

Subjects

Art
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computer Science
Design & Technology
Economics
English Literature
Geography
History
Mathematics
Further Mathematics
Media Studies
Music
Philosophy
Physical Education
Physics



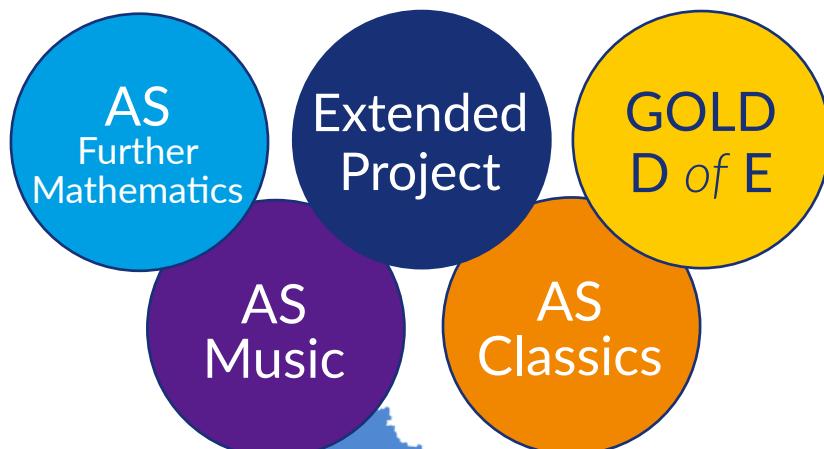
TORQUAY BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A LEVELS

A Levels are a traditional qualification, with a specialist focus. They are graded with letters A*, A, B and so on, after examinations, at the end of two years of study, although there may be a proportion of non-exam assessment (or "coursework") too. You can pick three separate subjects (or four in some cases). The choices available are opposite. On the application form, indicate your choices in order of preference.

You will be timetabled around 5 lessons, per subject, per week. Alongside these, you are invited to choose an extension option from the following:

- AS Music
- AS Level Further Mathematics
- Extended Project
- Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- AS Classics



dare to be



"Such an **artistically enriching** course has provided me the platform to explore **exciting** new creative processes and mediums. This coupled with the warm **atmosphere**, has seen the Manor become a home here at TBGS." Alex



"The **Barcelona trip** was a fantastic **opportunity** to immerse ourselves in arguably one of the most **culturally** thriving cities in the world. It helped us enrich our journey as **Artists and Designers.**" Seth



dare to be

A Level Art

■ What will I study?

Learning to **communicate** ideas in a **visual** form is not only a great skill to learn, but is great fun also. Core themes can be **developed** through drawing, painting, sculpture and 3D design, photography and digital manipulation, montage, collage and pretty much any materials that are available. Students have **great freedom** in the themes that they study. This is very much about **personal development** as well as learning about materials and processes. Studying the work of artists, designers and architects will also **enrich** the **creative experience** and help students in terms of ideas and direction.

■ How will I be assessed?

Assessment at A level is in four key areas: develop, explore, record, and present. A "personal investigation" counts for 60% of the overall grade. This is a portfolio submission of practical work with a related study written piece attached to it. The "set task" accounts for the other 40%. This comes in the form of a range of topics set by the exam board; the students respond to one of these within a given time frame. Students exhibit both units at the end of the course.

■ How will I be taught?

A level students will receive 10 lessons per fortnight, usually split between two members of staff.

The art studios will be available to students during free periods and at lunch times to further their studies. The gallery is a fantastic space to display the final exhibitions in.

At least one art trip will be organised during the course, which will feed into different aspects of the programme of study.

■ Why should I study Art?

With a highly **successful** track record, the department prides itself on **excellent** results.

This is a subject that can bring great **balance** to a curriculum, **thinking creatively** and working with different materials is a **wonderful** experience.

Students have gone on to study in a whole host of creative industries such as architecture, graphic design, photography, fine art, theatre set design, jewellery making, furniture design, textiles and fashion, interior design, animation, museum curation and many more.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mr D Reshad dreshad@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"The trips are very **informative** and allowed me to **consolidate** the content learned in class."

Will



"Biology helps me make **links** between my different subjects, such as Geography and Chemistry, to give me a better **understanding** of the **world** around me." John



"Biology has given me useful **transferable** skills such as **data analysis** that will be really helpful when I study Economics at university." Ben

dare to be

A Level Biology

■ What will I study?

Regardless of whether you choose A level or IB, you will study a broad range of topics including: cell biology, biochemistry, ecology, classification, exchange and transport, communication, energy transfers and genetics. Extensive training in a wide range of **laboratory** and **fieldwork techniques** is a key part of both courses.

■ How will I be assessed?

The A-Level course is 100% exam assessed; the three papers contain a mix of multiple-choice, structured short and extended response questions. During the course, you will collect the evidence required for the practical endorsement. This is a non-exam assessment of your practical skills.

■ How will I be taught?

The course is accessible to students who have completed either Biology as a separate GCSE, or as part of a Combined Science course. All students complete an induction unit at the start of Year 12 to introduce them to the practical and mathematical skills required for their studies.

■ Why should I study Biology?

Biology complements the other science subjects, geography and physical education, but will work with any subject provided you have a passion for the subject. A Level Biology allows students to access the full range of biological degrees at university. Biology is an obvious choice for students wanting to study medicine, physiology and related degrees, but either course provides access to a wide range of degree courses including veterinary, genetics, ecology, marine biology and zoology. An enthusiasm for Biology can take you to some **fantastic** places and provide **exciting** and **unexpected opportunities**, so even if you don't have a particular career in mind, but have been inspired by David Attenborough, then Biology could be the course for you.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Dr S Maudling smaudling@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"Studying **business** allowed me to **understand** more about the world, **learning** of the problems and issues facing businesses in the **current economy.**"

Ben



Business Studies has let me **develop** a lot of transferable **skills** such as the concept of cash flow, budgeting and made me aware of how **media influences** our buying habits. I really **enjoyed** the course." Elliot



dare to be

A Level **Business Studies**

■ What will I study?

Business studies is a very hands-on subject that allows you **develop transferable life skills**. It helps you understand the basics of how business entities are run. From shareholder activism and changes in the retail environment as we move from the traditional bricks-and-mortar stores to online retail; the challenges facing the business world are many. Students doing this course will be able to carry out a health check on any business, small or large.

Topics such as workforce planning, financial ratio analysis, marketing, government policy and the impact of external factors are investigated in this subject.

■ How will I be assessed?

Assessment will be in the form of 3 exams, of 2 hours duration each. You will be well-prepared for this, so there is not much to worry about other than ensuring that you have revised well.

■ How will I be taught?

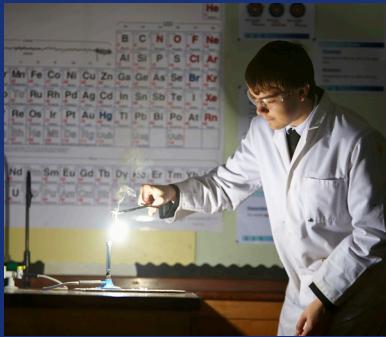
Students get to study various businesses and look at different aspects of their operations, from marketing to managing change, through a variety of media including videos.

■ Why should I study Business Studies?

Business is a vastly **interesting** subject which is very **relevant** to individuals who would like to have an **entrepreneurial streak** in them. It's interesting to see how businesses are set up, their marketing activities and the challenges they face. Students studying this can look towards **lucrative** careers in accounting, marketing and management.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs S Aziz saziz@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"I find the subject absolutely **fascinating**. My **favourite** discipline is organic chemistry." Sam



"**Chemistry** will open many career options for me – and it is an **enjoyable** subject!" Fred



dare to be

A Level Chemistry

■ What will I study?

The chemist is an **artist** who is able to paint in their **imagination** a hidden world of electrons, atoms and molecules. He or she can understand the behaviour of matter and make predictions about how substances can be made to change chemically to make new materials. **Visualising** the world around us using the chemical 'model' is **fascinating**. Chemistry is, for many of us, simply **enjoyable**.

At TBGS, our aim is to develop in our students this **understanding**, **appreciation** and **fascination** in the science (and art) of engineering on the molecular level.

■ How will I be assessed?

The popular OCR Chemistry course provides a solid grounding in all the major disciplines of chemistry, namely physical, inorganic and organic.

Module 1	Development of Practical Skills
Module 2	Foundations in Chemistry
Module 3	Periodic Table and Energy
Module 4	Core Organic Chemistry
Module 5	Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements
Module 6	Organic Chemistry and Analysis

Students will be examined on all modules at the end of the two-year course. An extensive range of practical and investigative work is undertaken and students will qualify for an 'endorsement' of their practical skills developed over the two-years.

■ How will I be taught?

Students will have two teachers from a chemistry department staffed with very **experienced** teachers and very **capable chemists**, who are **enthusiastic** about teaching and maintain a great **interest** and **love** for the subject. The Chemistry Department achieves **outstanding** results year after year, and sends many students to university to study science and medicine amongst other subjects.

Students can expect to be guided to become independent learners in readiness for higher education. However, we get to know our students well and offer a **personalised** service. We pride ourselves on the **individual** support offered to students who seek out that extra input themselves or who we think would benefit from more help. Our open-door policy welcomes students at any time who wish to discuss their progress with us.

■ Why should I study Chemistry?

Chemistry is sometimes described as the 'middle science'. It is a physical science applying understandings from physics and mathematics to chemical systems, but chemistry is also the language used to understand much that is of interest in the biological and medical sciences. It also has significant overlaps with geology, earth sciences and engineering. It is essential to study chemistry at A Level or IB in order to apply for medicine or veterinary science.

An A Level in Chemistry is highly regarded for the analytical thinking skills it encourages. A high grade is likely to be regarded as evidence for a student's **intellectual ability** to work with **abstract ideas** to solve problems of a **challenging** nature. This is a **valuable transferable skill**.

Many students have chosen to carry on their chemical education at university. Chemistry university graduates usually go on to high-status employment or further education. 30% undergo postgraduate training for a higher degree, for example a doctorate. Of those taking employment, 70% enter a professional role in science or in other disciplines such as management, business, law or education.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Dr S Marr smarr@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"The best part of **computer science** is the freedom to choose your own coursework project." Finley



"Definitely one of the **best A-level choices** I've picked. The teachers are always so helpful and I feel like I'm **progressing** a lot despite not having taken the GCSE – **would recommend**" Sam

"The A-level computing course is **fascinating** – the course allows you to follow personal interests and has shown me some **fantastic opportunities**" Harris

dare to be

A Level Computer Science

■ What will I study?

"Everybody in this country should learn to program a computer because it teaches you how to think" **Steve Jobs**. You will learn how to program a computer. Learning to code is challenging but very **rewarding** when your programs work. You will also learn how to fail. This might sound like an odd thing to want to learn, but you need to learn how to **embrace** failure and look for alternative routes to success. Most computer programs can be solved in a variety of ways and rarely is there a "right" way to do it. You will also learn the inner workings of a computer as well as networking and cyber security.

■ How will I be assessed?

There are two written exams worth 40% each, and a coursework project worth 20% which you will choose for yourself.

■ How will I be taught?

There is a very large element of **supported** self-study with **research** activities and worksheets which show you how to complete tasks, which you will work through independently. There are also a series of **challenges** which ask you to apply what you have learned. The challenges become progressively more difficult, ensuring that everyone is challenged, no matter how much or little experience they have. This is a **practical** subject so the majority of the time will be spent working on the computer.

■ Why should I study Computer Science?

Almost every career involves some aspects of computing and having knowledge and skills in this area is **essential** to all. You will also have the opportunity to pursue new and exciting careers such as AI, nano technology, games design, cyber security, forensic computing and many more.

The main reason to study Computer Science? - Because, it is **fun!**

The computing industry is one of the **fastest growing** sections of the **economy**; do you think we are going to become more or less dependent on technology in the future? You must prepare yourself for the world you are going into, and that **world is digital**.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Ms A McFarlane amcfarlane@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"It has been an **excellent** foundation to my Engineering degree - I've breezed through my first year" Matthew



"This course has been **instrumental** in helping me gain a place on the higher **apprenticeship** degree course at Jaguar Landrover" James



dare to be

A Level

Design & Technology

■ What will I study?

The content is **focused** towards **engineered** and **electronic** products and systems; the analysis of these in respect of **function**, operation, components and materials, in order to understand their **application** and uses in engineered products and systems that have **commercial** viability. The OCR specifications also require you to apply **mathematical** and **scientific** knowledge, understanding and skills and reflects the importance of Design and Technology as a pivotal STEM subject.

Key Features: identifying requirements, learning from existing products and practice, implications of wider issues, design thinking and communication, material considerations, technical understanding, manufacturing processes and techniques, viability of design solutions, health and safety.

■ How will I be assessed?

This specification has 3 assessments.

The non-examined assessment is the 'Iterative Design Project, requiring a substantial design, make and evaluation project worth 50% of the A Level.

The principles examination paper assesses analysis of existing products, technical knowledge and understanding of materials, product functionality, manufacturing processes and techniques. It allows you to demonstrate your understanding of design thinking and wider social, moral and environmental issues. This is 25% of the A Level.

The unseen challenge focuses on the application your knowledge, understanding and skills of designing and manufacturing prototypes and products through a set design task, then reflecting on your design solution in relation to wider factors and other theoretical knowledge. This is 25% of the A Level.

■ How will I be taught?

The course content will be delivered through a combination of experiments, practical investigations and note taking, delivered by department staff.

■ Why should I study Design & Technology?

Design and Technology is an **inspiring**, **rigorous** and **practical** subject that supports progression beyond A level.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mr S Stockley sstockley@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk

"Economics develops and values **critical thinking** more than any other subject. The skills learnt from studying the subject are **invaluable** for any future career, economics-related or otherwise." Matt



"I greatly enjoyed studying economics. Not only was it a very **interesting** subject in its own right, giving me a **meaningful** insight into current affairs and **government economic policy**, but the teachers were also very friendly and helpful. I feel economics really contributed to my time at TBGS." Joe



"I was fairly set on a career in medicine and chose economics on a whim, but the **applicability** of the subject and all the world events it helps to explain **interested me** to the extent that I chose to study it at university instead, and I'm so happy that I did." Mark

dare to be

A Level **Economics**

■ What will I study?

Economics is about scarcity and **choice**, and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. An economic way of thinking can help people to make better choices. Economics is the right subject for you if you enjoy:

- **debating** economic issues such as inequality, immigration and how we should pay for healthcare;
- **using** and interpreting data to analyse economic problems;
- **discussing** alternative courses of action, for example in the Budget or when setting interest rates;
- **understanding** international trends, such as why poverty is falling so fast around the globe.

Most students at A Level haven't studied economics before. You might have an interest in economics and want to know more about the impact of government policies on the world around you. You might want to investigate some of the stories you hear in the news – Why do some economies grow and others don't? What will trade be like after Brexit? Will there be another global financial crisis? This course will help you to understand all this and more.

■ How will I be assessed?

Assessment will be in the form of 3 exams of 2 hours duration each. You will be well prepared for this so there is not much to worry about other than ensuring that you have revised thoroughly. The exam topics are markets and market failure, national and international economy, and economic principles and issues.

■ How will I be taught?

There is much discussion and debate which allow students to develop a robust understanding of the subject.

■ Why should I study Economics?

Studying economics will help you develop **transferable** skills that will **prepare** you for studying at university or moving into the world of work. These include skills in **data interpretation** and essay writing.

With an Economics A Level and related degree, you can work in a variety of different fields from stock broking, finance and banking, public policy, sales and marketing, civil service, journalism, insurance and actuarial work. Five years after graduation, the income gap between students who studied the subjects that attract the highest and lowest salaries can be considerable. Economics comes second highest after medicine and dentistry, taking home an average of £40,000, five years after graduation, according to the IFS in 2017.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs S Aziz saziz@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"I got a real kick out of **exploring** the subtext, and debating the novels over coffee and biscuits in **Room 101** is one of my favourite memories!" – Charlie



"There is a real **atmosphere** of passion for the subjects among the teachers and the students. If you want to **succeed** in English, this department will, without a doubt, help you **blossom!**" – Henry

dare to be

A Level English Literature

■ What will I study?

Our aim is to give you breadth and experience, so expect to read a really **exciting, varied** and **dynamic** selection of literature from different historical, social and cultural **perspectives**. The A-Level course gives you the opportunity to explore, in-depth, a range of poetry, novels, plays, genres, contexts and styles. The emphasis is also on the sheer **enjoyment** of rich and interesting texts: you will engage with units on the supernatural, a Shakespeare play, Chaucer's poetry, 20th-century poetry and modern drama.

■ How will I be assessed?

A-Level assessment consists of a coursework essay (20%) and three final exams on prose, poetry and drama. The emphasis is on the written communication of criticism and analysis.

■ How will I be taught?

At A-level, you will have 9 lessons a fortnight, split between two highly-experienced, enthusiastic and knowledgeable teachers.

Lessons are **discursive, interactive** and **creative**: you will be actively involved in group discussions, student-led presentations, drama-based exploration and teacher-led lectures. You will be expected to **explore, think, engage** and **debate**, and, ultimately, to have an open and **curious** mind. A high degree of independence and **motivation** is expected at this level of study.

Throughout the course you will also have the opportunity to attend theatre trips, cinema screenings, study days and lectures.

■ Why should I study English Literature?

The study of Literature will open your mind to **exciting** new worlds, concepts and **cultures**. Literature and language also reveal so much about the human mind, the factors that affect the language we use, and the many varied ways that we can interpret it.

English is a **facilitating subject**, **highly-regarded** by universities and employers alike; its traditional academic nature gives students invaluable experience and skills in analysis, research, critical thinking and argument, as well as improved written and oral skills. It combines well with every subject, both Arts and Sciences, and will help you to succeed in the future, whatever path you choose to follow.

The English Department have a highly-successful track record with, on average, over 90% of students achieving A*-B on this course.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs C Warde cwarde@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk

"Having studied Geography at A-Level, I feel I have a better **understanding** of the **physical** and **human world** around me." Lewis



"The Geography course at TBGS was exactly what I was looking for. It was **interesting**, well-organised and an **incredibly useful** A level to have. I am now studying MSci **Environmental Geoscience** at Bristol University." Will



"It's been easy to make the **transition** from another school because geographers tend to be **outgoing, sociable** and fun people. **Fieldtrips** are a great way to bond with the other students!" Patrick

dare to be

A Level Geography

■ What will I study?

A-Level Geography is a mixture of human and physical geography. For the physical component, you will study geographical hazards, coastal systems and landscapes, and the water and carbon cycle. For the human component, you will study changing places, contemporary urban environments and global systems and governance.

■ How will I be assessed?

There are two written examinations at the end of Year 13, each of 2 hours 30 minutes duration. Paper 1 focuses on the physical geography topics and paper 2 on the human geography. The papers comprise of structured questions of varying length. Each paper is worth 40% of the final A-Level.

The final 20% comprises a non-examination assessment in which students complete an individual investigation based on data collected in the field. The investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

■ How will I be taught?

You will build up a **portfolio** from your lesson notes, private reading, short assignments and from field study. Students are **encouraged** to attend the South Devon Geographical Association termly lectures and there are a number of **external speakers** who come in to give talks on their specific areas of **expertise**.

Fieldwork is, of course, a critical part of any Geography course, and we run a number of **fieldtrips** over the two years. A three-day **residential** fieldtrip to Dorset takes place in the Autumn term of Year 12, looking at coastal processes and management, and there is a two day trip to London in the Summer term of Year 12, focusing on London's role as a world city, urban regeneration and cultural diversity. A one-day fieldtrip to Plymouth in the Autumn term of Year 13 focuses on urban regeneration and changing place. The department runs a six-day residential trip to Iceland every two years.

■ Why should I study Geography?

Geography is the subject for the 21st century. Contemporary geography explicitly engages with the relationship of human populations to each other and their relationship with the physical environment. Geographers look at issues from a wide perspective and develop a range of skills that are **attractive** to a very broad range of **future** employers. Specific skills include field work, research and report writing, preparing maps and diagrams, and using social survey and interpretative methods. Geographers are also adept in recognising the moral and ethical issues involved in debates and enquiries.

The aim of Geography at A level is to provide you with an appreciation of the complexities of **decision-making** in the real world; a variety of skills to analyse data and draw conclusions, and a desire to tackle urgent environmental and social issues in the UK and around the world.

Geography students at TBGS also have a strong tradition of participating in local and national geography-related activities. In recent years, we have had success in the Young Geographer of the Year competition, South West Geology competition and the South West Planning competition. Such activities are both enriching and enjoyable.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Dr H Fyfe hfyfe@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"Initially I was apprehensive about the step up to A-level, but my teachers were so **supportive** and the class is very **collaborative**. I have really enjoyed the structure of the course and the **opportunity** to get involved in History Society." Dominic



"I really enjoyed GCSE History and so I wanted to have the **opportunity** to delve deeper into the subject. The lessons are totally different to GCSE in structure which has given me valuable **independence** skills for University. The teachers are experts in their **knowledge** and are very supportive. I can't wait to study History at University!" James

dare to be

A Level History

■ What will I study?

Consolidation of the Tudor Dynasty: England, 1485-1547: students will gain a broad understanding of how Henry Tudor and Henry VIII created and consolidated royal supremacy in England. Themes included will be their relationship with parliament, economic and foreign policies, the nature of English society and religion.

Revolution and Dictatorship in Russia: The Rise of Stalin 1917-1929: an in-depth study of Russia under the last Tsar and the conditions that created his downfall. Students will examine the Provisional Government's attempts to manage the transition from autocracy to democracy, and its defeat by a Bolshevik coup.

England: Turmoil and Triumph, 1547-1603: building on from the first unit, students will extend their knowledge to look at the crisis under Edward and Mary I and the triumph of England in the Elizabethan age. Aspects covered will include an examination of religious persecution under 'Bloody' Mary, plots to usurp the throne, the execution of Mary Queen of Scots and the political and economic rivalry with Spain.

Revolution and Dictatorship in Russia: Stalin's Rule, 1929-1953: this study extends your knowledge from the AS content, on the rise of Stalin, to look at his policies once in power. Aspects studied include the use of terror and removing his rivals, his transformation of Russia into an industrialised superpower, the wartime pact with Hitler.

Historical Enquiry: this is a 3,500 coursework essay on US Civil Rights.

■ How will I be assessed?

Students will complete the Historical Enquiry during Year 13 which counts for 20% of their A-Level mark. At the end of Year 13, students will complete two exams, each counting for 40% of their total mark.

■ How will I be taught?

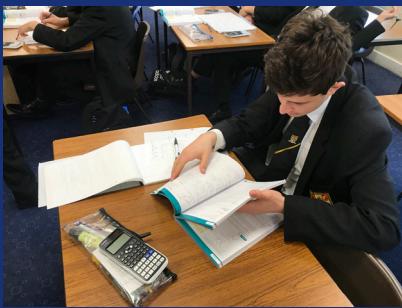
Lessons will be taught in a variety of ways, including seminars to prepare you for University.

■ Why should I study History?

The history department has a track record of 100% pass rate, and 84% students achieving A*-B. There will always be jobs for people who can apply the lessons of the past to the problems of the present: many of those at the top of politics and the civil service are history graduates. History teaches a number of desirable skills, such as **clarity** of written and oral expression, putting forward **complex** arguments concisely, gathering and assessing data, reaching **conclusions** and ideas for **progress** on the basis of **critical** assessment of information. A considerable number of history graduates therefore enter the legal profession, jobs in media, journalism as well as the business and banking sector.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Miss J Bradbury jbradbury@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"There is nothing better than seeing a **solution** come together, especially when you are doing it."

Isaac



"Maths A-level is really useful as it's a **gateway** to a variety of different careers. The **challenges** you're faced with **prepare** you for all sorts of problems in life" Leo



"I took Maths because I thought that this subject would be **interesting**. The **challenges** in the course are hard, however, when you finally overcome that **challenge** the joy you gain is great." Ethan

A Level Mathematics

■ What will I study?

The course will enable you to **develop** mathematical knowledge and understanding in a way which both **increases** your **confidence** to solve problems in the **real world** and develop an **appreciation** of Mathematics for its own sake. Emphasis is placed upon the ability to reason logically, develop mathematical proofs and use mathematics as an effective means of **communication**.

In Pure Mathematics, you will continue your study of algebra and functions, trigonometry and co-ordinate geometry. You will also be introduced to calculus and develop techniques to solve a variety of different problems in this area.

In Applied Mathematics you'll develop your ability to use Mathematical techniques to model a variety of situations in order to make predictions based on real-world observations. This could be generating a probability model using statistical techniques or modelling motion under gravity using mechanics.,

We also offer an AS-level course in Further Mathematics, further details of which can be found in the extension options section of the prospectus.

■ How will I be assessed?

Throughout the year, you will have tests every half term to help prepare you for dealing with the style of challenges you will face in your final exams.

There is no coursework and your A-level Mathematics grade will be given based upon your performance in your final exams. These consist of three 2-hour exams (two on pure mathematics and one on applied mathematics) contributing 1/3 of your overall grade each.

■ How will I be taught?

You will have two teachers who deliver the course content between them. You will receive 9 lessons per fortnight.

Individual teachers will use a variety of teaching techniques involving the use of ICT where appropriate, experiments, group work and whole class teaching.

■ Why should I study Mathematics?

Candidates opt to study Mathematics for a number of different reasons. Some because of their passion for the subject. Others to facilitate and support their other subjects. Whatever the reason, a good grade in A-level Mathematics opens doors to a wide range of careers involving different levels of mathematics. Over the past 7 years, the pass rate for this course has been 100% with the majority of students obtaining grades C – A*.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

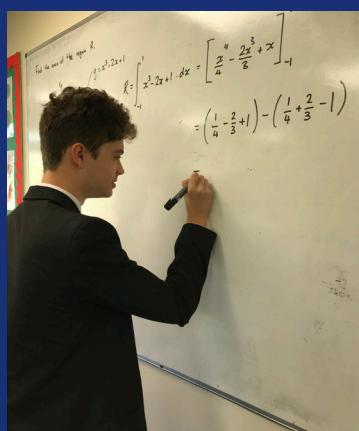
Mr C Price cprice@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"I've really enjoyed **developing** the **understanding** of why things happen instead of assuming things as fact." Will



"Completing challenging and **complex** problems with an **elegant** Mathematical solution is highly **satisfying**." Simon



"I enjoy the success of **completing** a challenging problem after discovering a new technique. My **favourite puzzles** involve real-life problems" Ben

A Level Further Maths

■ What will I study?

This course is a double option, giving you an A Level in Mathematics and an A Level in Further Mathematics.

The course covers the entire content of the A-level Maths course. Furthermore, you will study the Mathematics of complex numbers, matrices and hyperbolic functions.

■ How will I be assessed?

Throughout the year, you are assessed internally every half term to help prepare you for dealing with the style of challenges you will face in your final exams.

There are no coursework elements to either A-level qualification.

Your A-level Mathematics grade will be given based upon your performance in your final exams. These consist of three 2-hour exams (two on Pure Mathematics and one on Applied Mathematics) contributing 1/3 of your overall grade each.

The Further Mathematics qualification consists of four 90-minute exams (two on further Pure Mathematics and two on Applied Mathematics) contributing 25% each.

■ How will I be taught?

You will typically have three teachers who deliver the course content between them.

Individual teachers will use a **variety** of teaching techniques involving the use of ICT where appropriate, **experiments**, **group work** and **whole class teaching**.

■ Why should I study Further Maths?

Candidates who opt to study Further Mathematics are some of our **best** Mathematicians. As such, they are **passionate** about extending their learning in this subject and this course certainly does not disappoint. Over the past 7 years, the pass rate for this course has been 100% with the majority of students obtaining the highest grades in both qualifications. Many have then used these experiences and grades to further their learning in some of the top-rate universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs C Horton chorton@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"It's not like **other** lessons where you sit in front of a teacher every day" Joel



"There is a great sense of **creative freedom**, especially with the **coursework** project" Harrison



"Media Studies holds a **relevance** in modern society – it reaches all topics of **discussion** from politics to history to **popular culture**; it **affects everything** we know" – Finley

dare to be

A Level **Media Studies**

■ What will I study?

As a generation of 'Digital Natives', you are immersed in a **diverse** range of media forms. Media Studies aims to unravel the ways in which producers, journalists and directors target their audiences. You will engage with modern texts including Stranger Things, Radio 1 and The Big Issue, and explore how they have been constructed from both a technical perspective and an academic, theoretical viewpoint. You will also learn practical filmmaking, digital photography and website design skills throughout the course. You do not need to have studied Media before to opt for A Level.

■ How will I be assessed?

There will be two final exams (70%) on a range of media industries including News, Film, Music, Television and Gaming. Practical coursework (30%) consists of producing projects that could involve making a music video or advertising campaign, together with a working website using original filmed footage and photography.

■ How will I be taught?

You will have two experienced teachers, each taking you through a different topic at a time and bringing their wide range of media knowledge of contemporary media issues to your lessons. One teacher will support you through the practical-led lessons throughout both years.

A **multimedia** approach is encouraged for learning and many lessons will be recorded by you via online blogging, video essays and voice-over analysis of media texts.

There is a mixture of classroom-based lessons as well as **opportunities** to work much more **independently** using the department's dedicated Mac Suites housed in the Manor. Practical lessons include using the department's green screen, DSLR cameras and Mac editing software.

■ Why should I study Media Studies?

In an increasingly technological age, Media Studies enables you to look **critically** at the world, **opening** your eyes to the big business behind the media you buy into and perhaps make more informed choices in navigating your media habits. It also **develops** your **independence** and team-working skills with the variety of group projects and helps you to work to production briefs, meeting project deadlines – all useful, not only in the Media industry, but abilities increasingly in demand in other career paths.

There are many cross-over links to other subjects within the Arts and Humanities, especially when looking at the cultural or historical contexts of various case studies. Equally, students interested in technology or computer design often find Media Studies a complementary subject option, particularly when using programs such as PhotoShop, InDesign and Premier.

The department is a highly successful one and frequently retains a high pass rate of students achieving grades A-B.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Ms N Moore nmoore@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"A-level Music **enables** us to make the sounds we hear into our own **creative expression**".

Sherif



"It's **fun** and **practical**, requires lots of **skill** and shows universities and employers a breadth of **interest**." Lloyd

dare to be

A Level Music

■ What will I study?

You'll make the most of your **musical talent**, by learning how the best composers and artists make the music you **love**, **developing** the skills to help you express yourself musically in an increasingly **mature** way.

You will listen to, play and **compose** in a variety of **musical** styles, covering topics such as Jazz, Pop and Rock, Musical Theatre, Western Classical Tradition, Twentieth and Twenty-First Century music. You will be taught to work out how a piece of music is constructed by listening and score study, and will use the features you discover in your own compositions and performances.

■ How will I be assessed?

60% of the course is practical – a mixture of composing and performing to suit your strengths. Composing is assessed through coursework, whilst an externally assessed recital determines your performance grade.

40% is through an 'appraising' exam, covering listening skills, score analysis and contextual awareness.

■ How will I be taught?

Music teaching at A Level integrates the three musical skills. Students take the opportunity to perform works from each area of study and to compose using their stylistic conventions. Listening and **appraising** supports composition and performance, and vice versa, creating **variety** in each lesson.

Class sizes are small, so you receive a **high level of support** from expert musical **practitioners**, who are able to get to know you in depth as a musician and give detailed constructive feedback on your creative work.

Music is taught alongside TGGS students, entirely in the TBGS Music Department. Students are given priority use of practice rooms and musical facilities when available.

We also offer an AS Level in Music. Further details of which can be found in the Extension Options section of this prospectus.

■ Why should I study Music?

A high proportion of our music students **enjoy** huge success securing places to study the subject at some top Universities and Music Colleges, including Trinity Laban, Royal Welsh College, York, Oxbridge and BIMM. We have a superb pass rate and many of our students achieve the top grades.

Music is not just for specialists though. It **nurtures problem-solving, critical thinking, teamwork, analysis and research skills**, is highly valued by top universities in tandem with sciences and humanities.

Albert Einstein identifies **creativity** as the characteristic that sets the greatest scientists, politicians, engineers and sports people apart: "The greatest scientists are artists as well."

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mr C Eastman ceastman@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"Everything in life is just an **application** of Philosophy. It is the spark to the **fire of life**", Chris



"Every time I entered the Philosophy classroom it was with complete **understanding** that I would potentially leave with an entirely **different perspective** on an issue, or life in general. At no point were we allowed to rest easy in **our theories.**" Luke



A Level Philosophy

■ What will I study?

Philosophy dares us to ask the **big questions** about life and the world around us. Our course is designed to enable you to directly engage with these fundamental questions and issues. We have plenty of discussions and active learning opportunities where we can test out ideas and explore their implications. We read philosophical texts in order to understand and examine different perspectives on various themes. Our approach helps you to **develop** the ability to **explore** and **engage** with opposing points of view, even when you might think they are incorrect or incoherent. We ask questions because the answers matter to human beings. Although you don't need to be a philosopher to ask these questions, studying philosophy helps you to give clear, precise, reasoned answers to them. We **create a safe, respectful environment** to do this.

■ How will I be assessed?

There are two exams which will be sat at the end of the two-year course, each worth 50%.

Paper 1 has 2 sections. **Epistemology** includes What is knowledge? What role do perception and reason play within our acquisition of knowledge? and What are the limits of knowledge? **Moral Philosophy** includes normative ethical theories, Applied Ethics and meta-ethics.

Paper 2 also has 2 sections. **Metaphysics of God** includes, the concept and nature of 'God', arguments relating to the existence of God, and religious language. **Metaphysics of Mind** includes, what we mean by 'mind', dualist theories, physicalist theories and functionalism.

■ How will I be taught?

There are plenty of **opportunities** during the course to **develop** skills of **philosophical argument** and **reasoning**, effective written responses and a successful exam technique.

■ Why should I study Philosophy?

Studying philosophy helps us to understand the world, to be more rational, to eliminate prejudice and bigotry, and to be clearer about the really big questions in life.

Philosophy doesn't lead into a single specific career: it leads into a huge range of professions. If you can argue persuasively, clearly articulate your ideas, criticise carefully, and think well, then you are **equipped** for many different careers. Philosophers go on to work in law, medicine, politics, the media, education, the charity sector, business, management, the arts – to name just a few.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs S Godfrey sgodfrey@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk

"The course really helped me to develop my understanding of **sporting performance**, types of training & training **techniques**, which helped me to progress into my **professional cycling** contract. Topics on strength and conditioning, balance, & co-ordination were particularly beneficial, and I use the **principles** of training and tapering techniques now on a daily basis." Harrison



"**Great teaching** and the subject meant that I changed my university choice to a sports-science course. This then led to me **specialising** in video **analysis**, and I now have the pleasure of day-to-day working in **professional sport** with the likes of Liverpool FC, The English Institute of Sport, Gloucester RFC, England Rugby League, and The FA." Josh

A Level

Physical Education

■ What will I study?

This course takes a **multi-disciplinary** approach to the study of movement, performance and behaviour in relation to play, institutionalised Physical Education, sport and recreation. The content allows students to study Physical Education in an **academic setting**, enabling them to critically analyse and evaluate their physical performance, and apply their experience of practical activity in developing their knowledge and understanding of the subject.

We have loads of sports to choose from:

athletics, badminton, basketball, blind cricket, boccia, boxing, camogie, canoeing, cricket, cycling, dance, diving (platform), equestrian, football, Gaelic football, goal ball, golf, gymnastics, handball, hockey (field), hurling, kayaking, lacrosse, netball, polybat, powerchair football, rock climbing, rowing, rugby (union or league), sculling, skiing (snow), snowboarding, squash, swimming, table cricket, table tennis, tennis, trampolining, volleyball, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby

■ How will I be assessed?

There are four units, leading to three exams and one coursework unit.

Firstly, physiological factors affecting performance is assessed through end examination worth 30%, and covers applied anatomy and physiology, exercise physiology, and biomechanics. The second exam is psychological factors affecting performance, worth 20%, covering topics of skills acquisition and sports psychology. The final exam is socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport, also worth 20%, covering sport and society, contemporary issues in physical activity and sport.

The coursework, worth 30%, centres around performance, including performance or coaching in a sport, along with evaluation and analysis of performance for improvement (EAPI).

■ Why should I study Physical Education?

This is an **excellent** platform for students to receive a **well-rounded** and full introduction to the world of Physical Education, sport and sports science. This complete grounding in the subject provides a **fantastic** base from which to build when they move to higher education, employment or further training.

It will provide **skills** for a modern world. Students can develop a range of practical skills, including communication using appropriate language, dealing with pressure, split-second decision making, analysing and evaluating performance.

It could lead to a host of career **opportunities** including: sports psychology, coaching, tourism, physiotherapy, teaching, outdoor pursuits, sport science, youth work, management or leisure and recreation.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mr B Passenger bpassenger@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"I enjoy the way we learn the **theory** using mathematics and then get to test it out in **real-life** situations" Mike



"I love the **practical** side of Physics since I am planning on doing **engineering** at University. About half of the lessons involve **experiments**, which mean I have work as part of a team and problem solve to make sure the equipment is set up to get the **best results** possible" Oscar



A Level Physics

■ What will I study?

Dare to be wise and be curious about the wonderful universe around us! The A level course builds on the topics studied at GCSE, and develops a more in depth understanding of our universe, from particle physics through materials science to astrophysics and cosmology. Fundamental concepts such as wave theory, electrical circuits, vector analysis and field theory will allow you to access the current explanations of the most complex phenomena. Theories are built on observations and analysis, and so techniques by which data can be handled are also taught.

■ How will I be assessed?

There are three examination papers at the end of the course; Component 1 Modelling Physics, and Component 2 Exploring Physics, both contain multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions, and cover different topic areas. Component 3, Unified Physics, examines practical skills as well as questions from across the course. The exams are challenging, but we will give you plenty of practice as you go through the course and **support** you fully, if you are having difficulty with any topic areas.

Alongside this, there is a practical endorsement, which is awarded if you have submitted a number of required practicals (PAGs) which demonstrate that you achieved a certain level of competency in using a variety of equipment and practical skills, including a research project of your own choosing.

■ How will I be taught?

You will be taught in a wide variety of styles by two teachers. There will be some theory lessons, backed up with simulation labs, independent study sessions as well as experimental lab work where you will work in groups or on an individual basis. The subject is taught with a high level of **expertise**, but in an **inclusive, friendly** manner, with the expectation of commitment from you.

Physics is an **experimental** science, and practical skills are taught such as measurement techniques, uncertainty analysis, graphical skills and quantitative evaluative procedures. You will have access to a huge range of technical pieces of apparatus that you can use independently, such as oscilloscopes, high voltage supplies and lasers.

■ Why should I study Physics?

Physics is the most fundamental of the experimental sciences, as it seeks to explain the universe itself from the very smallest particles to the vast distances between galaxies. The Physics Department at TBGS is characterised by **enthusiasm** and a **fascination** for the subject, coupled with a **commitment** to **high-quality** and **effective** teaching. Our aim is for that teaching to bring about **deep learning** for all students and to develop a **curiosity** about the world and universe that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. The skills that students studying Physics at TBGS gain (practical, problem-solving, numeracy, analysis, team work, communication and research), equips them to be able to enter a wide range of professions, not just in physics and engineering, but in finance and journalism, for example.

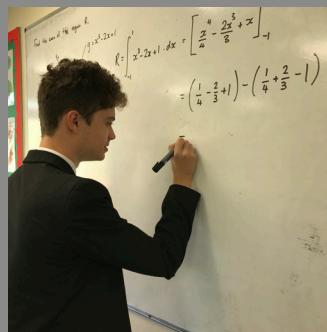
■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mr S Dow sdow@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk

'...covering topics such as Jazz, Pop and Rock, **Musical Theatre** and the **Western Classical Tradition**'



'This course is an **excellent option** for students who wish to **study** a university course which includes a **large mathematical content**'



'An **opportunity** to produce an **extended piece** of work in an area in which they have a **particular interest**'



dare to be

A Level

EXTENSION OPTIONS

■ AS Music

You will listen to, play and compose in a variety of musical styles, covering topics such as Jazz, Pop and Rock, Musical Theatre and the Western Classical Tradition. AS music is taught over two years as a part-time subject. Students take the **opportunity** to perform works from each area of study and to compose using their stylistic conventions. Listening and appraising supports composition and performance, and vice versa, creating variety in each lesson.

You will be assessed through 30% Composing (coursework), 30% Performance (recital), and 40% 'Appraising (exam) covering listening skills, score analysis and contextual awareness.

Music is not just for specialists. It **nurtures** problem-solving, **critical thinking**, teamwork, analysis and research skills, is **highly valued** by top universities in tandem with sciences and humanities. AS Music is a **fantastic** companion to a range of subjects, and really highlights the breadth of your skills to universities and employers.

Contact Mr C Eastman ceastman@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk

■ AS Further Mathematics

The AS-level Further Mathematics is designed for students who have opted to study a single A-level in Mathematics and wish to **extend** their understanding of the subject **further**, without having to dedicate a second A-level option to the subject. This course is an **excellent option** for students who wish to study a university course which includes a large mathematical content. AS-level Further Mathematics consists of a further pure mathematics module and either a decision mathematics module, or further modules in Mechanics or Statistics. Unit examinations take place in the Summer term of Year 13.

Contact Mr C Price cprice@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk

■ Extended Project

The purpose of the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is to provide additional **stretch** and **challenge** by offering students an **opportunity** to produce an extended piece of work in an area in which they have a particular interest. The course allows students to **embark** on largely **self-directed** projects, by taking responsibility for the choice and design of an individual project (or an individual role in a group project). You will need to select a topic, plan, research and implement your project, and produce a written report and presentation at the end.

The EPQ will involve, a common core of lectures, mentoring with the coordinator to identify a viable project, meetings with your chosen supervisor and independent work to complete the project.

The Extended Project Qualification is equivalent to an AS Level. Using a six grade scale from A* to E, it is internally assessed by the teacher supervisor and standardised by the centre coordinator.

Contact Mrs Y Madge ymadge@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



'Volunteering is all about making a **difference** to other people's lives.'



'A final expedition will truly **stretch** your **horizons**'.



"Ancient cultures of Greece and Rome".

dare to be

A Level

EXTENSION OPTIONS

■ GOLD Duke of Edinburgh's Award

To complete the Gold DofE you must volunteer time, take part in a physical activity, learn a skill, complete a residential activity of your choice, as well as taking part in practice and qualifying four-day camping expeditions.

Volunteering is all about **making a difference** to other people's lives. Perhaps you're interested in animals or conservation? Or you might like to work with older people or raise money for a cause that means a lot to you? From teaching children cyber safety, to starting a local recycling campaign, the Volunteering section of your DofE enables you to give your time to help others and change things for the better.

The physical section is a chance for you to focus on your **health and fitness** and have fun along the way. As long as you pick something that requires a sustained level of energy and physical activity, the possibilities are endless. Improve your football, rock climbing or dance skills or try a completely new sport or activity. Join a team or do it on your own. You don't have to be super fit or world class – with the DofE, it's about setting **your own challenges**, giving 100% and being the very best you can be.

The skills section is about **discovering** what you're really good at. Maybe you want to get better at something you already do, like playing a musical instrument, or learn something for the very first time, like how to design a website? By developing practical and social skills and nurturing your personal interests and talents, you'll boost your self-esteem and your CV.

You can choose from a range of residential activities – from helping at a National Trust site in the UK, to working with children in India. You'll spend five days and four nights taking part in a shared, worthwhile activity with people you've never met before. A DofE residential will **boost your independence** and **confidence** and is a great way to leave a **positive footprint** on your life and other people's.

As part of a small expedition team, you'll plan and complete a practice and final expedition that will truly **stretch your horizons**. You'll improve your **communication** and **leadership** skills and take a rucksack full of memories home with you. The school currently offers three opportunities for you to complete expeditions: Dartmoor over October half term, Brecon Beacons in the Easter holidays or Picos De Europa, Spain at the end of the Summer term.

Contact Mr A Brown abrown@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk

■ AS Classics

AS Classics is the perfect choice for anyone who is curious about the **ancient cultures of Greece and Rome** and their impact on the world we live in today! The course is open to everyone, and you do not need any prior knowledge. Come with an **open mind**, and a study of **Classics** will give you a new appreciation and understanding of classical civilisations and their effect on **humanity** today. There will be two modules, spread over 2 years, to make up one AS. We will explore culture, arts, beliefs and ideas of Greece and Rome, looking at visual, material and cultural resources, as well as some literature in translation.

Contact Mr A Brown abrown@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk