

GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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3D DESIGN

In a world that is constantly evolving, 3D Design is a course that will allow students to develop creative and innovative solutions to help shape the future. By engaging with the iterative design process, students will be able to design a range of products from initial ideation through to final production. This creative and rewarding course provides students with a solid foundation in the principles and techniques of 3D Design, including product design, architecture and engineering. Students will have the opportunity to explore a range of different material groups to design and produce a variety of outcomes, taking inspiration from a host of designers and design movements, resulting in manufacturing with the latest technology, including laser cutters, CNC machines and 3D printers, as well as more traditional techniques.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Students will learn to be problem solvers and innovators. Through engaging with a range of designers and processes, the emphasis is on the development of integrated practical skills with a strong understanding of the physical and mechanical properties of materials and components.

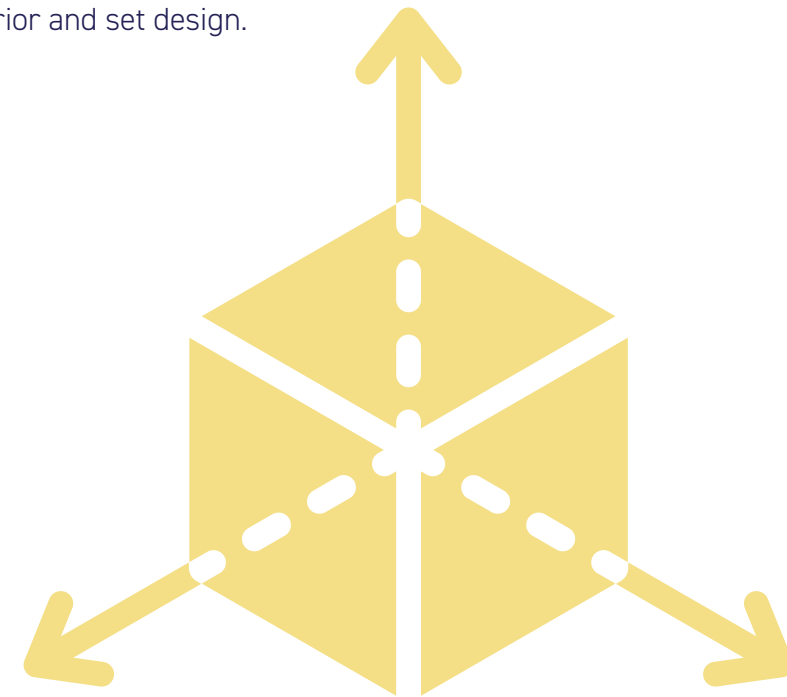
The course as a whole will develop students' skills in the following:

- Sketching and idea presentation
- Research and idea development
- An understanding of aesthetic, social and environmental issues affecting design
- Computer Aided Design and Manufacture (CAD/CAM)
- Modelling and manufacturing skills

- Additionally, they will develop a range of transferable skills such as problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, project management and presentation skills.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

Students should look to study A level 3D Design, which will further develop their skill set. 3D Design will enable further study in a wide range of design and engineering-related subject areas, as well as supporting other STEM subjects. Students will develop the necessary creative, technical thinking and interpersonal skills to move into careers such as industrial design, product design, engineering, architecture, and interior and set design.



BIOLOGY

Biology by definition is the study of life itself; it gives purpose to the physical sciences and applies our knowledge of the universe to the most fundamental questions: what is life, how did it arise and where will it go from here? By starting from the study of single cells, we build our knowledge to look at the huge variety of life on Earth, from fungi to fish, lions to lichens; what they have common, how they differ and how they all came from the same common ancestor. Perhaps the most fast-moving discipline, a thorough knowledge of Biology is essential if we are to develop the new technologies and ideas we need to save lives, save species and save our planet as a whole.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Biologists learn first and foremost to observe; to see the world around them and question how it works. From Year 7 you will observe life of all types, developing hypotheses to explain what you see and designing experiments to test your own ideas.

Biology is taught as a separate Science in specialist laboratories from Year 7. Pupils begin by studying topics including cells, genetics and reproduction, eventually progressing on to study for the IGCSE, which covers topics from human anatomy to evolution to ecology.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

From Biology A level, students go on to study a huge range of degrees from pure Biology or Natural Sciences to more specific fields such as Neuroscience, Biomedical Science, Marine Biology, Environmental Science and more. Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry all have Biology at their core and Biology A level is highly recommended for those considering Sports Science, Food and Nutrition or Psychology for further study. Beyond the sciences, the skills gained from Biology A level make it a well-regarded subject for those considering careers such as law, finance, journalism, charitable work and many more.



CHEMISTRY

Chemistry is the fundamental science that looks into explanations of how and why reactions happen. From the sub-atomic scale to global issues, Chemistry helps us to understand the world around us and make informed choices that will affect our futures.

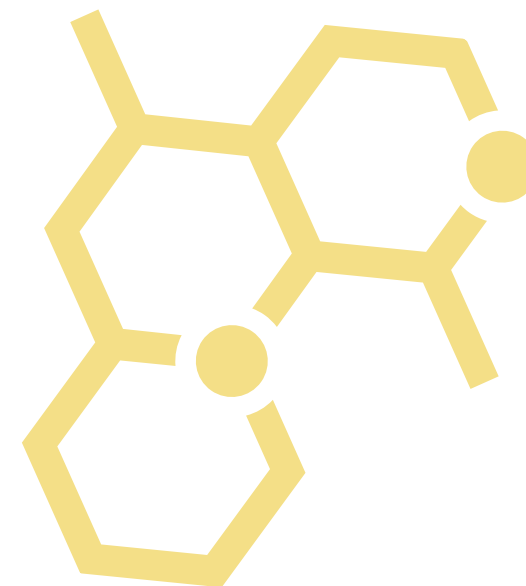
Chemistry is taught from Year 7 as a separate science in specialist, well-resourced laboratories. Theoretical understanding is backed up with hands-on practical lessons and students learn to apply their knowledge to solve problems and probe deeper into their understanding of Chemistry. The GCSE course starts in Year 9, and most students take the Triple Science option.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will learn about the unifying patterns and themes in Chemistry and be able to apply them to novel situations. You will acquire knowledge and understanding of concepts, terminology and practical techniques. Chemistry will allow you to investigate, analyse and evaluate to draw conclusions and solve problems; skills for life that are enabling in many situations. The principles and logic of the subject underpin many areas covered in all Sciences.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

Many students choose to study A level Chemistry and it is a highly respected A level for university entrance and beyond. An A level in Chemistry leads directly to a wide range of university courses such as Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Biochemistry and Natural Sciences. Chemistry is also a prerequisite for the study of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy. The study of Chemistry will inspire those students with inquiring minds who question 'why?' and 'how?' things happen.



CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

In Year 9, pupils have the opportunity to take up Classical Civilisation and they can advance to the GCSE if they wish. The subject gives pupils a unique opportunity to study all aspects of the ancient world, from Greek myths about heroes and monsters to the Egyptian queen, Cleopatra; from the emperors of Rome to the archaeological remains of Troy. Pupils will learn to engage with primary sources (always in English translation) to construct persuasive written arguments and to work on extended projects in small groups. Enrichment trips to theatrical productions, museums and drama workshops will enhance the experience, as will the annual Classics trip to Italy or Greece.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

In Year 9, we study the theme of crime and punishment in Greek myth, and then Cleopatra. For GCSE we study two modules: Myth and Religion and The Homeric World.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

If you have enjoyed Classical Civilisation at GCSE, the next logical step is to study it for A level, where you will encounter more of the riches the ancient world has to offer. Even if you do not continue to A level, the knowledge and skills you acquire from the GCSE will stand you in good stead for your future development. The Classical world is all around us (if you know how to see it!) and your experience of the ancient world will inform your study of other periods of history and other cultures.



CLASSICAL GREEK

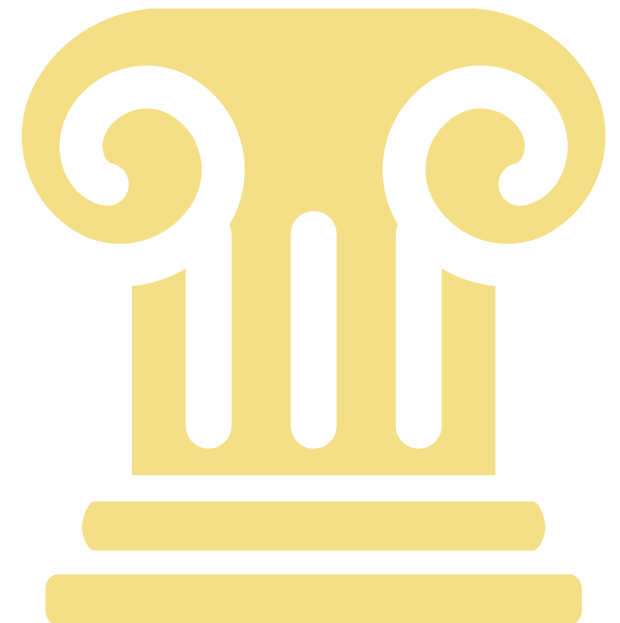
In Year 9, pupils can begin the study of Classical Greek alongside Latin (this combined course is called Gratin). This is an exciting prospect for pupils who are keen to push themselves and wander from the beaten track. Studying Classical Greek requires pupils to learn a new alphabet (unless, of course, they are familiar with modern Greek!), and to develop an understanding of the grammar of a fully inflected language. It is a challenging subject, but the challenge is well worth the effort – the influence of classical Greek culture on western civilisation is incalculable. Pupils who progress to the GCSE (where Classical Greek is taught separately from Latin) will have the opportunity to study some of the greatest literary works of all time: the epic poems of Homer, the tragic plays of Euripides, and the Histories of Herodotus. They can also look forward to the Classics expedition to Greece, as well as various other trips closer to home.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

In Year 9, you will learn the Greek alphabet and some simple grammar and vocabulary. For the GCSE course, you will be prepared for a language paper (translation and comprehension) and two literature papers on set texts (studied in the original Greek).

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

The Department teaches Classical Greek A level. Any pupil who stops after the GCSE will feel the benefit of their Greek education long after they have put away their lexicon and grammar for the last time: so pervasive has been the influence of the ancient Greeks that their ideas and systems of thought can be hard to escape. Whether you go on to study History, Drama, Philosophy, Mathematics, Music, Politics or Physics (all of which are Greek words), you will find the ancient Greeks had something interesting to say on the matter.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

In Computer Science you will cover a range of topics to ensure you develop your ICT, Computer Science and Digital Skills for the 21st century. These skills are vital as you move through School, into the Sixth Form and beyond.

You will learn how to use the most common software applications, explore how the computer system operates and develop your programming skills. There are a range of practical lessons where you will be able to use technology outside of the classroom to collaborate and work within a group.

We have various devices that we make use of within our curriculum, such as Raspberry Pis, Lego Prime Spike, BBC Micro:bits, iPads and much more!

There is also the option to select GCSE Computer Science, building upon knowledge gained in Key Stage 3 and the Electives' Programme at STAHS, to learn more in-depth material about the computer system and all of its complexities, whilst continuing to develop your programming skills.

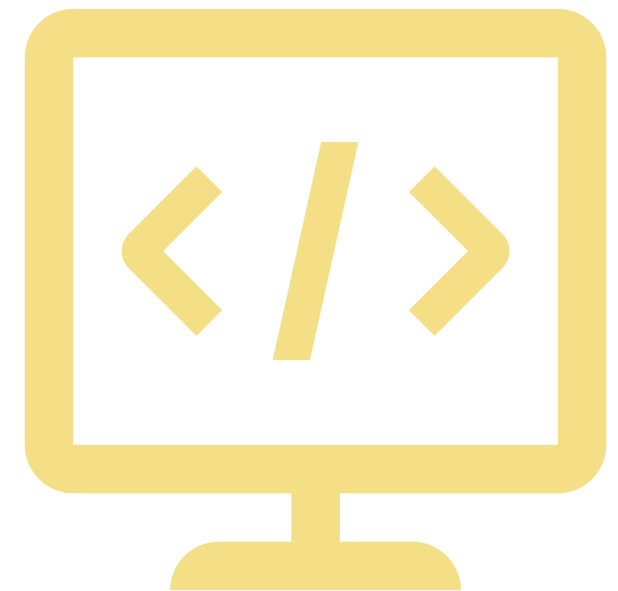
WHAT WILL I LEARN?

In Years 7 and 8 you will cover a range of topics based on ICT, Computer Science and Digital Literacy. Pupils have the opportunity to further explore Computer Science as part of the Year 9 Electives' Programme. The GCSE Computer Science course builds upon the knowledge gained from the Year 9 Electives' Programme to explore a

range of topics, such as, Computer Hardware, Data Representation, Software, Algorithms and Programming.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

Once you have completed the GCSE, you are then able to continue on the Computer Science pathway by studying A level Computer Science. This course will allow you to further enhance your knowledge of Computer Science theory and challenge yourself using computational thinking and problem solving to develop your programming skills.



DRAMA

The study of Drama at STAHS values both academic and performance elements. Pupils across the School enjoy a rich and diverse programme of study, gaining experience and drawing inspiration from professional theatre practitioners with frequent workshops and theatre trips. Drama at STAHS offers pupils opportunities to explore their own passions and voice issues of interest to them. Pupils study one hour of drama a week in smaller teaching groups to support the development of each individual pupil.

Drama empowers pupils to communicate with and understand others, promoting tolerance and empathy. It is important for preparing pupils to live and work in a world where creativity and teamwork are highly prized and where resilience and versatility are key. We see our pupils as the aspiring theatre-makers of tomorrow. Whether as playwrights, directors, performers or technicians, studying Drama at STAHS gives them the foundations to achieve their goals.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Students explore acting, presentation, devising, script writing and technical theatre. They develop their analytical skills through the practical and theoretical study of a wide range of scripts and develop their cultural knowledge through studying theatre history. They also have the opportunity to experience live theatre and workshops by theatre professionals.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

The study of Drama at STAHS opens pupils up to the world of theatre and performance skills.

Drama offers time and space for self-initiated learning, preparing the foundations of discipline, practice and rigour, and gives pupils opportunities to lead, experiment, make mistakes and to reflect and try again. Students go on to study A level Drama but it will also support the study of all subjects and careers through the development of key desirable transferable skills.



ENGLISH LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE

Curiosity and imagination lead the way when studying English at STAHS. As well as exploring a wide range of authors, students will try their hand at creative writing, take part in lively discussions, and stretch themselves through rigorous intellectual challenges. They will also join in with our library lessons, reading and discussing the books that they love.

Our curriculum has something for everyone, from exploring poetry from across time and across the world in Year 7, to discovering glorious Gothic writing in Year 8, to delving into dystopian worlds in Year 9. At Key Stage 4, you build on all that you have learnt in Years 7 to 9, confidently embarking on your GCSE journey. English is subject that lets you travel without leaving your chair, get to know characters you will never meet and develop your opinions on some of life's big ideas.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

In addition to skills in written and verbal communication, you will develop the ability to analyse and discuss the writing of some of our most influential authors. Opinions are encouraged and you will learn how to clearly formulate and express your ideas – a vital life skill.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

As well as leading on to A level, studying English Language and Literature at GCSE will lay the foundations for many other subjects and careers, both at A level and beyond. Both subjects will allow you to develop your skills in written and verbal communication, skills that are essential for all subjects at A level. The course will also allow you to explore literature more broadly and, we hope, inspire a lifelong love of reading – a joy that goes far beyond the classroom!



FINE ART

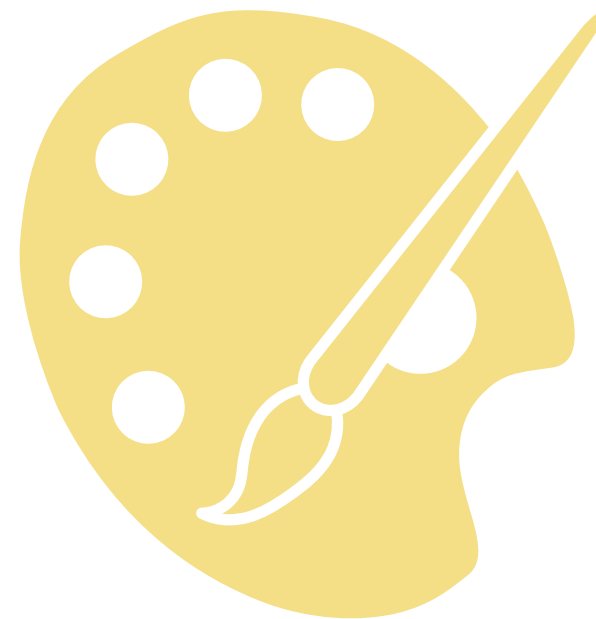
The Art Department at STAHS believes that 'art not only can be taught but must be taught'. Committed to providing pupils with the scope to shape their learning and to take responsibility for their own development, we consider that innovation and creativity derive from making connections and endeavour to provide a framework for this to happen. Developing problem-solving skills in our pupils is key, along with their ability to say 'why not?' rather than 'why?'. The Art curriculum at STAHS develops mental/manual co-ordination, the willingness to see as well as look, providing pupils with a flexible approach to navigating through life in the 21st century. Encouraging risk-taking, the Department understands that this is part of the creative process, paralleling the way we encounter complex problems in real life. We celebrate the work of our young artists and encourage them to explore beyond the curriculum.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Pupils work with a diverse range of media, in both two and three dimensions, from observation and imagination. We aim that they should have a sense of achievement in their own abilities, a knowledge and understanding of art in its broadest cultural and historical context, with a structured approach to art appreciation.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

Post-GCSE students taking Art study the Edexcel A level Art and Design (Fine Art) course. At this stage, students deal with more complex forms of problem-solving, where purposes are seldom fixed but are modified in the course of being realised. Students continue to explore their own creativity and personal art practice; comprehending that there exists more than a single solution to a problem and that, crucially, subtle changes can make vast differences to overall quality. The skills that they have developed during GCSE will be enhanced and built upon during the A level Art and Design Course.



FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

The OCR GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition course aims to equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. At the heart of the course is the development of strong practical cookery skills and techniques and a good understanding of nutrition. Learning how to cook is a crucial life skill, enabling you to feed yourselves and others affordably and well, now and in later life. You will additionally explore the huge challenges that we face globally to supply the world with safe and nutritious food.

The course has been developed with the support of Heston Blumenthal who, as one of the world's most renowned chefs and an expert in culinary scientific research, will inspire learners to explore the discovery of new ingredients and different ways of cooking through scientific experimentation.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will study:

- Nutrition
- Food provenance and food choice
- Cooking and food preparation
- Culinary skills: preparation and cooking techniques.

Assessment in Year 11 includes:

- Written examination
- NEA food investigation task on the working properties of ingredients
- NEA food preparation task on applying nutrition when planning, preparing, cooking and presenting dishes.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

A passion for food can lead to a wide range of exciting career opportunities in dietetics and nutrition, agriculture, catering and hospitality, environmental health, leisure and tourism, retail sales and customer service, as well as engineering and manufacturing, such as production management or new product development technologies. The subject's strong links with science have also benefited STAHS pupils undertaking careers in medicine.

Food is something that everyone has in common – we all need to eat it to stay alive. Career opportunities will always be abundant, enabling you to become a key worker in a fast and vibrant industry.

FRENCH

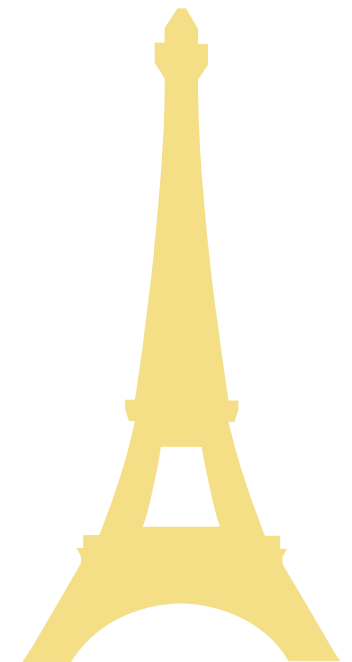
Learning French at STAHS means much more than the acquisition of confident communication skills and a global outlook. Lessons are dynamic and fast-paced with a focus on using the language in real-life contexts. We share our passion for the French language and appreciation of the culture and diversity of the French-speaking world, encouraging all our pupils to engage in cultural enrichment activities from Year 7 upwards. These can range from watching French language films, dipping into authentic texts and poetry writing, through to participating in our programme of visits to France.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will develop your language skills in four areas – listening, reading, speaking and writing – over a wide range of topic areas. We give particular emphasis to memorisation skills and the development of strong grammatical awareness.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

Opting for French at A level takes your language acquisition to a new level. Topics studied give insight into the culture, history, politics and values of the French-speaking world and the course also includes the in-depth study of a literary text and a film. Each student has a weekly 30-minute meeting with one of our French-speaking assistants, which helps consolidate and extend the new language, grammar and discussion points covered in lessons.



GEOGRAPHY

Geography at STAHS will deepen your understanding of geographical processes, the impact of complex human and landscape interactions and the dynamic links between places and environments. Additionally it will develop your ability to use a wide range of geographical investigative skills and approaches. Geographers are also able to demonstrate a range of skills including statistical skills, ICT skills (including GIS) and graphical skills. Geography enables pupils to become globally and environmentally informed and thoughtful, enquiring citizens.

At STAHS we are lucky to have a team of extremely well-qualified specialist teachers working in a suite of new Geography classrooms that are wonderfully equipped for this dynamic subject. We are also committed to field trips ranging from a day trip in each of our Key Stage 3 year groups to residential trips to Wales and the Lake District at GCSE and A level, plus a regular trip to Iceland with our senior students.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

We study a broad range of Human, Physical and Environmental Geography across the Key Stages. At Key Stage 3 this includes such diverse topics as sustainability and climate change, rocks and coasts, population and global development and plate tectonics together with a regional study of the Geography of the Middle East. We follow the AQA course at GCSE level, and OCR at A level.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

The skills and knowledge you gain from this subject, at GCSE, A level or university, are relevant to almost all jobs and workplaces. A few examples include sustainability, urban regeneration, retail location and hazard management, as well as law, human rights and international relations.



GERMAN

German is flourishing at STAHS! Mastering this remarkable language makes you stand out and, year after year, our pupils discover what a great advantage it is to study German. Whether on the slopes, in Europe's coolest capital or with family and friends, speaking German is both inspiring and rewarding. Your teachers' passion for the language and the plethora of opportunities available, be it through music, film or games, make learning German at STAHS a dynamic, rigorous and authentic language learning experience. We are dedicated to bringing the language to life, be it through celebrating festivals in our German club, discussions with our German assistant, a theatre performance or trips. You can experience German through the scents and sights of the magical world of Christmas markets in Aachen, contact with German students in our partner school and study trips to the fairytale city of Munich or the vibrant city of Berlin!

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Pupils' confidence to communicate and understand written and spoken German develops by looking at different topics, stories and trends in German-speaking countries. The use of a wide range of authentic materials ensures deeper cultural knowledge, as well as linguistic proficiency. There is a strong emphasis on building vocabulary and solid grammatical foundations to articulate ideas with certainty and accuracy.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

As well as leading on to A level, studying German will sharpen your written and verbal communication skills in English. The ability to construct and decode German compound nouns involves spotting patterns and problem solving; skills that are essential for future learning. German is a highly desirable language in the UK and combines very well with History, Liberal Arts, Science, Maths or Music, whilst also setting you apart. Your linguistic and cultural knowledge of German will make learning a second or third language, establishing friendships and conversing on the slopes even easier and more rewarding.



HISTORY

The study of History at STAHS is exciting, wide reaching and diverse. We have recently undertaken a significant curriculum review at Key Stage 3, with a sharp focus on diversity, inclusion and relevance to our own students. All pupils explore a broad chronology from the medieval world through the Mughal and Benin empires to Indian decolonisation, LGBTQ+ history and the experience of women in modern China. Through compelling narratives, pupils develop a rich understanding of the world, as well as key historical skills, including essay writing, drawing inferences from primary sources and formulating convincing arguments. Our pupils benefit from inspirational and passionate teachers who enthuse, challenge and support them to become budding historians. Beyond the History classroom, we provide an array of stimulating educational opportunities including a visit to the WWI battlefields, day trips to London to explore their topics further (eg a tour of the Royal Courts of Justice and the surrounding area), as well as in-school workshops from specialist companies. Pupils are encouraged to develop academic scholarship. The Department promotes independent learning through clubs, reading/watching lists and a new school History magazine.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

History at Key Stage 3 is a chronological journey from the medieval period to the present day. This is done through the key themes of changing power and authority and how impact with the wider world shaped who we are today. Some of the key topics in Year 7 include medieval England, the Renaissance, Mughal India and Benin. In Year

8, students compare Britain and France in the early modern period, then study the Industrial Revolution. Later in the year they consider the development of the British empire with a case study on India, followed by a study of the exploitation of people in the slave trade. There is also a focus on women in modern China and an independent exploration of pioneering women through time. In Year 9, students will learn about the global nature of WWI, the emergence of dictatorships around the world post-WWI, the campaign for Indian independence and civil rights for the Windrush generation and LGBTQ+ people in modern Britain. At Key Stage 4, we follow the Pearson IGCSE, studying Medicine Through Time c.1848–1948, Russia 1905–1924, USA 1945–1974, and the Cold War 1945–1972.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

The knowledge and skills you will acquire from studying History at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 are invaluable and transferable to support other subjects and life beyond school. Not only will you explore and evaluate some of the key events of our past (which is exciting in its own right!), but you will also develop the ability to write effectively, read critically and analyse historical documents. Learning to articulate yourself both verbally and in writing is essential in all walks of life; History will help you do this clearly and convincingly, as you will learn the value of evidence-based arguments.

ITALIAN

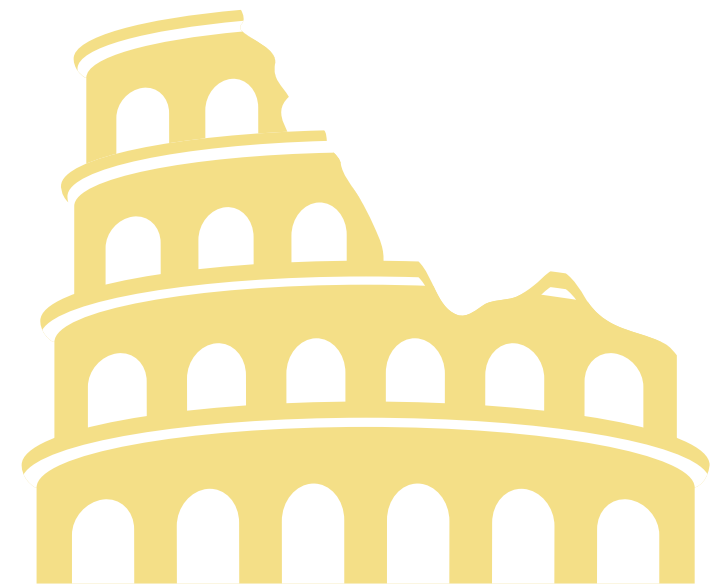
Learning Italian at STAHS is an exciting opportunity to broaden your language learning further by adding another Romance language to your repertoire. In addition to developing confident language skills, we are passionate about sharing our love of Italian culture – everything from Dante to Dolce & Gabbana. A fast-paced and dynamic teaching style means an authentic and rigorous learning experience. There are resources available to enhance your learning, including Italian language films and readers in the library.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will develop your language skills in four areas – listening, reading, speaking and writing – over a wide range of topic areas. We give particular emphasis to memorisation skills and the development of strong grammatical awareness. Through cultural enrichment activities, you will also grow your appreciation of Italian culture.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

Studying Italian at GCSE may inspire you to take this as an ab initio subject with another language at university. In addition, it is also possible to combine Italian with another subject entirely, such as English, Business Studies or History. Once you have learnt Italian as a second language, you will find acquiring a third, be it a Romance language or other, a much easier experience! Whether holidays in Italy or an opportunity to spend time in Italy on a year abroad, you will experience the culture first-hand and help develop fluent speaking skills.



LATIN

Latin at STAHS involves the study of the language and culture of the Romans. It is a fabulous opportunity to explore a world that seems both very familiar and extraordinarily alien to us. In Years 7 to 9, pupils will learn Latin using the exciting new textbook *de Romanis*. This new course approaches the language in an engaging and accessible way, building in many opportunities to explore different aspects of Roman mythology, history and culture. As pupils progress with their Latin, they will develop a deep understanding of, among other things.

Roman gods and heroes, ancient festivals and mass entertainment, and the great figures of Roman history, such as Julius Caesar. For GCSE, we follow the Eduqas specification. GCSE candidates are prepared for a language paper and a combination of literature and Roman civilisation papers. Traditional learning methods are supplemented with e-learning resources and enrichment trips to deliver the subject in a stimulating and rigorous manner.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Pupils will master the fundamental rules of Latin grammar and syntax, acquire a large working vocabulary, be exposed to the culture and history of the Romans, and will read some of the greatest pieces of world literature in the original language.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

For pupils who have enjoyed Latin GCSE, the obvious next step is Latin A level, where they can develop their understanding of the language and their appreciation of the literature created by the Romans. For those who choose not to continue, the grounding in Latin acquired from the GCSE will enhance their study of many subjects, most notably English, History and the Romance foreign languages (French, Spanish and Italian).



MANDARIN

Learning Mandarin at STAHS is an incredibly rewarding experience. Every part of the course has been designed to ensure that even those pupils who have had no contact with the language before will be able to flourish. Carefully designed schemes of work allow for steady progression and interactive lessons focus on spontaneity and use of authentic resources.

There are several opportunities to deepen knowledge and understanding of Chinese culture, through workshops, local trips to China Town, assemblies and, soon, a GCSE study trip to China.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Pupils will develop four main skills (listening, reading, speaking, writing) as well as essential communication skills and cultural sensitivity. Mandarin Chinese entails learning a pictorial alphabet and tonal sounds, making this a unique and rewarding learning journey.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

There are many opportunities to study Mandarin Chinese in higher education institutions either as a combined degree or an exchange programme in China. Mandarin will certainly set pupils apart, whatever their chosen field of study may be. The development of transferrable communication skills, cultural sensitivity and knowledge of a non-European language are a rare asset in the workplace in the UK today.



MATHEMATICS

Mathematics, 'the Queen of the Sciences' (Carl Friedrich Gauss), is the main driving force behind scientific discovery and communication. Pupils will expand their skills in logical thought, problem solving and statistical analysis. They should be prepared for lessons that are fast moving, challenging and require them to think for themselves so that they can become more independent and apply their knowledge to unfamiliar situations.

Pupils are taught in an environment that strives to develop their ability to its maximum. Lessons aim to inspire pupils with enthusiasm for the subject. We continually build on the pupils' self-confidence, so that they can recognise and celebrate their own successes.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Overview of content of Higher Tier IGCSE:

- Numbers (eg Sets, Ratio, Percentages, Fractions, Decimals, Powers, Surds)
- Algebra (eg Solving Equations, Algebraic Manipulation, Indices, Inequalities, Quadratics, Simultaneous Equations, Linear and Quadratic Graphs, Functions, Calculus)
- Geometry (eg Area, Volume, Pythagoras, Trigonometry, Transformations, Vectors, Circles, Polygons)
- Statistics (eg Probability, Averages, Cumulative Frequency, Histograms)

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

To be successful in the 21st century, an educational background that provides a high degree of numeracy is essential. One of the top grades is required to study Mathematics beyond GCSE but there are many other A level courses that also require a good grounding in Mathematics, such as Economics, Psychology, Physics and Chemistry.

The skills learnt at GCSE, such as logical thinking, problem solving and statistical analysis, can also be applied to a wide range of careers in industry and commerce including: engineering, accountancy, IT, quantity surveying, research, civil service, retail management, teaching, banking and other careers in the City.



MUSIC

At STAHS, we aim to engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians. Through the study of music, we hope to increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. Pupils will develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose and to listen with discrimination. This is achieved at Key Stage 3 through performing, listening, evaluating, exploring, singing and using their voices, creating and composing music, and using technology appropriately. These skills develop the ability to be able to perform with technical control, expression and interpretation; to compose and develop musical ideas with technical control and coherence; and to demonstrate and apply musical knowledge and use appraising skills to make evaluative and critical judgements about music at GCSE level. As well as offering the traditional Music GCSE, there is the opportunity to take GCSE Music in Year 10 for our most ambitious pupils.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Pupils at STAHS will learn to perform, compose and appraise. They will form personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills. They will engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, as well as developing an understanding of the place of music in different cultures.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

Pupils who take GCSE Music in Year 10 complete the Silver Arts Award qualification in Year 11 (Level 2 Award in the Arts). GCSE Music provides a firm foundation for the Edexcel A level Music course, which we offer at STAHS.



FURTHER MUSIC AND SILVER ARTS AWARD

At STAHS, we offer an accelerated route through GCSE Music. In Year 9, our most ambitious and able musicians opt to take Further Music and begin their GCSE studies, completing the qualification in Year 10. This early GCSE enables pupils to gain valuable and confidence-boosting experience of examinations, helping them to prepare for Year 11. For many of our top musicians, this is the appropriate route, meaning that they push themselves both academically and musically.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Pupils at STAHS will become informed, imaginative and enquiring musicians. Through the study of GCSE Music we aim to provide a wide range of musical skills and to enable pupils to use these skills creatively. Through the Silver Arts Award programme, pupils develop creativity, leadership and communication skills. They learn to work independently, helping them to prepare for further education and employment. This qualification can be personalised by the pupils and is able to inspire, develop and extend the pupils'

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

Pupils who take GCSE Music in Year 10 complete the Silver Arts Award qualification in Year 11 (Level 2 Award in the Arts equivalent to GCSE 4–9 grade). GCSE Music provides a firm foundation for the Edexcel A level Music course, which we offer at STAHS.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT

The Physical Education and Sports Department upholds an aspirational and inclusive vision of sport and physical activity. Our objective is to provide an environment that enables every pupil to be physically active and understand the value of having a healthy, active lifestyle. We aim to support our pupils in developing a strong habit of exercise and an appreciation of its value, which is instilled through the delivery of a modern and engaging curriculum. Pupils are provided with a high standard of experience that does not favour one area of the programme at the expense of another and this is delivered through a variety of competitive and recreational sporting activities. This programme enables pupils to develop confidence, character and resilience and, as a result, aims to reduce stress and anxiety.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Alongside our co-curricular provision, pupils attend a core PE and Games lesson each week, which includes a wide variety of different sports activities. For those who wish to take the theoretical aspects of the curriculum further, we offer GCSE PE.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

We strive to instil exercise habits for life and empower our pupils with the knowledge and skills they need to be able to continue participating in sport as young adults once they have left the School. Many of our GCSE PE students choose to continue studying the subject at A level and beyond.



PHYSICS

Physics, as the most fundamental of the sciences, will give you an appreciation of the workings of the universe from its very smallest to its very largest scales. It will also take you on a journey of discovery, explaining how the universe came into being, the workings of the modern technology that shapes our world, and why you should always bend your knees when landing.

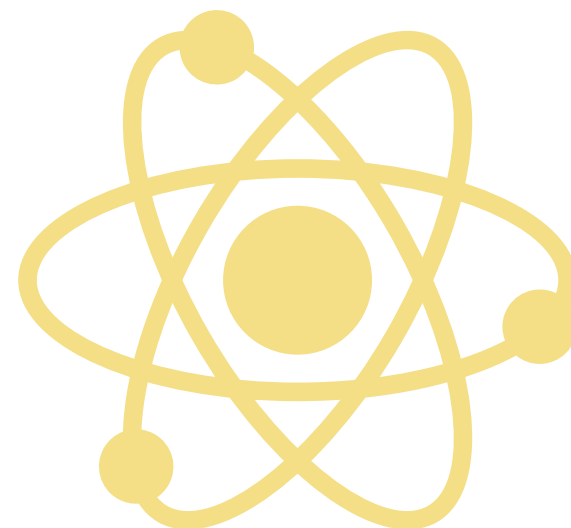
Physics is taught from Year 7 as a separate science in specialist laboratories. You will cover forces, motion, and properties of matter in Year 7 and then light, sound and electricity in Year 8. In Year 9, you will start the GCSE course. Most students studying the GCSE course will take the triple science option, further extending their Physics studies.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will learn to take measurements accurately and draw conclusions from data. You will also learn to apply mathematical equations to common sense situations. The language of Physics is maths, and this becomes ever more the case as your studies progress through the School. Physics trains you to think logically, carefully and to apply familiar knowledge to unfamiliar situations. It will also leave you with a good sense of the fundamental concepts that underpin all the sciences.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

A level Physics is the obvious starting point, which is taken by those achieving the highest grades in Physics and Maths. Many students study the other sciences and/or Maths alongside Physics. However, other subjects, like Computer Science or Economics are also appropriate. An A level in Physics leads directly to a wide range of university studies such as Physics, Astronomy, Engineering or Architecture. Other subjects such as Maths, Chemistry, Biology, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science or Computer Science are natural complements. Whether you study it all the way through university, or just to A level or GCSE, Physics will leave you with a sense of wonder at the beauty of the universe and joy in describing it with (relatively) simple equations and ideas.



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

By studying this subject, you will begin to appreciate how vital it is to understand what gives meaning and purpose to people's lives. Due to the impact of globalisation and the increasing levels of diversity within our society, adaptability and tolerance are paramount. RS lessons are inclusive and will enable you to feel that you have something valuable to contribute that will not be wrong. You will be given time and space to think about and to discuss who you are, what you think about the 'ultimate' questions and what matters to you.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Year 7 – Christianity, Islam, Hinduism
Year 8 – Judaism and Buddhism
Year 9 – Contemporary Moral Issues
Year 10 – Christianity and Islam
Year 11 – Ethics.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

This subject aims to instil in you a passion for learning for learning's sake, where you will become genuinely equipped to tackle the religious, social and ethical dilemmas of the 21st century



SPANISH

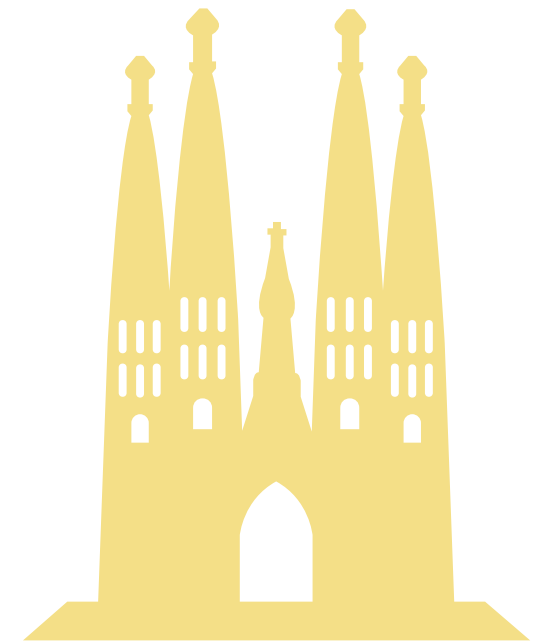
Studying Spanish at STAHS will take you on a learning journey across the Hispanic world – Spain, Cuba, Argentina, Colombia and Peru are all waiting to be discovered from a dynamic and inspiring classroom on Townsend Avenue. Your Spanish teachers at STAHS will teach you how to speak Spanish, understand your new friends from all these wonderful places yet to be travelled and enrich your learning with stories of ‘fiestas’ and Spanish music. In this way, learning Spanish will bring the Hispanic world and all its beauty to your classroom. With an important focus on the grammar and vocabulary, you will participate in fun and interactive lessons with exposure to the language. The Department offers opportunities for pupils to take their Spanish learning beyond the classroom by taking part in study visits, competitions and celebrations.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The Spanish curriculum at STAHS focuses on equipping pupils with the confidence and ability to communicate and understand written and spoken Spanish. Pupils studying Spanish work diligently to develop their skills – this is done by looking at different topics, themes and trends from the Hispanic world. The teaching team ensure a wide range of cultural knowledge is established, as well as linguistic proficiency.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

Being able to speak any language is a very useful skill for life – being able to speak Spanish opens up a whole new world of adventures, friendships and learning. It is important to nurture and practise speaking the Spanish you learn at GCSE whenever wherever possible. You may consider doing Spanish A level, where you will explore the many depths of the Hispanic world and also become a proficient Spanish speaker. Many pupils never forget the Spanish they learn at school and find it invaluable to know a few phrases when travelling for business and for leisure in the future. Keep calm and speak Español!



TEXTILES

The Textiles course offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for learners to identify and solve real problems, explore, and experiment with a range of textile media, processes and techniques. The course enables students to investigate themes, colour, form, texture, pattern, and shape, through experimentation with a wide range of materials and techniques using fabric, stitch, and garment construction. To extend their innovation and creativity, knowledge of an ever-growing population of fashion and textile designers is utilised by attending galleries and events, completing in-depth research investigations, and developing and responding practically with sampling, before producing high-quality final outcomes.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Students will be supported through investigative practical projects to develop their own creative style, exploring fabric manipulation, experimentation, and using innovative processes influenced by themes and designers. To create successful outcomes students will use the iterative design process to evaluate, test and modify techniques and design solutions. Garment engineering through cutting on the stand and pattern alteration skills will be learnt, to enable more adventurous and personal design outcomes. Students will also gain knowledge in fibres and fabrics to extend their level of practical experimentation by increasing understanding of material properties and their limitations.

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME POST-GCSE?

The course naturally leads onto the Textiles A level which will support the creative journey directly into the field of fashion, textiles and art and design, including engineering, material science, fashion journalism, fashion law, clothing technology, and fashion advertising. Completing the course also naturally offers key skills that are well suited to a wide range of courses and careers, including problem-solving, creative thinking, project management, analytical and reflective skills and resourcefulness.

