



Charles Darwin School

2016 / 17 Grades

98% A* - E

83% A* - C

62% A* - B



Sixth Form Information Booklet 2018

Destinations 2017

A sample of destinations for the class of 2017

Ross Adams	Bristol - Chemistry
Michael Beegan	Gap Year: ski season - deferred place Loughborough
Samuel Bingham	Lincoln - Illustration
Nathan Blair	Wembley - FA - Bucks
Michael Burch	Kent - Politics and International Relations
Ellis Burden	Kent - Computer Science
Rhys Burrell	Reading - Film
Daniel Campbell	Reading - Politics & Philosophy
Lisa Constable	Canterbury - Primary Education
Liam Cornelius-Rumsey	Surrey - International Business Management
Lyle Crear	Nottingham Trent - Architecture
Megan Dale	University of East Anglia - Physical Education
Natalie Dalentka	Reading - International Business Management
Katherine Del-Rio Smith	Bolton - Theatre Studies
Katie Ellis	Gap year - then Nursing apprenticeship
Holly Ferris	Canterbury - Primary Education
Scott Gallagher	St. Mary's University - Physical & Sports Education
Mollie Harris	Leicester - Sociology with English Language
Adam Hellewell	Apprenticeship - National Audit Office Accountancy
Alfie Hough	University of East Anglia - Physical Education
James Insley	DeMontfort - Music Technology & Performance
Radina Ivanova	Surrey - International Hospitality & Tourism Management
Paris Johnson	Brunel - Sports Science
Callum Kenney	Leicester - Microbiology
Charlotte Killick	University of Kent - Law
Shane Laws	Sussex - Business Management & Economics
Alfie Leighton	Gap year to travel - deferred Business at Southampton
Megan Lovelock	Greenwich - Sociology & Criminology
Brandon Martin	London Institute of Business and Finance
Olivia McMillan	Southampton - Fashion Marketing & Management
Fergus Meehan	London School of Economics - Actuarial Science
Rosina Monk	Reading - History & Politics
Chloe Muckle	London Southbank - Paediatric Nursing
Katie Nash	York - English Literature
Jessica New	Oxford Brookes - Accounting & Finance
Scott Parry	Portsmouth - Palaeontology
Amy Read	Royal Veterinary College - Veterinary Science
Morgan Rodway-Wing	Kent - French & English
Christine Safadi	Westminster - International Business Management
Shanker Sivaneswaran	Greenwich - Accountancy & Finance
Mitchell Siviers	De Montfort - Media Production
Elliot Smith	Leicester - Engineering
Amy Southby	Work in Westminster Offices
Natalie Speller	Sussex - Maths
Imogen Stratton	UCA Farnham - Acting & Performance
Matt Styles	Durham - English Literature
Katherine Teather	Kings College - Neuroscience
Jake Tindell	Sussex - Business Management
Jodie Tyrell	Apprenticeship - Accountancy
Shane Ward	Bates - USA - International Politics
Ella Williams	Brighton - Psychology

Academic and Vocational results

98%

A* - E

83%

A* - C

62%

A* - B

Grade 2 at AS
(Top 25% of
Sixth Forms
in the
country)



Charles Darwin School

Operated by the Charles Darwin Academy Trust

Headteacher: Sunil Chotai, BSc



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 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 an interview 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 freedoms 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 faithfully,

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.

In 2015 the following subjects were reformed:

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

In 2016 the following subjects were 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 subjects for reform in 2017 were Maths, Government & Politics, Product Design, Film Studies, Music Technology and all other unreformed subjects.

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 all applicants will 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 L3 courses pupils have at least 5 A* - C 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.

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.

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 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

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
- To take an active role in one of the Sixth Form committees: Buddies, Charity, Social or Leavers

Available courses at a glance with their requirements

To be successful you will need to have good attendance in Year 11

Level 2 courses

Course	Requirement
GCSE Maths re-take	Grade 3 at GCSE preferred.
GCSE English re-take	Grade 3 at GCSE. Grade 2 /E grade may be considered.
Higher Sports Leadership Award (HSLA)	Meet Sixth Form entry requirements for a suitable programme of study and take Sports Studies.
GCSE Sociology	Meet Sixth Form entry requirements.

Level 3 courses - the general expectation for all courses is that you have at least 5 A* - C grades or equivalent at L2 to qualify to study in the first instance.

All courses unless specified are intended as **2-year courses**

Course	Requirement
Applied Science (Applied General)	Minimum grade 4-4 in double award Science GCSE or a grade 4 in Single Sciences GCSE and grade 4 in GCSE English and Maths.
Art & Design A level	Minimum grade 6 in GCSE Art is recommended.
Biology	Minimum Grade 6 GCSE in Science (6-6 for double award) or Biology, Maths and English. (Facilitating subject)
Business - AQA Applied General in Level 3 Extended Certificate (A2 equivalent)	Minimum grade B in Business if taken at GCSE, and Maths and English at grade 5/6.
Chemistry	Minimum Grade 6 GCSE in Science (6-6 for double award) or Chemistry, Maths and English. (Facilitating subject)
Computer Science	To have completed computing at GCSE and achieved a grade 6 Should also have grade 5/6 in Maths.
Dance	Minimum grade 6 in Dance if taken at GCSE, and Maths and English at grade 5/6. Performing Arts students will be considered. Dancers may have to undergo an audition/interview on application.
Digital Media - Technical	At least 30 points (Maths and English grade 4 preferred) and an interest in Media.
Drama and Theatre	Minimum grade 6 at GCSE Drama. Minimum grade 5/6 at English preferred. GCSEs in History and English Literature an advantage. Audition may be required.
English Literature (reformed GCSE)	Minimum grade 6 in both English Literature and English Language. Grade 5 maybe considered in some circumstances. (Facilitating subject)
EPQ - equivalent to half an A level	Minimum grade 4 in English and Mathematics. Must have the ability to work independently. <i>One-year course.</i>
Film Studies	5 A*-C grades (English Language / Literature at grade 4 and above) plus a commitment and interest in film.
Finance - Certificate (CeFS) and Diploma (DipFS), Level 3 London Institute of Banking and Finance (LIBF)	5 A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent, including GCSE English and Maths at grade 4/5 and above.

Level 3 courses

Course	Requirement
Geography	Minimum grade 5 in Geography GCSE and/or grade 4-6 in English and Mathematics. (Facilitating subject)
Health and Social Care - OCR Technicals	Minimum of 30 points at GCSE which must include Science and English grade 4 and above.
History	Minimum of 30 points at GCSE including grade 5/6 in History and English. (Facilitating subject)
Information Technology BTEC	Minimum of 30 points at GCSE. A grade 4 in English would be beneficial and 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.
Mathematics	Grade 7 and above is required. 100% exam. (Facilitating subject)
Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) AS only award	GCSE Mathematics minimum grade 4 – 5 preferred <i>One-year course.</i>
Further Maths	Grade 8 in Maths GCSE and recommendation from Maths staff. 100% exam. (Facilitating subject)
Modern Foreign Languages: French or Spanish	Minimum grade 6 at GCSE in the relevant language. (Facilitating subject)
Music	Minimum grade 6 in Music at GCSE. Basic knowledge of music notation and grade 5 standard on instrument or voice. Students should consider applying for instrumental/vocal lessons to support their studies on this course.
Music Technology	Minimum grade 6 in Music at GCSE. (Candidates at Grade 5 and below will be considered on an individual basis) or BTEC Music at L2 pass or higher. Helpful to have a basic knowledge of music notation and basic keyboard skills.
Photography	Grade 4 in English preferred; GCSE Art is useful but not required. You will need a working digital camera or access to a mobile phone with a camera.
Physical Education	Grade 4/5 in English and Science, grade 6 in Physical Education at GCSE. Performing in a sport outside of school at a good level.
Physics	Minimum grade 6 at GCSE in Combined Science or Physics and grade 6 in Maths and English. (Facilitating subject)
Politics	Grade 5/6 preferable in English Language. A keen interest in the world around you is beneficial.
Product Design	Experience of Product Design at GCSE and a minimum of a B grade.
Sociology	Minimum 5 A* - C grades in GCSE including grade 5/6 in English Literature/Language. A grade 4 in English may be considered.
Sport BTEC	Grade 5 or above at GCSE PE / Merit or above at BTEC Level 2 in sport. Minimum of grade 4 at English and grade 4/5 in Science GCSE. A reasonably good level of fitness will be advantageous although not essential.
Textiles	Experience of a Key Stage 4 Art & Design course. Grade 6 or higher is recommended but not essential.

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

Extra Curricular	Requirement
Extended Project (AQA) EPQ	Minimum grade 4 in English and Mathematics. Must have the ability to work independently. <i>One-year course.</i>
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.

L2: GCSE OCR English Language

The course followed for the English re-sit at Charles Darwin School is the OCR GCSE that we do in Year 11. This is a reformed GCSE so is now graded 1 - 9.

The GCSE is 100% exam. There are two exam papers, both of which are 2 hours long and have sections where Reading and Writing skills are assessed. There is an additional resit in November with January results along with the summer examination.

Subject requirements:

Grade 3 for English GCSE preferred.

For more details contact ... Ms Roberts

L2: GCSE EDEXCEL Mathematics

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 resit. This is a reformed GCSE graded from 1 - 9.

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.

Subject Requirements:

Grade 3 for Mathematics GCSE preferred.

For more details contact ... Mr Watson

L2: Sociology (provisional offer) WJEC EDUQAS

Sociology is the study of people in society and the way society works. Sociologists investigate important issues about the world and provide explanations for actions.

Assessment Methods - A 100% written assessment, (via 2 external exams), with a mix of short answer, structured questions and extended response questions, all compulsory. The extended response questions will require candidates to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and/or understanding from across the relevant specification content.

Topics studied are:

Cultural Transmission processes
Families
Education
Research Methods
Social Stratification
Crime and Deviance
Research Design

A good Sociology pupil ...

..... is mature in outlook listens to other people's points of view is up to date with current affairs is articulate and literate reads a daily newspaper is organised.

You will learn a number of skills including:

- how to conduct research
- how to understand statistics and make conclusions from them
- how to write objectively and use sociological research
- how to present arguments and evidence in written format

Career Opportunities:

Personnel, Marketing, Local Government, Law, Civil Service, Social Work, Media, Politics, Teaching

Subject Requirement:

Meet Sixth Form entry requirements

For more details contact ... Mrs Mears



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.

OFSTED

L3: Extended Certificate in Applied Science (Applied General)

This is an ideal qualification for those students who want a broad background in science which will allow them to progress to further or higher education, training or employment. The Applied Science course 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.

Topics covered include applied experimental techniques and science in the modern world, undertaking a scientific investigation, and optional units in biology, chemistry and physics.

A mixture of internal and external assessment means learners can apply their knowledge in a practical way. Graded at: Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*.

Career Opportunities:

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

Subject Requirements:

Minimum grade 4-4 in double award Science GCSE or a grade 4 in Single Sciences GCSE and grade 4 in GCSE English and Mathematics.

For more details contact ... Mrs MacKay



L3: A level AQA in Art & Design

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:

Grade 6 or above 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



L3: A level AQA in Biology

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.

Career Opportunities:

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

Subject Requirements:

Minimum Grade 6 GCSE in Science (6-6 for double award) or Biology, Maths and English.

For more details contact ... Mr Culver

L3:A level AQA Extended Certificate in Business

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 2 units each year (one is in controlled conditions), the final one being an externally set examination. Graded with: Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.



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 5/6.

For more details contact ... Mrs Burge

L3: A level OCR in Chemistry

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.

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 Grade 6 GCSE in Science (6-6 for double award) or Chemistry, Maths and English.

For more details contact ... Dr Piercy

L3: A-level OCR in Computer Science

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.

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 grade 6 together with a grade 5/6 in Mathematics.

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



L3: A level AQA in Dance

AS & A level: Teaching from 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?

Course Content

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.

The Course Structure and Assessment

AS:

Component 1: Practical exam 50% of AS Level

- A) Choreography and performance of a solo
- B) Performance in a duet/trio

Component 2: Written exam 50% of AS Level

- A) Rambert Area of Study and the Independent Dance Scene in Britain Area of Study; exploring practitioners, professional works and practices
- B) Reflection and understanding of own choreographic and performance practice

A-Level:

Component 1: Practical exam 50% of A Level

- A) Solo performance linked to a specific practitioner within an area of study
- B) Performance in a quartet
- C) Group choreography

Component 2: Written exam 50% of A Level

Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of the set works Rooster by Christopher Bruce and Sutra by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and its location within their corresponding area of study

Career Opportunities:

A-Level Dance is a dynamic qualification that prepares students with the skills and experience to prepare them for the demands of higher education or the workplace. 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. They could even complete a Masters in Dance. 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 the South East. Dance teaches many transferable skills like research, initiative, presenting and teamwork – skills all employers and Universities appreciate and recognise.

Subject Requirements:

A passion for Dance with the understanding of professional etiquette e.g. fitted black attire and bare feet.

A minimum grade 6 in Dance if taken at GCSE, and Maths and English at grade 5/6. 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 ... Miss Abbotts / Mrs Rees

L3: OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Digital Media

The OCR Technicals 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. With a wide range of centre assessed units with practical and wider project-based assessment opportunities, as well as examined units on:

- a) Media products and audiences
- b) Pre-production and planning, this course of study offers you the chance of a focused yet diverse and challenging qualification which perfectly complements other subjects taken at Key Stage 5 alongside other vocational qualifications or A Levels.

We complete 3 units in Year 12 that count for an AS level qualification. These units include a mandatory examined one that introduces students to a wide range of analytical techniques in preparation for an externally set paper taken at the end of the academic year. The rest of the two units in Year 12 are practical in focus although all include some research into similar products and audience tastes. Unit 21 asks students to develop a proposal, present their ideas to a client and gain feedback before developing the final proposal. This final proposal is then taken forward to the second internally assessed production unit, Unit 3 (Create a Media Product). This challenges students to make the opening sequence to the television product they have developed.

In Year 13, we continue with a further 3 units to make up the A level equivalent award. These include two internally assessed coursework units and an external examined unit focusing on pre-production and planning. The two coursework based pieces include a 'Portfolio Unit' that allows students to develop a Showreel celebrating their creative achievements across the course as well as an 'Advertising Unit' that can be in various forms, including a music video production or a film trailer.

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)

Subject Requirements:

At least 5 A* - C or equivalent (Maths and English grade 4 preferred) and an interest in Media with enthusiasm for creativity and hard work.

For more details contact ... Mr Archer



L3: A level EDEXCEL in Drama & Theatre

The 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; developing knowledge and understanding of theatre history and style and 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. This is a 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. 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 that you will need to be able to interpret for 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 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 significant proportion of written assessment alongside practical work. You will ideally need a minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE Drama. A grade 5/6 in GCSE English is preferred due to the amount of written work you will do. 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



L3: A level OCR in English Literature

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 grade 6 (or equivalent) in English Literature and English or grade 5 with teacher recommendation. This course requires you to read independently.

For more details contact ... Ms Roberts

Extended Project: AQA (one-year course)

Level 3 students will be offered the chance to complete an extended project as an additional learning award usually at the end of Year 12. It is a stand-alone qualification to develop and extend study skills and help students to become an independent, self-reflective worker. The topic of study is chosen by students and it is worth a higher tariff of UCAS points than an AS qualification. Additionally an A* can be awarded. Universities look very favourably on this award and many of our past students who have taken an EPQ complete their degrees with a first-class 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 with workbook/photographic record
- a CD/video/DVD of performance
- a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation
- A reflective record (CRF) of personal progress

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 an investigative case study – 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; students will need to show high effort grades and the academic capacity to take on an extra subject.

For more details contact ... Mrs Green



L3: A level WJEC in Film Studies

The Film Studies A level is an academically demanding but simulating 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. The examined units are now worth a significantly higher percentage than the single coursework unit, with a split of 70% for the two exams and a single short film production unit worth 30% of the final A2 grade. 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. Therefore, it could no longer fairly be called a creative, production based course, but closer to the English Literature model of evaluating texts. It is for this reason that we require grade 4 and above in English Literature AND Language for you to take A level Film.

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 Hollywood, European and non-European cinema. It also 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!

Career Opportunities:

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

Subject Requirements: 5 A*-C grades (English Language / Literature at grade 4 and above) plus a commitment and interest in film.

For more details contact ... Mr Archer



L3: A level Certificate and Diploma in Finance

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 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.

Subject Requirements: 5 A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent, including GCSE English and Maths at grade 4/5 and above.

For more details contact ... Mrs Burge



L3: A level EDEXCEL in Geography

“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.

At Charles Darwin School we follow the Edexcel specification. It includes the following topics which are covered in Year 12 and Year 13.

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.

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:

A minimum grade 5 at GCSE Geography and/or grades 4 - 6 in Mathematics and English will also be considered in some circumstances. A genuine interest in the world in which you live is also an important prerequisite.

For more details contact ... Ms Partridge



L3: OCR Cambridge Technical in Health & Social Care

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 Technical Extended Certificate is taught over two years and is the equivalent of an A2. It comprises of six units – three examined externally and three coursework assessed internally.

The mandatory and examined units are: Equality, diversity and rights in Health and Social Care; Health, safety and security in Health and Social Care; Anatomy and physiology for Health and Social Care. The mandatory coursework unit is Building positive relationships in Health and Social Care. The two optional coursework units are: Nutrition for health and Sexual health, reproduction and early development. All units must be passed to receive this qualification. Grades are Distinction*; Distinction, Merit and Pass.

Career Opportunities:

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

Subject Requirements:

Minimum of 30 points at GCSE which must include Science and English grade 4 and above.

For more details contact ... Mrs Sheehan

L3: A level AQA in History

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 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.

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. It is a key facilitating subject.

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 and many more.

Subject requirements:

Minimum of 5 A* - C or equivalent including grade 5/6 in History and English.

For more details contact Miss Swinscoe

BTEC L3 in IT

National Certificate (AS) Extended Certificate (A2)

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:

Minimum of 5 A* - C or equivalent at GCSE. A grade 4 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

L3: AS AQA in Mathematical Studies

(Core Maths)

(one-year course)

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 Science and Geography as well as technical and vocational qualifications.

This course will allow pupils to build on their maths 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.

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:

GCSE Mathematics minimum grade 4 – 5 preferred.

For more details contact ... Mr Watson

L3: A level EDEXCEL in Mathematics

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.

Advanced Level Further Mathematics is available, subject to demand and suitability of candidates. We follow the Edexcel Further Mathematics course.

Career Opportunities:

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

Subject Requirements:

GCSE Mathematics grade 7 or higher is required.

For more details contact ... Mr Watson

L3: A level AQA in Modern Foreign Languages

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 Spanish culture to make your holidays more enriching and enjoyable. Either way, there are many benefits of learning a language 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 have a deep understanding of grammar and be able to apply the structures in your written and spoken work.

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 6 at GCSE in the relevant language.

For more details contact ... Mrs Kaye-Chubb

L3: A level EDUQAS in Music

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.

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 as set works in the second exam component. This course has a specific focus on the study of music from Musical Theatre.

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 6 or above. You will also need a basic knowledge of music notation and grade 5 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

L3: AS/A level EDEXCEL in Music Technology

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 6 or above (candidates at Grade 5 and below 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

L3: A level OCR in Photography

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 camera control, compositional technique, analytical and critical understanding and confidence.

Students 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 every step of the way.

Students will not only develop their photographic technique but will broaden their horizons with gallery visits, confidence building and '15 second portraits' .

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 but bursary applications can help support this study.)

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 4 in English preferred; GCSE Art is useful but not required. You will need a working digital camera or access to a mobile phone with a camera.

For more details contact ... Mr Chubb



L3: A level AQA in Physical Education

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 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.

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.

Subject requirements:

Grade 4/5 in Science, grade 4 in English, grade 5 in GCSE Physical Education. Performing in a sport outside of school at a good level.

For more details contact ... Miss Curwood



L3: A level OCR in Physics

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.

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 6 grade GCSEs in Combined Science or Physics and grade 6 in Maths and English.

For more details contact ... Mr Doig

L3: A level EDEXCEL in Politics

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.

In A level Politics three components are studied:

Component 1: Political Participation. This covers how people participate in democracy and the role of pressure groups. The differences between the political parties, electoral systems and the role of the media in politics.

Component 2: UK Government looks at the role of parliament and the prime minister and examines constitutional reform.

Component 3: Global Politics covers conflict, war and terrorism, environmental and human issues and the role of the state.

This course allows students to develop a good understanding of British 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:

Grade 5/6 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 ... Mrs Ruth

L3: A level AQA: Design and Technology: Product Design

This qualification is designed to encourage candidates to take a broad view of design and technology, to develop their designing and making skills and to recognise the relationships between design, materials, manufacture and wider issues.

Candidates will design a wide variety of products using a range of techniques. Look carefully at the world around them to understand how and why products look, are made and function in particular ways.

Designing and making are key skills but the ability to write, research and analyse are vital.

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 Vivien Westwood. Previous pupils have had very successful destinations from the course such as a range of advanced apprenticeships in design and manufacture and university to study Engineering, Design and Architecture.

Subject requirements:

Pupils considering this course should have experience of Product Design at GCSE and have achieved a minimum of a B grade.

For more details contact ... Mr Baker



L3: A level AQA in Sociology

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. A keen interest in contemporary life is important including awareness of political and global issues. **Topics covered include:**

Sociological theory, Research methods, Families and Households, Education, Crime and Deviance and Mass Media.. **Assessment** is via 3 external exams at the end of Year 13. Regular homework and reading tasks are set for students.

Future Career Paths

Students of Sociology have gone on to University to study a range of subjects including Sociology, Criminology, History, Education, Law, Policing 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 grade 5/6 in English Literature/Language. A grade 4 in English may be considered.

For more details contact ... Mrs Mears

L3: PEARSON Extended Diploma in Sport

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 4, 10 or 14 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. Grades are: Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.

Career Opportunities:

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

Subject Requirements:

Minimum grade 5 at GCSE PE / Merit or above at BTEC Level 2 in Sport. Minimum of grade 4/5 at Science GCSE and grade 4 in English. A reasonably good level of fitness will be advantageous although not essential.

For more details contact ... Mr Eckersall

L3: AQA A level in Textiles

Textiles provides you with opportunities to develop your creative skills and experiences whilst exploring a range of textile media, techniques and processes. Students 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 students will be developing practical skills in: dyeing, printing and construction, whilst exploring the work of textile designers and artists and developing an 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 students 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. Grade 6 or higher is recommended but not essential.

For more details contact ... Miss Miller



Extra Curricular

6th Form Committees

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.



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. 'Christmas Jumper' supports the elected Sixth Form charity on a yearly basis.

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.



Zanzibar trip August 2016

For 12 days from 21 July to 1 August Miss Miller, Miss Curwood and Mr Simpson led a group of our Sixth Form students on a trip of a lifetime to Zanzibar in Tanzania. Read about it in their own words on their blog at www.cdsinzanzibar.wordpress.com.

From start to finish, this trip was the most rewarding experience. Teaching a class of 109 after 15 minutes of preparation and only a chalk board to help immediately brought to my attention how difficult education was for these children - the teachers were not practical or exciting and the children were uncomfortable having not moved for several hours whilst sitting, cramped, on the floor. Being able to change this, if only for a week, was the most incredible sensation. We allowed the children



to be actively through the use of songs and movement. This trip has been genuinely life-changing in a number of ways - I've cemented friendships that I hope will be life-long, and created new ones, helped to improve the education of children in an under-developed area, learnt to adapt to a new culture which is VERY different to my own.

Morgan Rodway-Wing

Where do I start? Zanzibar proved to be a new challenge for me. As soon as I arrived I could tell that

culturally, things would be diverse evidenced by the dusty paths and the never quiet over-packed roads. Going to the beach on the first weekend and exploring

the spice farm and Stone Town, helped me to get to grips with what Zanzibar was like; AMAZING! There, we were treated like celebrities, all the kids were full of enthusiasm and willing to learn. Teaching those children has to be one of the best experiences in my life; seeing their happy faces brought out the real me. Everyone was so welcoming to us and I can honestly say it has changed me as a person for the better. To spend this journey with such amazing people has made the trip even better, many memories have been made and will be treasured forever. I loved every moment and honestly did not want it to end.

Alfie Leighton

As I am certain you can imagine, a teaching career is jam-packed with highs and lows. Leading a trip of this scale is not a decision to be taken lightly and demands a huge amount of time and commitment pre-departure and even more whilst away. I knew I was blessed with a good group from quite early on in the planning; our walk to the Tanzanian embassy was just a snapshot for me of your determination and resilience. Being away on this trip was more than a pleasure; it was a privilege. Nothing phased the pupils, challenges were tackled head-on with an abundance of enthusiasm. As sixth formers they proved themselves to be adaptable, approachable, inquisitive, committed, excellent team-workers, hysterical, respectful, sensitive and most importantly extremely mature. It takes years for most adults to master this and some never do. This trip has definitely been one of the highest and proudest peaks of my teaching career.

Miss Miller

**Thank you Team Zanzibar 2016... La Salama Africa!
We are looking forward to our next visit in July 2018**



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 a Taster Day at the end of Year 11 for you to attend some taster sessions followed by a parental information evening and induction meetings for all students 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 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.

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 societal 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 placement which is almost a compulsory element of job and University applications in today's society.



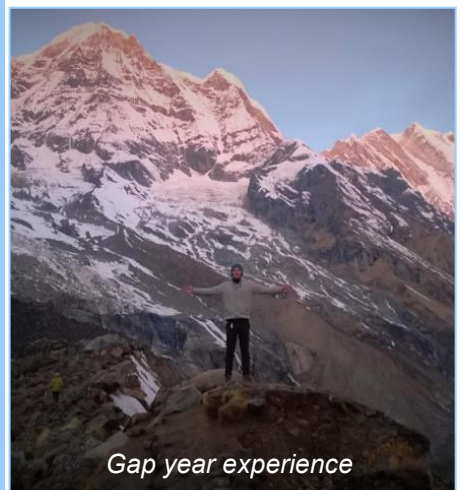
Horizons' Sports Day



Romania Christmas Boxes



3 peaks challenge



Gap year experience

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 95% 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 A* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent in five separate subjects to study Level 3 qualifications, including English and Mathematics at grade 4 and above
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, 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 has a meeting with the Sixth Form team 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.

Charles Darwin: About the 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 95% and above attendance.
- Applications should be handed in at Main Reception from Friday 17th November. They will be numbered in the order they are received and meetings will take place in that order in August.
- 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 three subjects you might like to take at A level or whether you think you will be on Level 2 courses or a mixture of courses. (Sports Studies is a triple option).
- 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 three subjects. Option blocks will be finalised in the spring term in order for you to make "firmer" choices from the option blocks indicated.
- You will have the opportunity to attend an induction day so you can experience taster lessons.
- Enrolment will take place at the end of August / beginning of September following examination results in August.

OPTION CHOICE	1	
	2	
	3	

Please keep this copy for your reference and hand in the paper copy at the end of the evening

**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:



Charles Darwin School
Jail Lane, Biggin Hill,
Westerham, Kent, TN16 3AU
Tel: 01959 574043