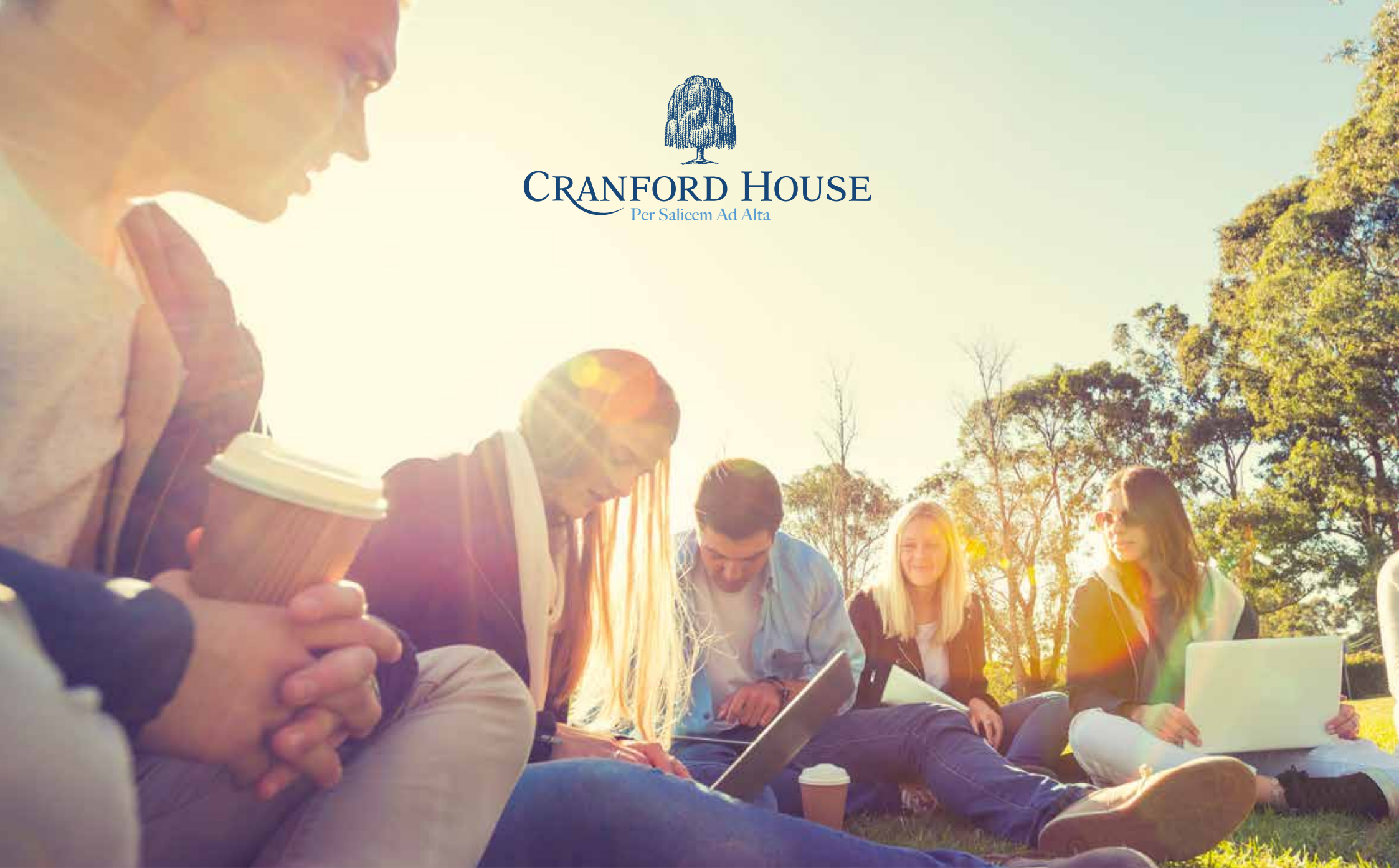




CRANFORD HOUSE

Per Salicem Ad Alta





LIFE AT CRANFORD HOUSE SIXTH FORM YOUR BRIDGE BETWEEN SCHOOL AND BEYOND



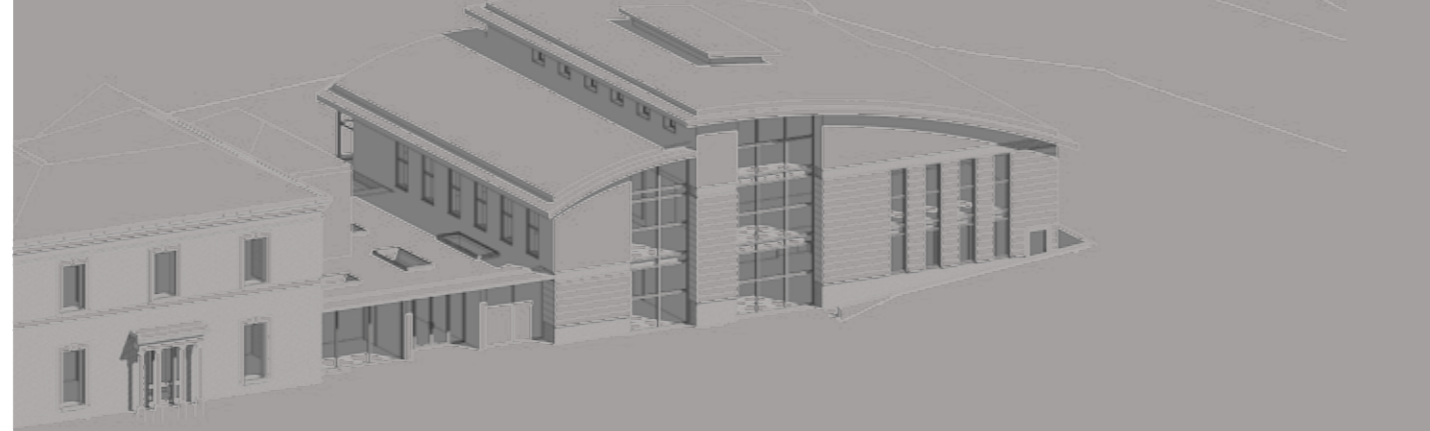
Welcome to Cranford House, one of the UK's leading small independent schools. With 87 years of education behind us, we are proud to provide an innovative, opportunity-rich education within a welcoming community. Our students are happy, confident and motivated, inspiring them to achieve to the very best of their ability.

As you join our Sixth Form you will benefit from the opportunity to design your own specialised curriculum pathway whilst experiencing student life in our modern, bespoke Sixth Form centre. As well as organising your study time and free periods, you will enjoy a rich and diverse extra-curricular programme and benefit from our extensive careers and UCAS support programme to help you prepare for higher education and the world beyond.

I hope you enjoy learning more about life in our friendly and exciting Sixth Form in the pages that follow. We look forward to meeting you and sharing the next steps in your journey towards Sixth Form.

With best wishes

Dr James Raymond



Why Cranford House Sixth Form?

Cranford House is a place where values count and every individual matters. We are a small school that provides big opportunities for our students. Here you will enjoy the greater independence that comes with Sixth Form study, along with the personalised support that larger institutions cannot provide. You will benefit from a programme of valuable 1:1 guidance and mentorship throughout your time at Sixth Form, in addition to weekly tutorials with our experienced Sixth Form tutor team. Our small size also means we get to know our students individually, something that will prove invaluable

as our skilled staff guide you through the process of UCAS on a pathway that best suits you.

What's more, you will be the first students to inhabit our brand new Sixth Form Centre, with its own Gym, Lecture Theatre, Common Room and study spaces. Along with state-of-the-art facilities, you will also enjoy an exciting and progressive approach to the curriculum. As a new Sixth Form we have the flexibility to adopt the most up-to-date materials and methods of teaching to ensure every lesson is as engaging as possible.



NEW SIXTH FORM CENTRE OPENING SEPTEMBER 2020

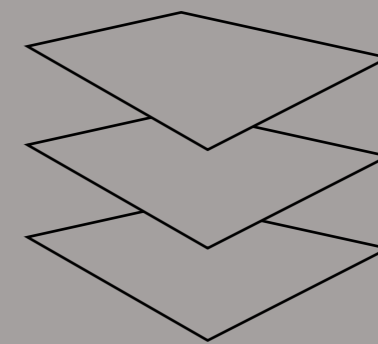




study group
 revision lectures
 morning workout
 lunch in town
 common room coffee break
 guest speaker

PASTORAL CARE

Whilst we understand the importance of building independence, we balance this with the strong support network provided by our highly experienced team of Form Tutors. Our rolling programme of bespoke 1:1 and weekly tutorial sessions ensures that you are supported in all walks of Sixth Form life. Our school is renowned for the excellence of our pastoral care and our dedicated Heads of Sixth Form, experienced Form Tutors, Head of Careers and our Expeditions and Enrichment Co-ordinator are all on hand to enable you to make the very most of your Sixth Form experience.



Sixth Form Life

Life in Sixth Form at Cranford House offers a bridge between school and university. For the first time in your school career you have reached an exciting cross-roads where you are able to fully dictate the path you wish to follow.

Our Sixth Form provides you with the opportunity to build independence within a college-like atmosphere. As a Sixth Former at Cranford House, you will enjoy the freedom and independence that comes with being a student. You will also benefit from access to small classes and highly personalised pastoral and academic support at one of the country's leading small independent schools.

Our Sixth Form Centre provides a school within a school, an environment that offers you a student experience and college-like atmosphere where you will manage your free periods and hone your independent study skills. Sixth Form is your opportunity to organise your own bespoke enrichment programme and work placements or simply enjoy the freedom of going into town for a coffee. Students benefit from our modern well-equipped fitness gym, spacious, relaxing Common Room and quiet private study rooms, with individual study pods, to organise their free time and make the most of the Sixth Form experience beyond the classroom.





Academics

Academic excellence sits firmly at the heart of everything we do at Cranford House and our Sixth Form curriculum offers an exciting range of A-level options. You will benefit from a broad range of choices whilst also enjoying the flexibility, personalisation and small class sizes that are only available in a small Sixth Form environment.

What can you study?

Students will choose from one of the following pathways:

- 3 A-levels & the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- 3 A-levels & the EPQ with a Fourth AS in Year 12, before studying 3 A-levels in Year 13
- 4 A-levels and EPQ

What is the weekly timetable?

A typical week will provide students with the following:

- 14-18 hours per week: A-level teaching
- 10-15 hours per week: Study Periods and Enrichment
- 1 hour per week: Tutorial time
Small groups and 1:1 tutorials

The Extended Project Qualification is a central aspect of life in the Sixth Form at Cranford House, providing you with the opportunity to develop your research skills, build independence and deepen your knowledge and understanding about a subject that you are passionate about. The EPQ will also support your application to university and is an impressive addition to your C.V.



A-LEVEL OPTIONS

Chemistry	Mathematics	French	Geography	Media Studies	Psychology	Computer Science
Biology	Further Mathematics	Spanish	Business Studies	History	Art & Design	Drama & Theatre
Physics	Religious Studies	German	Music	Physical Education	Sociology	English Literature



Enrichment & Expeditions

Life in Sixth Form is about much more than simple academic success and you can expect to enjoy a broad and varied extra-curricular enrichment programme designed to make your Sixth Form experience fun, successful and unique. As a student at Cranford House you will benefit from the opportunity to engage in the broadest range of extra-curricular activities including competitive and recreational sport, outward bound and water sports courses (including Sailing, Rowing, Hiking and Climbing), Martial Arts, Dance, Drama, LAMDA and Music Technology, as well as a bespoke leadership qualification and our work experience programmes.

You will also benefit from the chance to participate in our broad Community Service programme, including diverse opportunities volunteering in the local community and working within our Junior School and Nursery to support the learning of our youngest students.

In addition, our broad enrichment programme will provide extensive opportunities for personal development and developing leadership skills, including the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. An exciting programme of extra-curricular trips will include an international adventure expedition, a Sports Tour to South Africa, participation in the UN Model Conference and a Geography trip to Iceland to name but a few.





At the heart of our Sixth Form sits our strong commitment to preparing our students for the world beyond Cranford House. Our experienced team of Form Tutors, led by the Heads of Sixth Form and Head of Careers will support you in the next steps on your exciting journey beyond school. We understand that for each student this will look different and our rolling programme of 1:1 and group tutorial support is designed to guide you towards a future that best suits you.

UNIVERSITY

The UCAS Application Process- providing opportunities for University visits, to meet with students, be guided step-by-step through the application process and supported in the production of your personal statement.

STUDY ABROAD

The International Dimension - our Sixth Form team are also experienced in supporting and guiding pupils through the range of options around university in the USA and Europe.

OXBRIDGE

Oxbridge Support - our expert Form Tutors provide extensive interview preparation and guidance through the application process and admissions tests for Oxbridge admissions.

APPRENTICESHIPS

Internships and Work Placements - Cranford House students benefit from a range of industry-specific short and longer term internships and work placements. Our Head of Careers works closely with students to provide individual careers support and alternative pathways such as apprenticeships, for pupils not considering Higher Education.

How to choose your subjects?

Choosing the right A level subjects can feel daunting, but if you are methodical, take your time, and ask lots of questions you will find the combination which is right for you. But there are three principles which will help guide your choice: choose A-level subjects you will enjoy, choose subjects which will fit in with your career plans and take time to find out all you need to know.



ART & DESIGN

What does it involve?

A-level Art and Design students develop their ability to critically analyse and explore a range of Art and Design themes. Consolidating skills already developed at GCSE, they develop personal responses to a range of starting points, investigating both critical and contextual forms through the use of a wide range of media and techniques. Students can choose a pathway to develop their own artistic ideas; choices include Fine Art, Textiles, 3D Design and Photography. Each pathway makes up a separate A-level, making it possible to study more than one area which will be equivalent to two or three A-level options. Our new Creative Arts Suite includes a designated Sixth Form studio space.

The course provides students with the chance to see first-hand traditional, modern and contemporary artworks through trips and workshops which are crucial to the study of the subject and to developing an understanding of processes and techniques. Art complements many other subjects in the Arts, Humanities and Sciences. It also encourages an empathy and understanding of the visual world and encourages students to develop a respect for creativity and innovation.

How is it assessed?

Assessment involves the completion of a portfolio of work which follows a personal investigation, a written critical study and a supervised externally set task.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

Students require a Grade 6 in GCSE Art and Design.

University or employment prospects?

Following the study of A-level Art and Design, some students may choose to go on to a Foundation Course or to study Art at university. From here, many career paths are available, including work as an art practitioner, in the media, in design, fashion, theatre, architecture, museums or galleries.

BUSINESS STUDIES

What does it involve?

A-level Business Studies provides an exciting insight into the dynamic world of business. Students will learn how to run and manage a company. They will study the importance of marketing and how to identify, target and satisfy customer requirements. Every business decision has financial implications and students learn how to calculate profit, forecast cash flow and analyse a firm's published accounts. The A-level syllabus really encourages students to explore all aspects of our modern world and its global economy.

How is it assessed?

Students are assessed through three written examination papers at the end of the two-year course.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

The A-level course is not restricted to students with a Business Studies GCSE. Business Studies draws on a range of academic skills and students are encouraged to apply where they have a genuine interest in the subject.

University or employment prospects?

For those studying Business Studies at A-level, a broad range of career options exist including direct entry into the business world or further study at university. Many universities offer a year in industry to bring to life the theory studied and give individuals the edge in the employment market after graduation.

BIOLOGY

What does it involve?

A-level Biology is an incredibly exciting course, designed to deepen a student's understanding and build on the knowledge acquired at GCSE. Biology is a highly practical subject and students will spend a great deal of time getting hands-on in the laboratory.

Over the two year course, students will study modules on: biological molecules; cells; organisms exchanging substances with their environment; genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms; energy transfers in and between organisms; organisms responding to changes in their internal and external environments; genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems; the control of gene expression. Biology helps students develop a strong attention to detail and encourages further questioning. Students need an enquiring mind and the ability to retain large amounts of information. The study of Biology complements the other Science subjects but goes equally well with subjects like Geography or Physical Education.

How is it assessed?

This takes the form of three two-hour long papers, each of which contributes to around a third of the marks. Twelve required practical assignments are completed in the classroom and assessed in any of the written examinations, equating to 15% of the overall mark.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

A good pass at GCSE level in Biology, usually a Grade 6 or above.

University or employment prospects?

Many students studying A-level Biology take up places in Higher Education to study medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, biomedical science and other Science-related courses.

CHEMISTRY

What does it involve?

Chemistry is an intellectually challenging, stimulating A-level course, providing solid scientific training and enhancing the analytical skills students have gained through the study of Chemistry at GCSE. A large proportion of the course is very practical, which develops strong team-work and requires students to question and challenge what they are learning. It develops excellent problem solving and analytical skills and encourages the use of logic and reasoning to understand outcomes.

The A-level course covers a broad range of topics including Physical and Organic Chemistry. It challenges students to think in creative ways and provides answers to many intriguing questions about the world. Students are encouraged to delve into the world of experimental science to help them fully understand and ensure a thorough grounding in the subject.

Chemistry naturally works to complement other A-level Science subjects, but also fits well with Mathematics.

How is it assessed?

This takes the form of three written papers, each of which is two hours long, contributing to approximately a third of the marks. There are also 12 practical activities that are completed in the classroom, equating to 15% of the mark.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

A good pass at GCSE level in Chemistry, usually a Grade 6 or above.

University or employment prospects?

Chemistry is a well-regarded subject which is crucial for any medical, veterinary or dentistry-related degree course. It is also a stepping stone to chemical engineering and other engineering courses.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

What does it involve?

A-level Computer Science explores the rapidly evolving world of computers through both theoretical understanding of the fundamentals of computer science and practical programming experience using Python. Topics covered include programming and algorithms, computer organisation and architecture, communications and networking, databases, Big Data and the consequences of the uses of computing.

A-level Computer Science students will gain a technical understanding and application of computer systems. They will be well prepared for 21st century life and work having developed comprehensive logical thinking skills and the ability to apply complex problem solving expertise to any situation. Computer Science is a practical subject and ideal for any student who enjoys puzzles and problem solving. Students will learn to apply the academic principles covered in the classroom, drawing on problem solving skills, powers of analysis and the ability to evaluate and make decisions.

How is it assessed?

This takes the form of two written papers, assessing programming ability, theoretical knowledge and subject content, each worth 40% of the A-level grade. There is also a non-examination programming project worth 20% of the final mark.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

A GCSE in Computer Science is preferred in order to study this subject at A-level, but students with a good pass in Mathematics (Grade 7 or above) may also apply.

University or employment prospects?

A Computer Science A-level is a vital springboard for any student wishing to study the subject at university. Computer Science graduates are highly employable with job options ranging from technically orientated jobs to roles in consultancy or cyber-security.

DRAMA AND THEATRE

What does it involve?

A-level Drama and Theatre consists of studying historical approaches to theatre and drama, understanding a variety of key practitioners, studying and reflecting on live theatre performance and producing a series of assessed performances in both devised and scripted options. Students will extend their ability to create drama and study plays, playwrights and live theatre.

Drama at A-level focuses heavily on both individual study and group work. The development of practical skill is essential, but design and technical skills are also taught in addition to an analysis of the various roles of director, actor, designer and playwright. Students develop their skills of critical analysis through discussion and debate and must be able to produce high-quality, concisely written essays.

How is it assessed?

Assessment takes place across three components which include both a written paper (worth 40% of the A-level) and two non-examination practical assessments, worth a combined 60% of the final mark. Alongside these, creative logs and evaluations are included in assessment.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

Drama and Theatre is a highly enjoyable but undeniably demanding course, requiring a high degree of creativity and practical involvement in the world of theatre. Students will ideally have studied at GCSE level, but those with a good pass in English Literature, usually a Grade 6 or above, may also apply.

University or employment prospects?

Studying Drama and Theatre A-level develops communication, team-work and problem solving skills, alongside confidence, self-presentation, self-discipline and the ability to manage criticism. It provides excellent preparation for a career in media, teaching, marketing and, of course, the theatre and entertainment industries.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

What does it involve?

English Literature A-level sees students studying diverse and sophisticated texts, exploring both the themes and literary devices employed. Studying the influences of the contexts of literature is important to the appreciation of Literature at A-level and the consideration of critical interpretations and ideologies provides a framework for developing solid debating skills. Both a modern drama text and a Shakespeare play are analysed, so there are plenty of opportunities for theatre visits during the two-year course. The course also incorporates the study of contemporary poetry and a comparative study of novels from different historical periods, as well as a non-examined unit which can be tailored to the interests of the individual student. A-level English Literature involves extensive and intensive discussion and debate, in addition to opportunities for in depth independent study.

During the two year course, students will be offered a range of enrichment activities such as a Creative Writing Club, Book Club, public speaking opportunities and theatre visits.

How is it assessed?

Coursework contributes up to 20% of the final grade and gives students the opportunity to explore texts from a more personal perspective. The remainder of the marks are awarded across three papers which explore poetry, prose and drama.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

Students will require a Grade 6 at GCSE in order to study English Literature at A-level.

University or employment prospects?

English is a valued qualification for a wide range of university courses. Studying English fosters many skills including independent working, organisational skills, the ability to articulate and lead discussions and the ability to think creatively. Many English graduates pursue careers in law, management, research, consultancy, media, politics, publishing, journalism and the creative industries.

GEOGRAPHY

What does it involve?

Geography complements many subjects and the A-level course will excite students' minds, challenge perceptions and stimulate their investigative and analytical skills. Split into three components, the course sees students studying Physical Geography, including topics such as coastal systems and landscape hazards, Human Geography with topics such as population, the environment, global systems and governance and Field-work Investigation.

A-level Geography is a relevant subject dealing with vital contemporary issues such as climate change, geopolitical affairs, environmental degradation, social issues and natural hazards. In addition, A-level Geography helps students develop a wide range of very useful and marketable skills. Students develop both their literacy and numeracy and acquire a range of practical data collection and data manipulation skills.

How is it assessed?

Students are assessed through two written examination papers at the end of the course. Each paper is worth 40% of the final mark. There is also a coursework element which is an individual geographical fieldwork investigation. This consists of a 3,000-4,000 word study based on a question or issue relating to their studies.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

Students will usually have achieved a Grade 6 in GCSE Geography, in addition to good passes in English and Mathematics. However, studying Geography at GCSE is not compulsory and students wishing to follow this pathway should talk to the Head of Faculty.

University or employment prospects?

Statistics show that Geography graduates are typically likely to be offered a job at the end of their degree course. The development of problem solving and critical thinking skills mean many career paths are on offer ranging from more obvious options such as a town planner, environmental consultant and landscape architect to careers in non-governmental organisations or in business.

HISTORY

What does it involve?

Studying History provides students with skills of analysis which are invaluable in many jobs. A-level History is a stimulating and challenging subject. Students study three units, two of which cover historical periods such as 1865-1975: USA - The Making of a Superpower and 1951-2007: The Making of Modern Britain. Each of the units reflects on the political, economic and social changes within the countries, across the relevant period. Students study the concepts of government and opposition, ideas and ideology, social division and cultural change.

There are many reasons for studying History and the principal aim of the department is to encourage and cultivate curiosity in students, thus enabling them to develop skills of research and enquiry. History draws on a plethora of skills: analysis, evaluation, independent study, management of information, a capacity to express and articulate and the ability to write clearly and concisely.

How is it assessed?

Each of the three units is assessed through a written examination. The third unit consists of an historical investigation comprised of a 3,000-3,500 word study, based on a topic chosen by the student.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

Students will usually have achieved a Grade 6 in GCSE History. However, studying History at GCSE is not compulsory and students wishing to follow this pathway should talk to the Head of Faculty.

University or employment prospects?

Studying history hones skills that are highly sought-after by employers and history graduates can go on to anything and everything. Careers in politics, journalism, PR, marketing, consultancy or business are not unusual, but this list is by no means exhaustive.

MATHEMATICS

What does it involve?

A-level Mathematics at Cranford House follows a rigorous and engaging curriculum designed to help prepare students for the high expectations of the most respected universities and demanding professional pathways. The overarching themes of the course are mathematical argument, language and proof, mathematical problem solving and mathematical modelling. The students study a combination of Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics, with Pure Mathematics accounting for approximately two thirds of the overall content.

An intellectually demanding course, Mathematics ensures students are able to calculate confidently and work with scientific ideas, as well as training students in analytical and logical thinking. The syllabus requires the ability to work independently and students will need a high degree of motivation, perseverance and a genuine interest in and enjoyment of this challenging subject. However, despite being a challenge, when tackled with determination and enthusiasm, Mathematics is undoubtedly fun! It fits well with many other A-level subjects, complementing the Sciences whilst also contrasting well with Art subjects.

How is it assessed?

Assessment takes the form of three two-hour examination papers, taken at the end of the two-year programme of study.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

A good pass in GCSE Mathematics is required to study Mathematics and Further Mathematics A-level and any student wishing to study Mathematics A-level is encouraged to speak to the Head of Department.

University or employment prospects?

Mathematics is a subject which is always looked upon favourably by employers. It has links with Science, Engineering and Accountancy but also complements several other subjects and supports many university courses that major in a different area.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

What does it involve?

To reinforce our commitment to support all our students' ambitions, we also offer the Further Mathematics A-level, which may be required for some university courses. This course allows students to develop their understanding of the subject to a far greater level, thus more fully preparing students for university subject choices with a heavy mathematical content. Students study two mandatory Pure Mathematics modules and then choose two further modules from a selection of Statistics, Mechanics and Pure Mathematics. Further Mathematics must be studied in addition to Mathematics A-level and cannot be selected as a standalone subject.

How is it assessed?

This takes the form of four 90-minute examination papers, which are equally weighted and taken at the end of the two-year course.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

A good pass in GCSE Mathematics is required to study Mathematics and Further Mathematics A-level and any student wishing to study Mathematics A-level is encouraged to speak to the Head of Department.

University or employment prospects?

Further Mathematics may be a required A-level for some university courses, for example, Engineering or Mathematics. The advanced level of knowledge and skill developed during the course can also strengthen students' performance in occupations with a heavy mathematical content, such as Actuarial Sciences, high-level Statistician work or any environment which demands advanced mathematical skills.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (FRENCH, SPANISH, GERMAN)

What does it involve?

One of the aims of A-level French, German or Spanish is to provide the opportunity for students to significantly broaden their studies and to acquire the different skills required by many international employers.

Each A-level course consists of four core areas: Social Issues and Trends; Political and Artistic Culture; Grammar; and Literary Texts and Films. Students will develop their skills in listening, reading, writing and speaking to encourage a high level of fluency and accuracy.

Studying French, German or Spanish at A-level helps develop communication skills, teamwork and independence. In addition, the course provides a solid platform for those wishing to go on to study a language at university.

How is it assessed?

At the end of the course, students are tested for their listening, reading, translating, speaking and writing skills through three examinations.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

Students will require a Grade 6 in their chosen subject, in addition to strong spoken and written skills.

University or employment prospects?

Students can go on to study French, German or Spanish either as stand-alone subjects or as a combined degree at university and many courses provide a year in industry abroad. A second language is an asset to anyone, but particularly when it comes to job searching as many employers regard an additional language in a very favourable light. Career opportunities typically lie in consultancy, banking, travel, media, business and foreign affairs.

MUSIC

What does it involve?

The skills involved in A-level Music are both practical and intellectual, offering students the chance to develop a greater understanding of how music works. The Music course focuses on composing, aural perception, performance and appreciation and analysis. Music is a well-respected A-level that is an excellent complement to most other subjects.

The course is split between the disciplines of listening, performing and composing. There is a slightly greater emphasis on the listening and the performing components. The performing component requires students to perform regularly throughout the course. Students studying Music at Cranford House will have the opportunity to attend a variety of concerts exposing them to a range of music styles and genres. Regular performances and participation in extra-curricular musical activities will be critical to success.

How is it assessed?

Assessment for A-level Music is split into three components, including Appraising Music (40% of the overall mark), Performing Music (35%) and Composing Music (25%)

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

Studying GCSE Music is not a requirement for the A-level, but students should be at least Grade 6 on their principal study and ideally have passed Grade 5 Theory ABRSM.

University or employment prospects?

Studying Music at Sixth Form is clearly a prerequisite to taking the subject on to further education and to obvious career paths for highly talented individuals, including joining an orchestra. However, the skills developed as a performer are useful throughout life and an accomplished musician can also look forward to a wide range of career prospects, for example in music management, recording and broadcasting, but not limited to within the music industry.

MEDIA STUDIES

What does it involve?

In A-level Media Studies, students will develop an understanding of and explore how mass media convey messages in a variety of forms, including marketing, advertising, promotion, radio, film and television. Four theoretical frameworks underpin the course: Media Language, Representation, Industries and Audience. Much of the course is analytical exploration which considers the mass media and its meaning within a wider context. Students will engage in the in depth study of at least one audio-visual, one print and one online social and participatory media form. In addition, students will be supported in securing work experience and links within the media industry.

How is it assessed?

The creation of a media product forms 30% of the course mark and provides the opportunity to explore and learn concepts in a practical way. There are also two written papers exploring key concepts, including detailed study of case studies.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

Students will require excellent analytical and communication skills. A Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature will secure a place on the A-level course, in addition to a proven level of interest in the media and related issues.

University or employment prospects?

Many universities offer Media courses and these are often combined with Communication. Courses are highly competitive and students will most certainly boost their employability by gaining practical work experience alongside a degree and a lot of organisations now offer internships to support this. Careers in media are extensive, from journalism and copy writing to reporting and public relations or marketing and digital technology.

PHYSICS

What does it involve?

Studying Physics at A-level is fascinating as it continues a student's learning journey in exploring everything from the smallest of particles to the largest of the stars. It further answers some of the questions introduced at GCSE. The following topics are studied: Measurements and their errors; Particles and radiation; Waves; Mechanics and materials; Electricity; Further mechanics and thermal physics; Fields and their consequences; Nuclear physics. Five optional topics are also included to allow students to focus on their own areas of interest; these include Astrophysics, Medical physics, Turning points in physics, Engineering physics and Electronics.

Physicists tend to have naturally enquiring minds and the scope of the A-level curriculum is designed to channel this. It is a challenging but rewarding course programme that better helps students to understand how the universe behaves through a general analysis of nature. Studying Physics at A-level requires determination and application, but the reward is significant as students develop an in depth knowledge about how things work.

How is it assessed?

This involves three two-hour written papers comprised of long and short answered questions, as well as multiple choice. The third paper assesses the student's understanding of experimental techniques and data analysis

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

Students will require a Grade 6 in GCSE Physics, in addition to a good pass in Mathematics.

University or employment prospects?

Physics is a subject that provides a superb platform on which to build a higher education. Subjects that may typically be followed at university include Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Architecture, Economics and Mathematics. Career options are excellent as it is a subject that is in high demand from employers.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

What does it involve?

A-level Physical Education allows students to gain dynamic theoretical and practical skills for further education or their chosen career. Areas covered by the course include Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Skill Acquisition, Sport and Society, Exercise, Physiology and Biomechanics, Sport Psychology and Sport and Society and Technology in Sports.

The aim of the course is to provide an academic and theoretical understanding of Physical Education and sport. The course encourages development and an enhanced knowledge and skill level in a student's chosen sport. In addition, the course explores contemporary sociological issues in modern sport, the effects of exercise and training on the body and compares and contrasts sport in different cultures.

How is it assessed?

Assessment involves two written papers and a practical performance in a physical activity or sport.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

Students will require a Grade 6 in GCSE Physical Education. A good pass in Biology GCSE is also desirable.

University or employment prospects?

A-level Physical Education will equip students for undergraduate study in areas such as Physiology, Biomechanics, Psychology and Nutrition. The variety of practical roles also helps to strengthen students' leadership skills and improve social development, both of which are highly transferable skills in a work environment.

PSYCHOLOGY

What does it involve?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human brain and behaviour. It is a fascinating, yet challenging, academic subject that requires students both to develop logically composed discussion and use scientific evidence to support their arguments.

Through the study of Psychology, students develop skills in critical analysis, independent thinking and research. The course includes a large research methods component in all topics covered and also enables students to further their understanding of mathematical concepts through the application of statistics in psychological research. The syllabus covers topics including: Approaches to and issues in psychology; cognition and development; social influence; memory; attachment; psychopathology; forensic psychology; stress; gender and biopsychology.

Psychology is a subject that sits well with Science or Humanities subjects and is a very popular A-level choice.

How is it assessed?

At the end of the course, students are assessed through three two-hour written examination papers.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

Students will require a Grade 6 or above at English GCSE, the ability to present a clear and concise argument and an interest in human behaviour.

University or employment prospects?

Students wishing to become a professional Psychologist will need a Psychology degree accredited by the BPS (British Psychological Society), followed by specialising in a particular area such as educational psychology or clinical psychology. This may involve a further two or three years of study. Psychology A-level is useful in many careers such as social work, medicine, law, advertising, teaching and police work.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

What does it involve?

Students choosing to study the Religious Studies A-level course will cover two components. The first is a study of Buddhism and Christianity, looking at core teaching, beliefs and sources of wisdom literature. They will also study ethical and philosophical concepts such as the arguments for the existence of God, Life After Death, Conscience, Free Will, Meta Ethics and Animal Rights. In the second component, students explore how each religion is influenced by, and has an influence on, the philosophy of religion and ethics. In this component, the emphasis is on the dialogue between religion and the issues studied.

Religious Studies is an exciting and challenging option that will appeal to students who enjoy reflecting critically on theological and ethical issues. There is plenty of scope for open debate and students will learn to form strong written arguments to support their ideas.

How is it assessed?

At the end of the course, students are assessed by two written examination papers.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

GCSE Religious Studies is useful but is not a pre-requisite to studying the A-level. A strong interest in the Humanities and good level of English will furnish students with the skills required for this course.

University or employment prospects?

Many universities offer Religious Studies courses, often combined with Theology or Ethics. Religious Studies furnishes students with excellent powers of communication, both verbally and in writing and powers of critical analysis. This naturally opens many career paths in media, journalism, politics or business, while other possibilities include community development work, youth work, welfare or social work.

SOCIOLOGY

What does it involve?

Sociology is the study of society and how people group together based on relationships, interests and beliefs. The content of the A-level course is diverse and taught in a modular structure over the two years. Over this period, students will examine topics such as crime, religion, family, the state, race, social class and power, control within society and social divisions.

Sociology harnesses skills of debate, evaluation and communication, in addition to giving students the tools to apply theoretical principals. Sociology is an exciting A-level which encourages lively discussion in small group settings. Students will require the ability to present clear and concise arguments, both verbally and in writing.

How is it assessed?

Sociology A-level is assessed by three equally weighted papers at the end of the two-year course.

Which skills or qualifications do I need?

Students who wish to study Sociology at A-level will require English GCSE at Grade 6 or above.

University or employment prospects?

A degree in Sociology could lead to jobs in social services, the education, criminal justice or welfare services, in government, counselling, charities or the voluntary sector. The study of Sociology develops a wide set of transferable skills such as team-work and communication skills, along with the ability to demonstrate initiative, tolerance and support. Sociology is beneficial, therefore, for those wishing to pursue a career in business as students have learned how to make connections in different social situations and are able to apply this in a range of work environments.

Admissions

Cranford House looks for pupils who will benefit from and contribute to the well-rounded, opportunity-rich education that we offer. The admissions process is designed to allow students to showcase their talents, abilities and enthusiasms and it is through this that we seek to identify students who will thrive at our Sixth Form. The admissions process usually begins with a visit, either through an Open Event or through an individual tour

when students have an opportunity to look around the school and speak to members of staff and the Admissions team.

Full details about the admissions process can be found on the school website www.cranfordhouse.net or by emailing the Registrar at admissions@cranfordhouse.net





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