apply the structures in your written and spoken work.

Course Structure and Assessment

Core content:: 1. Social issues and trends, 2. Political and artistic culture, 3. Grammar, 4. Works: Literary texts and films (optional)

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing - Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes • 100 marks • 50% of A Level

Paper 2: Writing - Written exam: 2 hours • 80 marks in total • 20% of A Level

Paper 3: Speaking - Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time) • 60 marks in total • 30% of A Level

Career Opportunities

Travel and Tourism industry, Business industry, Translator, Interpreter

For more details contact ... Mrs E Kaye-Chubb

Music

A Level EDUQAS

Course Overview

The course involves the development in practical skills in terms of performance and composition, as well as developing an understanding of the development of different musical styles, and the ability to analyse this music by listening to familiar and unfamiliar music, and by the study of musical scores.

Course Structure and Assessment

AS

Three units:

Component 1 - Performing 30% (6-8 minutes of performance, consisting of a minimum of two pieces of music).

Component 2 - Composing 30% (4 1/2 - 7 minutes of composition, consisting of two pieces of music).

Component 3 - Appraising 40% (a 1 1/2 hour written/listening exam, covering a set work, a set area of study, and responding to familiar and unfamiliar music).

A Level (students may specialise as a performer or a composer - the percentage of the units reflects this).

Three units:

Component 1 - Performing

Option A: 35% (10-12 mins of performance, consisting of a minimum of three pieces of music).

Option B: 25% (6-8 mins of performance, consisting of a minimum of two pieces of music).

Component 2 - Composing

Option A: 25% (4 - 6 minutes of composition, consisting of two pieces of music).

Option B: 35% (8-10 minutes of composition, consisting of two pieces of music).

Component 3 - Appraising 40% (a 1 1/2 hour written/listening exam, covering set works, two set areas of study, and responding to familiar and unfamiliar music).

Career Opportunities

Music Teaching; Music Administration; Professional Musician; Instrumental Tuition; Music Journalism; Orchestral Management; Music Librarian; Part Preparation; Music Composition and arrangements, and many more!

For more details contact ... Miss Mace

Music Technology

A Level EDEXCEL

Course Overview

These courses involve the development of practical Music Technology skills and a study of how music is created using recording technology and digital music software. During the courses, you will develop skills in:

- Recording - using the recording studio to create a commercial track.
- Technology-based composition - creating, editing, manipulating and structuring sounds to produce a technology-based composition.
- Listening and Analysing - you will develop your knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles.
- Producing and Analysing - you will develop your knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques and apply these to unfamiliar commercial recordings.

Course Structure and Assessment

AS and A Level:

Component 1 - Recording 20% (coursework)

Component 2 - Technology-based composition 20% (coursework)

Component 3 - Listening and Analysing 25% (written/listening exam)

Component 4 - Producing and Analysing 35% (written/practical exam)

The two courses follow the same unit/assessment scheme, but a higher standard of coursework / level of knowledge is expected at A Level.

Career Opportunities

Recording Engineer, Studio Technician, Music and Media, Radio Technician, live sound at music events and many more.

For more details contact ... Miss Mace

Photography Art & Design

A Level OCR

Course Overview

Photography is a specialism under the Art & Design umbrella and is an excellent subject choice for those wanting to pursue a career within the creative industry, either to become a professional photographer or to support and augment an art, design, media or advertising vocation.

Course Structure and Assessment

Students will follow a well structured course that teaches the basics of photography, camera control, compositional techniques plus critical and analytical understanding and all the while instilling independence and confidence.

Students will have all the freedom of a well equipped studio space, with access to studio lighting, DSLR cameras and accessories plus industry standard editing in the form of Photoshop and Lightroom.

When the time is right students will also undertake London gallery visits to broaden their understanding of the facilities available to them on their doorstep but also as an opportunity to take pictures in a vibrant city environment.

Career Opportunities

The opportunities for a career path in Photography are virtually endless, from Wedding Photography to high fashion and everything in between to Design and Advertising.

For more details contact ... Mr Chubb

Physical Education

A Level AQA

Course Overview

A Level Physical Education builds on students' experience from GCSE; enhancing their knowledge and increasing 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 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%)

Course Structure and Assessment

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.

Students will sit two written papers and complete an external practical moderation in their 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. Students 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.

For more details contact ... Miss Case/ Mrs Wray / Miss Dobney

Physics

A Level OCR

Course Overview

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 worthy of pride, it is also quite hard work.

Course Assessment and Structure

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.

For more details contact ... Mr Doig

Politics

A Level EDEXCEL

Course Overview

Year 12: Units of study are primarily concerned with the current state of UK Politics. Unit 1 analyses the changing importance of fundamental elements of representative democracy today: democracy, elections, parties and pressure groups as well as consideration of voting behaviour. Unit 2 evaluates how the UK is governed by focusing in on the UK constitution, the role of parliament, the Prime Minister and Cabinet as well as the relationship between these branches. An additional part of Year 12 study is the study of important political ideas, including, Conservatism, Socialism, Liberalism and Feminism.

Year 13: In Year 13 the focus is mostly on global politics. Unit 3 uses conceptual standpoints to analyse the structures of Global Politics like the globalisation phenomenon, the world order of states, economic and political global governance and regionalism and the EU. There is also analysis of issues or themes in global politics like conflict, poverty, the environment and human rights.

Course Structure and Assessment

At the end of the two years study there are three, 2 hour exams each worth 84 marks.

Career Opportunities

A variety of degrees and career choices are open to A Level Politics students. Popular choices are Law, Civil Service, Foreign Office as well as Teaching and Journalism.

For more details contact ... Mrs Ruth

Psychology

A Level AQA

Course Overview

Psychology is the study of human behaviour. Psychologists investigate human behaviour to provide theories of why we think and behave in certain ways.

Psychology A Level will provide students with a variety of skills including; analytical thinking, improved communication, problem solving and statistical analysis. Psychology A Level is demanding and difficult, students who take Psychology should be confident in their Science, English and Mathematical skills.

Course Structure and Assessment

At A Level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A Level. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 96 marks each. The exams consist of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Topics covered include: **Social Influence** (The study of why we conform, obedience, minority influence and social change), **Memory** (The study of how we encode and store memories, retrieval of memory & eye witness testimony), **Attachment** (The study of how we form attachments as infants), **Approaches in Psychology** (The study of theories of behaviour), **Biopsychology** (The role of the brain and hormones in behaviour), **Psychopathology** (OCD and depression and their explanations), **Research Methods** (Methods of conducting psychological research and recording data), **Issues and Debates in Psychology** (Key psychology debates such as Nature vs Nurture), **Relationships**, **Schizophrenia** and **Addiction**.

Career Opportunities

Marketing, Business Development, Human Resources, Forensic Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Clinical Psychology, Nursing and Teaching.

For more details contact ... Miss Crawley

Sociology

A Level AQA

Course Overview

Sociology is a popular subject at Charles Darwin School. It offers students an opportunity to develop sociological knowledge and understanding of the wider society (and world). Students are also able to investigate ways to research society and are able to evaluate the research process within sociology.

It is important that students have a keen interest in society, contemporary issues, (both national and global) and take an interest in political and global issues.

Students who have taken GCSE History will find A Level Sociology complements and enhances their learning however if they have not taken History they will still find Sociology accessible.

Topics covered include:

Year 12 - Basic Sociological introduction and Theory, Education, Family and Identity and Research methods.

Year 13 - Crime and Deviance, Mass Media and Sociological Theory.

Course Structure and Assessment

2 year course leading to a full A Level in Sociology

Assessed via 3 external 2 hour exams at the end of the 2 year course.

This is a 100% exam course.

Career Opportunities

A Level Sociology will give you access to a range of careers in the following fields - Social Research, Criminology, Politics, History, Media, Law, Education, Social Work and the Criminal Justice System. Apprenticeships and or employment with the NHS, Civil Service, Industry, Commerce, Local and Central Government often regard Sociology as a useful and adaptable subject.

For more details contact ... Mrs Mears

Sports Studies

Extended Diploma PEARSON

Course Overview

This course provides an excellent platform for careers within the sport, fitness and leisure industries and can support entry into higher education. It is a vocationally delivered course with a strong emphasis on practical lesson and therefore develops the skills and knowledge students will need to thrive in a professional sports and fitness environment. Students are assessed through written exams, practical assessments and assignments based upon real-life sporting scenarios.

Charles Darwin School has a thriving sport department with outstanding facilities. The qualification covers either 4, 9 or 14 units. This course is the equivalent to one, two or three A-levels depending on the pathway chosen. Pathways allow students to combine other A-Level Courses or focus all their efforts on Sport. Grades are: Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.

Course Structure and Assessment

Units include: Principles of Anatomy and Physiology in Sport, The Physiology of Fitness, Practical Sports Performance, Fitness Testing, Professional Development in the Sports Industry, Rules, Regulations and Officiating, Tactical and Technical Demands in Sport, Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being, Sport Psychology, Skill Acquisition, Sports Development, Sports Leadership, Business in Sport and Research Methods.

Career Opportunities

To Higher Education to study a Sport-based degree or to train as a PE teacher. This course can also lead to employment, either before or after a degree, in the Sport and Fitness industry. These include a Physiotherapist, Nutritionist, Coach, Leisure Centre Manager, Personal Trainer, Sports Therapist and Sports Psychologist.

For more details contact ... Miss Owen

Textile Design

A Level AQA

Course Overview

During this course you will undertake a wide variety of experimental workshops and practical activities, complete artist/designer analysis, learn to develop your work and create exciting and personal outcomes. You will need to be prepared to work independently and come up with your own ideas. Independent study is vital if you want to succeed.

Course Structure and Assessment

The course is made up of:

Component 1 – A personal investigation. This is your body of course work worth 60%. This also includes a written essay which supports your practical work

Component 2 – The externally set assignment is worth 40%. There is a preparatory period and 15 hour exam

All work is marked by the school and moderated by AQA during a visit to the school. Textile Design students must show evidence of working in one or more areas including fashion, digital textiles, printed or dyed fabrics, constructed textiles, costume design and art textiles.

Career Opportunities

Having successfully completed your A Level, students have a wide variety of directions they can pursue, ranging from Foundation courses, apprenticeships and degree courses. There are a wide variety of courses available at UCA, Goldsmith, Ravensbourne, London College of Fashion, UAL, Central Saint Martins.

The creative sector is the largest growing industry, it is growing at four times the rate of the UK work force and now accounts for 1.9 million jobs.

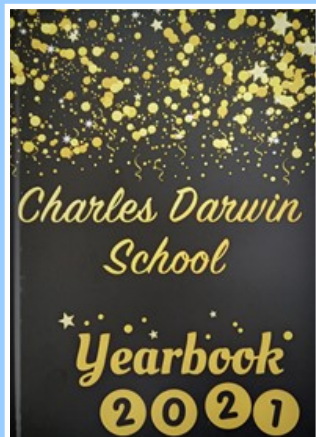
Possible jobs – Textile Designer, Interior Designer, Tailor, Fashion Designer, Milliner, Embroiderer, Shoe Designer, Weaver and Colourist.

For more details contact ... Miss Doughty

Extra Curricular

Sixth Form Committees

Support and mentor Year 7 students including Buddies and a Diversity group.



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



Dance/Drama & Theatre

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



Charity Events

The Sixth Form Charity Team decides on who they want to support and raise thousands of pounds every year.



Sports

We have a successful football team. You can try out for school teams or just play against your friends. Every Wednesday afternoon is given over for competitive sport and wellbeing events such as Couch to 5K, Yoga or using the Gym facilities.



Trips, Excursions and Gallery Exhibitions

Students from Art, Media and Photography visit numerous public exhibitions and have also had their work displayed in various public exhibitions.

Other subject areas regularly enhance the curriculum with off-site visits, lectures and workshops. Students may choose to participate in the Whole School Ski Trip or engage with a Bronze or Silver DofE Award.



Volunteering in the School Community

There are numerous volunteering opportunities to show school spirit. You can support a year group, help out at public events, lead clubs, assist in lessons or admin, become a Senior, Deputy or Head Prefect.

Year 12 spend an hour a week volunteering their time in the community.

Zanzibar Trip



Charles Darwin School has a successful partnership with a school in Zanzibar, Tanzania called Kijito Upele. We have been visiting the school since 2016 and working with them for the development of our students, and to provide more opportunities and resources for their students. The school has two halves, each attending for either the early day or the late day and each containing 3000 students in classes of 100-150 students. Classrooms are simple and don't have tables or chairs, and resources are scarce due to the open and unsecured nature of the site.

In 2019 students had the opportunity to explore Zanzibar and, with the support of Miss Candy, Miss Sales and Mr T Jones, were involved in the teaching of Science, English, Maths, ICT and Geography, coaching sports, or building a perimeter wall for the school. The trip was definitely a case of work hard, play hard, as students prepared lessons well into the evening, and got up early to start a full teaching day in the blistering heat. We were really impressed with how the resources and work we did last year had been cared for and protected. Renovated classrooms had window grids and doors; other classrooms had new roofs, and staff were actively using the teaching resources we took to help their classes.



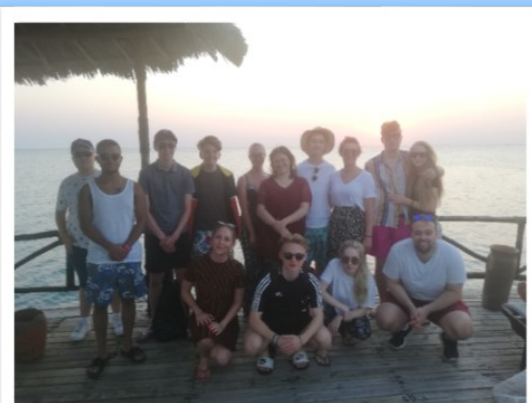
During our down time we visited beaches, had a tour of Stone town and a spice farm, went to a night market to enjoy street food, and enjoyed games each evening at the youth hostel. After our week of teaching, we headed out to an eco-lodge on the coast for some much needed R & R before we returned home.



The students who attended in 2019 were required to attend planning and admin sessions; learning about food, appropriate dress, some basic Swahili and Zanzibari history and culture; though nothing could really prepare us for the realities of the spice island. It continues to be the most fascinating and beautiful place, each time we return.

Many students fundraised their way to Zanzibar with dedication and hard work – we encourage this approach rather than asking the bank of Mum and Dad. Some students used their part time jobs to fund their way, whilst others rigorously attended fundraising events such as a sponsored walk from Bromley to the Tanzanian High Commission and made the most of babysitting and dog walking services that they could offer to friends and family.

As a trip, Zanzibar 2019 was exciting, challenging, hard work, hot, life-changing, amazing, incredible and fulfilling. Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 Pandemic we were unable to visit in 2020 and 2021, however, we are really hopeful to be able to continue to offer this trip to Charles Darwin Students as we continue to build on our relationship with Kijito Upele .



Ms Candy/Mr Jones

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 and/or 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 Taster Days at the end of Year 11 for you to attend some taster sessions followed by a parental information evening and enrolment meetings for all students as appropriate in August, following results.

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 of 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.

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' week at the end of Year 12 along with university preparation which continues into Year 13 tutor time.

The tutorial programme focuses on Wellbeing, Next Steps and often has outside experts visiting to explore societal issues. These range from driving safety, drugs, alcohol and sex awareness, mental health and wellbeing, 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 'Horizons' Week which involves key skill development and finally an opportunity to take up a work placement which is almost a compulsory element of job and university applications in today's society.



*Supporting our chosen
Charities*



Expectations

What can you expect?

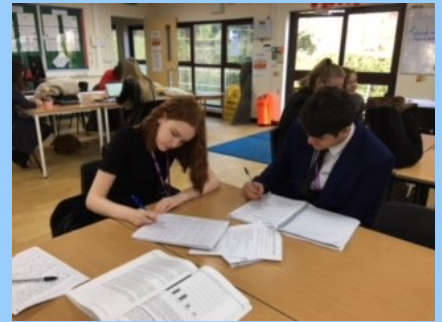
- To be treated with courtesy and respect
- Effective lessons
- Clear targets
- Regular feedback and guidance
- Access to study facilities
- Guidance with coursework
- Guidance or referral over financial, personal or social matters
- Access to a tutor who will monitor progress and offer support when 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
- That you attend registration, assemblies, tutorial and any appointments required
- That you 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
- That you aim for a minimum of 96% attendance. No holidays to be taken in school time
- That you abide by the business dress code of conduct

The Darwin Student: Frequently asked questions

Age:	16 - 19
Education:	You must achieve five 9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent in five separate subjects to study Level 3 qualifications
Attendance:	Must be good in Year 11 to be successful
Effort:	Must consistently be 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, Diplomas, 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.

Students whose GCSE results do not meet the entry requirements for their chosen course will be invited to attend a meeting in strict order of application.

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.

Charles Darwin: About the Application

Your Sixth Form Application...

- You will need to meet academic requirements to gain your place in the Sixth Form.
- To be a successful learner you need to aim for 96% and above attendance.
- Applications should be handed in at Main Reception. They will be numbered in the order they are received and where necessary courses may be offered based on application order.
- Certain courses have limited places, so the earlier the application, the better the chance of securing a place on that course.
- We are asking you to tell us the three subjects you might like to take in the Sixth Form.
- You must read the individual subject specific entry criteria and ensure that you meet this.
- You need to select by ticking the subjects from the **PROVISIONAL** option blocks. You cannot choose two subjects from the same block.
- BTEC Sport can be taken as a single (option block B), Double (option blocks B & A) or Triple (option blocks (B, A & C).
- Everyone must also choose a reserve subject from any block.
- We cannot guarantee that you will get all your chosen subjects but we will try to accommodate your requests.
- You will have the opportunity to attend a taster event in June 2022 so you can experience your chosen subjects in taster lessons.
- Enrolment will take place following examination results in August.

For more
information
or to speak to a
member of staff

**Charles Darwin
Sixth Form**

Jail Lane
Biggin Hill
Westerham
Kent
TN16 3AU
01959 574043 ext. 251
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 come and talk to members of our 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 a good attendance level there is no reason why you should not secure a place. Some students are invited to attend a meeting and this is your opportunity to shine.

Notes:

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