

Sixth Form



For students joining the
QM Sixth Form in September 2025.



Queen Margaret's
School for Girls

Escrick Park, York



Sixth Form at Queen Margaret's is a truly unique experience for each girl.

We're a small school. We know our girls individually and we guide them on their own path to success. Our girls gain confidence and independence, and they thrive as valued members of our community.

We put our girls at the heart of everything we do; they leave QM well-rounded, with outstanding A Level results, with places at the country's leading universities, and ready to take the future by storm.

The QM Sixth Form Experience

A Super-Supportive Community

Our girls are part of a very special sisterhood, they create strong bonds and celebrate each other. They receive tailored support from their Personal Tutor, and our Progress, Achievement and Student Support (PASS) Department is on hand for all girls, whatever support they may need.

Growing Independence

Our Sixth Formers enjoy a greater level of independence. They benefit from boarding in our much-loved cottages, with facilities akin to university living. They can manage their time, not only for studying, but for other all-important aspects of teen life, such as driving lessons and to explore the world of part-time work.

An Exceptional Education

QM offers a huge range of A Level and BTEC subjects. The average Sixth Form class size is six and “*teachers know their pupils well*” (Independent Schools Inspectorate, 2024). Our girls are fulfilled by courses which meet their individual interests and ambitions, and as such, they achieve outstanding results.

Skills for Life

Beyond the academic curriculum awaits a fantastic array of enrichment qualifications and activities. Our girls become well-rounded individuals with the skills, life experience and qualities they’ll need to take the future by storm when they leave the Sixth Form.

Confidence for the Future

Whatever their particular ambitions for the future, our girls receive specialist support to prepare them for the next stage of their life after QM. They are guided on UCAS applications, personal statement and CV writing, work experience, career opportunities, and alternatives to university if that’s the path they choose. Our girls leave us as confident young women.



Key Dates

October 2024

Sixth Form Open Day and Subject Fair

November 2024

‘A Day in the Life of a Sixth Former’ Taster Day

December 2024

Provisional Sixth Form Subject Choices

January 2025

Year V Mock Examinations
Year V Parents’ Conference

February 2025

Final Sixth Form Subject Choices

June 2025

GCSE Examinations

August 2025

GCSE Results

September 2025

Sixth Form Courses Begin

Joining the QM Family

Every year we welcome new girls into the Lower Sixth and into the QM Family. Our new girls settle quickly and enjoy every aspect of the QM Sixth Form experience, just as those who’ve been with us since Year I do. Our friendly Admissions Team will guide you through joining QM in the Sixth Form, you can contact them on admissions@queenmargarets.com / 01904 727630.



An Educational Experience Second to None

Our girls are able to choose the perfect combination of subjects for their individual interests and ambitions thanks to our huge range of A Level and BTEC courses. QM girls choose their own path to success and, as a small school, we can create a personalised timetable and give them the exceptional teaching support they need to reach their goals. Classes are small, and relationships with staff are based on trust and mutual respect as our Sixth Formers are treated as adults. Girls are nurtured to become academically capable and confident in a challenging yet supportive environment.

Our girls usually choose three subjects from the following list that they will study for two years. Depending on other commitments, they may choose a fourth subject. There are also a number of one-year study options available in the form of AS and Certificate level qualifications. Detailed information on each subject can be found later in this booklet.

- Art: Fine Art
- Art: Photography
- Art: Graphic Communication
- Art: Textile Design
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Chinese (for native speakers)
- Classical Civilisation
- Classical Greek
- Computer Science
- Drama and Theatre
- Economics
- English Literature
- Extended Project Qualification
- Food Science and Nutrition (Level 3)
- Geography
- History
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- MFL: French
- MFL: Spanish
- Music (A Level and BTEC)
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology

Personal Tutoring Scheme

In the words of The Good Schools Guide, QM's *"very significant USP"* is our Personal Tutoring scheme. Each girl has their own Personal Tutor with whom they meet weekly and who oversees not only their academic progress, but their overall wellbeing too. Personal Tutors act as the main link between school and home; the Sixth Form Tutors are led by Senior Tutor, Claire Nadin. The move to A Level study brings new demands and expectations and our Personal Tutoring scheme ensures that we know each one of our girls individually - they'll never get lost in the crowd.

Progress, Achievement and Student Support

Our Progress, Achievement and Student Support (PASS) Department is on hand to support all our students. For some, this may simply be a continuation of the support they already receive and they may take advantage of regular 'drop-in' opportunities. For others, it may involve weekly individual support lessons with specialist teachers. All girls are screened on entry to the Sixth Form and academic support is tailored to the needs of each individual.

This might include examination access arrangements or weekly drop-in clinics to ensure every girl is able to reach her full potential. Practical support for Sixth Formers is also provided, in the form of supporting students with the transition to university, continuation of education and work.



Scan to hear more about the Sixth Form
at QM from Sixth Form Senior Tutor, Claire Nadin.



Be Part of a Super- Supportive Community

We believe girls are happiest and perform best in an environment that is underpinned by warm-hearted pastoral care. QM's close-knit community feels more like a family, especially in the Sixth Form boarding houses.

Our Bespoke Boarding options mean that we can accommodate the specific needs and preferences of each girl. From one to seven nights a week, with a set routine or something more flexible; whatever works for your family, works for us. Because QM is a small school we can be flexible and create the best individual solution for each student. Day girls are very much part of our boarding community, they have their own space in the boarding houses and feel at home here.

Sixth Form at QM offers a greater degree of independence than boarding lower down the school and helps prepare our girls for life beyond school. Sixth Formers are offered more privileges - in LVI, with the support of house staff, girls take responsibility for planning their time and developing a more independent style of learning and living.

Life in the Upper Sixth at QM is unique. The accommodation and management of boarding in the final year is very different from all other schools. Our girls live in single-study bedrooms in The Cottages; a series of period homes within the school grounds, described by The Good Schools Guide as *"the jewels in QM's boarding crown"*. Girls share their home with a small group of friends. All the kitchens have cooking facilities and provisions are supplied for breakfast but of course, the Dining Hall is also available. Washer-dryers are provided so girls can do their own laundry, and the sitting rooms are equipped with televisions, printers and Wi-Fi. The Cottages provide the perfect transition to life after QM.



Our Sixth Form Boarding Team is led by Housemistress, Lorraine Taylor



Our Girls Pursue their Passions



We see our girls engaging enthusiastically in a range of activities - academic, sport, extracurricular and social. No airs and graces, no frills or make-up, just girls getting stuck in and having fun.

Whether their interests lie in sport, music, drama, dance, debating or adventure, there are chances to shine throughout QM. Being in the Sixth Form opens up many further enrichment opportunities including an enterprise-based business initiative, and the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Upper Sixth brings with it a host of opportunities for students to hone their leadership skills. Roles and responsibilities include Senior Prefects, House Captains, and chances to run one of QM's many clubs, societies or events. Our girls find the confidence to strive for their own success, both in school and beyond; our enrichment qualifications include:

- National Pool Lifeguard Qualification
- LAMDA
- Equine Studies
- Vocational Dance Qualifications

More detail on the above courses can be found later in this booklet.

Sixth Form Privileges

Our Sixth Formers have access to facilities designed specifically for them, such as our brand-new Sixth Form study centre, The 2022 Room, a vibrant place for our girls to study, collaborate and prepare for the modern workplace environment. Sixth Formers also have access to our Cardio Suite.

A particular benefit our Sixth Formers enjoy is that they are not required to wear a uniform. They must, of course, take pride in their appearance and are expected to dress in a manner that is smart/casual, comfortable yet purposeful, and suitable for a school working day. The full Sixth Form Dress Code can be found at the back of this booklet.



Scan to take a look around our brand-new Sixth Form study centre, The 2022 Room.

Confidence for the Future

During the Sixth Form our girls receive specialist support to prepare them for the next stage of their life after QM. They receive regular PSHE and Life Skills lessons which cover important topics and help them develop as well-rounded individuals.

Our girls have access to careers clinics that give them the opportunity to seek advice and guidance throughout their time at the school. They start UCAS applications early with the support of their Personal Tutor, and they attend Higher Education events to gain an understanding of the options available to them after Sixth Form. **Jude Kilburn** and **Andrew Oxtoby**, our **Heads of Higher Education and Careers**, are central to providing our Sixth Formers with all the tools and information they need to establish their next step.

Should a girl wish to explore alternatives to university, apply to a particular university, or if they have particular career ambitions such as Medicine, Law, Music conservatoires or Drama schools, they will be given all the support and direction required to pursue them. Girls are encouraged to apply for work experience opportunities and will be given assistance with this, from references and documentation to help with sourcing placements. If girls are looking to dive straight into the world of work, they'll receive support with everything from application letters and CV writing to interview skills. When girls have specific degree courses or careers in mind, it is important that they choose their A Level subjects wisely to ensure that they fulfil the entry requirements. Further information can be found at ucas.com.

As part of QM's Oxbridge Programme, prospective applicants have the opportunity to attend sessions with current undergraduate and postgraduate students and receive specialist support with their entrance examination, application, personal statement, interview preparation and mock interview practice.

All students have the opportunity to visit a UCAS Discovery Day in LVI to meet with representatives from a range of different universities, courses and pathways and encourage them to explore their horizons. At the beginning of UVI, we hold an Applications Focus Afternoon, where all students have the opportunity to accelerate their applications with the support of key members of staff. Sometimes, we know that girls can be undecided about their future direction, but support and advice are always available.

At QM, we understand that life in the Sixth Form brings with it activities such as university open days, driving lessons, and exploring the world of part-time work, and we do everything we can to support each girl in carefully balancing her academic work with her other commitments.

Besides exceptional A Level results, if a student has a well-written UCAS personal statement, proof of leadership skills and can demonstrate they are an emotionally intelligent and resilient individual, it can make all the difference when it comes to them being accepted for Higher Education courses, coveted degree-level apprenticeships, or for success in the working world. That's the difference a QM education can provide. Our girl-centred approach ensures outstanding results, and A Level results day at QM always means lots of happy girls. Every year we're delighted to see so many going on to their first-choice university course or securing prestigious apprenticeships. QM girls take up places at the country's leading universities and they study a vast range of courses.

Upon finishing their time in the Sixth Form, QM girls become members of the Old Margaretian Association. They very much remain a part of the QM Family and the friendships they make here will last a lifetime. As we look to develop our Careers programme, we are seeking to involve the skills, experience and advice of Old Margaretians more and more to guide our current students as they start out in life.



ART: FINE ART

Fine Art at QM is rooted in drawing and embraces a diverse range of media. There is no house style so students are supported to work to their interests and strengths. From large-scale painting to installation, three-dimensional work to illustration, our artists are taught technical skills and given the freedom to express themselves. Our Fine Artists also benefit from our outstanding facilities including well-lit painting studios, large-scale screen printing equipment, and a kiln.

Course Content

In LVI, students are encouraged to broaden their understanding of Art, shake off any perceived limitations from prior study, and see the full potential of this highly creative subject. We experiment with new media, explore large scales, learn technical skills, and experience the need for creative play. Towards the end of the year students begin their personal projects on a theme of their choice. With guidance from teachers, this project becomes Component 1 and is worth 60% of the final grade.

In UVI, students at QM are given an individual studio space, echoing a university experience, and providing the opportunity for large-scale, three-dimensional and mixed-media work. In this final year, Fine Artists continue to work on their personal projects and write an essay (1,000-3,000 words) to support their practical work. Component 2 is a project set by the exam board and is worth 40% of the final grade. Students work to develop a personal approach to a starting point, culminating in a 15-hour practical examination.

All girls will have the opportunity to participate in life drawing sessions, a traditional and fundamental skill for Fine Artists.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

A GCSE Grade 6, or equivalent, in a creative subject is desirable. We are also keen to see girls' interest in the subject, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“Fine Art A Level gave me the creative space to express my emotions and the freedom to make bold decisions without worrying about the outcome. The supportive teaching at QM gave me the confidence to work intuitively and achieve success.”

Additional Information

With a strong track record of our Fine Art students continuing to Art Foundation and creative degrees, the Art Department is well placed to support students with their applications and portfolios.

Syllabus

AQA

ART: PHOTOGRAPHY

“You do not take a photograph, you make it” (Ansel Adams). In Photography A Level at QM, students learn how to make photographs, getting to grips with every element of a successful image from the technical to the creative. Students are taught how to use manual settings on their camera, manipulate light, control studio setups, organise models, edit using Photoshop, whilst also exploring how an image can creatively convey an atmosphere and a narrative.

Course Content

In LVI, students are taught the technical elements of the camera and studio as well as the tools for digital and physical editing. Mini projects create a structure for this learning whilst also giving some creative ownership to the students. Students also look at the masters of this subject to develop their understanding of the creative power of photography as well as hone visual analysis and discussion skills. Towards the end of the year, students begin their personal projects on a theme of their choice. With guidance from teachers, this project becomes Component 1 and is worth 60% of the final grade.

In UVI, students continue to work on their personal projects and write an essay (1,000-3,000 words) to support their practical work. In UVI, there is scope for personal projects to include film and animation if a student wishes to pursue this direction. Component 2 is a project set by the exam board and is worth 40% of the final grade. Students work to develop a personal approach to a starting point, culminating in a 15-hour practical examination

All girls will have the opportunity to participate in life model sessions, an outstanding opportunity for Photography students to record the human form using their new skills.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

A GCSE Grade 6, or equivalent, in a creative subject is desirable. We are also keen to see girls' interest in the subject, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“I am very grateful for Photography A Level as I have developed creatively and it has definitely prepared me for studying Film at university.”

Additional Information

With a strong track record of our Photography students continuing to Art Foundation and creative degrees, the Art Department is well placed to support students with their applications and portfolios.

A DSLR camera is required for girls studying Photography.

Syllabus

AQA

ART: GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

Studying Graphic Communication at QM brings creativity and technical skill together with commercial awareness. Graphics is 'Art with Purpose', and often this purpose is to promote and sell; although our briefs can be bizarre and fun, think 'hotel on the moon'! Students are taught the skills to be able to communicate a message through image and text, considering how the formal elements of design convey the values of a brand or event. Students will develop work using physical and digital media, often combining both into unique and impactful designs.

Course Content

In LVI, students explore great brands and the campaigns that have impacted society, considering the potential they now have as designers to engage and manipulate their target audience. The early part of the course provides students with a set brief and structures the development of technical skills, whilst towards the end of the year, students begin their personal projects and develop a brief of their choice. With guidance from teachers, this project becomes Component 1 and is worth 60% of the final grade.

In UVI, students continue to work on their personal projects and write an essay (1,000-3,000 words) to support their practical work. In UVI, students are encouraged to engage with a wide range of marketing platforms including website, app and merchandise design. Component 2 is a project set by the exam board and is worth 40% of the final grade. Students work to develop a personal project to a starting point, culminating in a 15-hour practical examination.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

A GCSE Grade 6, or equivalent, in a creative subject is desirable. We are also keen to see girls' interest in the subject, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“Studying Graphics at A Level made me realise that I can make something successful when I work using my own initiative.”

Additional Information

With a strong track record of our Graphic Communication students continuing to Art Foundation and creative degrees, the Art Department is well placed to support students with their applications and portfolios.

Access to an iPad would be of benefit for girls studying A Level Graphic Communication.

Syllabus

AQA

ART: TEXTILE DESIGN

Textile art is one of the oldest forms of art in human civilisation, but here at QM it is constantly reinventing itself and we use a diverse range of media in our work. Students are supported to work in creative ways to fulfil their own interests; from large-scale works to small-scale embroidery; from 3D sculptures to delicate fabrics. Students are taught technical skills and given the freedom to express themselves and their ideas. Our Textile Design students also benefit from our outstanding facilities including well-lit studios, large-scale screen printing equipment and plenty of sewing machines.

Course Content

In LVI, students learn technical skills such as free stitch embroidery, screen printing and heat press processes, as well as working with dyes to create samples. We explore the possibility for three-dimensional work and differing scales, encouraging learning through creative play. Towards the middle of the year, students begin their personal projects on a theme of their choice. With guidance from teachers, this project becomes Component 1 and is worth 60% of the final grade.

In UVI, students are given an individual wall space which provides the opportunity to show large-scale, three-dimensional and mixed-media work in progress. In this final year, they continue to work on their personal projects and write an essay (1,000-3,000 words) to support their practical work. Component 2 is a project set by the exam board and is worth 40% of the final grade. Students work to develop a personal approach to a starting point, culminating in a 15-hour practical examination.

During the course, all girls will have the opportunity to participate in life drawing sessions, a traditional and fundamental skill for all artists.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

A GCSE Grade 6, or equivalent, in a creative subject is desirable. We are also keen to see girls' interest in the subject, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“I love Textiles because it's developed my creativity as well as being really fun.”

Additional Information

With a strong track record of our Textile Design students continuing to Art Foundation and creative degrees, the Art Department is well placed to support students with their applications and portfolios.

Syllabus

AQA

BIOLOGY

Biology is the study of living things. It is important if girls wish to apply for Medicine, Veterinary Science, Nursing or other Biology-related courses. Biology is useful for girls who are considering studying any other Science course at university and it is accepted as a suitable A Level for entry into Humanities and Arts courses.

Course Content

- Cells, Biological Molecules
- Exchange and Transport
- Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease
- Communication, Homeostasis and Energy
- Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems
- Development of Practical Skills in Biology.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

It is advisable that a Grade 7 or above is achieved at GCSE in Biology or Combined Science to study Biology at A Level.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“I really enjoyed Biology and decided to apply for a Biology related degree course!”

“I had the opportunity to do dissections, it was brilliant.”

Additional Information

We encourage Sixth Form students to read *Biological Sciences Review* magazine. Fieldwork trips also form part of the Biology curriculum.

Syllabus

OCR Syllabus A

One-Year Option:

This subject can also be studied at AS Level.

BUSINESS

By taking a holistic approach to the subject, Business A Level demonstrates the interrelated nature of business. We use business models, theories and techniques to support analysis of contemporary business issues and situations to provide a dynamic specification. The content is designed to engage girls through topics and issues that are relevant in today's society – they will study key contemporary developments such as digital technology and business ethics; and globalisation is covered throughout the topics. Girls will develop the knowledge and skills needed to analyse data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions – all skills that are needed for further study and employment.

Course Content

There will be three examination papers assessing the following:

- What is business?
- Managers, leadership and decision making
- Decision making to improve marketing performance
- Decision making to improve operational performance
- Decision making to improve financial performance
- Decision making to improve human resource performance
- Analysing the strategic position of a business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- Managing strategic change.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

Girls do not need to have studied Business at GCSE but they do need to enjoy manipulating and analysing numerical information. A Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics is desirable.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“The most useful subject for the rest of my life.”

“Lessons are about the real world.”

“All jobs are for a business!”

Additional Information

An interest in business is essential. Students are expected to keep up to date with current affairs and read/watch the business news frequently. We liaise with a number of local businesses, external speakers visit the school, and throughout the course girls will be expected to purchase relevant publications (for example *Business Review* magazine) to support their studies.

Syllabus

AQA

One-Year Option:

This subject can also be studied at AS Level.

CHEMISTRY

A Level Chemistry provides girls with the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills, both practical and cognitive, and gives an appreciation of how this branch of Science contributes to the success of the economy and society at large. As well as being an essential subject to study for those wishing to apply for Medicine or Veterinary Sciences, Chemistry can also provide routes into Engineering, Pharmaceuticals, Law and the consumer goods industry.

Course Content

- Development of Practical Skills in Chemistry
- Foundations in Chemistry
- Periodic Table and Energy
- Core Organic Chemistry
- Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements
- Organic Chemistry and Analysis.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

It is advisable that a Grade 7 or above is achieved at GCSE in Chemistry or Combined Science to study Chemistry at A Level.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“Chemistry doesn't mean just sitting and listening; we're always involved in the lesson and do fun practical work!”

“It's not all out of a textbook - I enjoy taking risks!”

“All hands on!”

“Practical work is awesome!”

Additional Information

During the course students will also work towards the Practical Endorsement, essential for any student wishing to pursue a degree in the Sciences. Keeping up to date with topical areas in Chemistry is highly recommended, for example via RSC ChemNet or by reading other media such as *Chemistry Review* magazine. Furthermore, engagement in the RSC UK Chemistry Olympiad is expected.

Syllabus

OCR Syllabus A

One-Year Option:

This subject can also be studied at AS Level.

CHINESE

The Chinese course provides language and cultural studies for both Mandarin and Cantonese students. This one-year A Level choice is currently available to native speakers only, and students are closely guided and supported to prepare and meet exam standards.

Course Content

The A Level course consists of three papers:

- Paper 1 - Listening, Reading and Translation
- Paper 2 - Written response to works and translation
- Paper 3 - Speaking

The main themes included in the course are:

- History of the Chinese community - Chinese families, education and the world of work at different periods
- Chinese traditions and customs - Chinese music, art and festivals in comparison with other cultures
- Development of China and the Chinese society
- Development of the economy and technology in China and its influence on society
- China's Reform and Open Policy - China-UK relations, reform and its impacts on China.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

The successful completion of the GCSE course in Chinese is a prerequisite for continuing with the subject at A Level. An interest in communication and in learning about the culture of the countries where the language is spoken is essential.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“Studying Chinese at QM has been an extremely rewarding experience.”

Syllabus

Edexcel

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

This subject covers a wide range of interesting topics. As girls study them they will acquire and develop writing skills which they will find useful at university. Girls will also have the chance to express and explore their views in lively classroom debates.

Course Content

The A Level includes three papers:

- The World of the Hero - Girls will study the two legendary stories of the opposing heroes of the Trojan war; Odysseus and Aeneas. We learn of their journeys home as they tackle sirens, witches and mythical beasts. As we learn their stories we will also analyse their characters and motivations to discover if they are truly heroes at all.
- Greek Theatre - In this paper, girls will read three powerful and dramatic plays. *Oedipus the King* is regarded as the most perfect example of a tragic play; the magnificent *Bacchae* explores the relationship between gods and men; and in complete contrast, a comedy, *The Frogs*. Girls will learn about the ancient Greek theatre itself, and how and when plays were performed.
- Greek Religion - Girls will study the religion and beliefs of the ancient Greeks, learning the stories of the various gods and goddesses, and also about how these gods impacted on the everyday life of the Greeks.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

Anyone can enjoy this subject: girls do not need to have studied Classical Civilisation at any level before. This course will appeal to those who enjoy discussing the big subjects of life: love, hate, and death.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“It’s fun and fantastic and the jokes are really rude.”

“You learn analytical skills which are useful in other subjects and the modules are all very different, so you get a real variety.”

Additional Information

The Department aims to take girls out to see at least one play and to attend one study day each year.

Syllabus

OCR

CLASSICAL GREEK

Classical Greek is a fascinating subject in its own right. It is an interesting language to study and the literature of the ancient Greeks is among the finest in the world. Greek is highly respected by many universities; very few students have the chance to study this subject so it makes a very distinctive addition to a CV.

Course Content

The A Level includes four papers:

- Unseen Translation (33%) - Girls will continue to develop their language skills learned at GCSE and practise further translation from Greek into English.
- Prose Composition or Comprehension (17%) - Girls will consolidate their knowledge of the Greek language and will have the choice of either answering comprehension questions on a passage of Greek or translating a short paragraph of English into Greek.
- Prose Literature (25%) - Girls will study an extract from the work of Herodotus, the man who invented history. In Book I of his History we read the lively and dramatic account of the life of King Croesus of Lydia, and how he came into conflict with the mighty Persian empire.
- Verse Literature (25%) - Girls will read Book 16 of Homer’s *Iliad*. Here in the midst of the fighting in the Trojan War; Homer describes the tragic death of Patroclus. This masterly depiction of the horror and futility of war still resonates with modern wars in our own time.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

Most candidates have studied Greek successfully at GCSE. However, this is not absolutely necessary for girls who have studied Latin.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“Greek forces you to look at the whole picture, it really trains your mind.”

“The Greeks are just awesome.”

Additional Information

The Department aims to take girls to at least one study day each year.

Syllabus

OCR

COMPUTER SCIENCE

A Level Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply academic principles learnt in the classroom to real-world computerised systems. It is a creative subject that allows students to invent solutions to problems in the natural world, viewed through a digital paradigm. Students will develop an understanding of the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, as well as apply computational thinking techniques to solve problems. This requires innovative, creative, analytical and logical thinking.

Course Content

- Computer Systems component - Students are introduced to: the internal workings of the CPU, how data is exchanged between systems, software development methodologies, data types, and legal and ethical issues
- Algorithms and Programming component - This component builds on the knowledge learnt in the first component and allows students to apply computational thinking to solve problems and develop programmed solutions
- Programming Project component - This is a non-examination assessed project where students will select, analyse, design, develop, evaluate and program a solution to a problem of their own choosing.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

Students would be expected to have completed a GCSE in Computer Science and to have achieved a Grade 6 or above. Students do not need to study A Level Mathematics, however having strong mathematical skills will help them with some of the content of the Computer Science A Level course. Students who have not completed a GCSE Computer Science course must be able to demonstrate their proficiency in programming to be able to take the course.

Additional Information

Girls will require a laptop of their own to work with alongside the school provided computers. The laptop must run one of the following operating systems:

- Mac OS
- Windows
- Linux.

Chromebooks and tablets are not suitable devices for completing the Programming Project component.

Syllabus

OCR H446

One-Year Option:

This subject can also be studied at AS Level.

DRAMA AND THEATRE

Drama and Theatre is concerned with the study of live performance: girls will hone their skills as a theatre maker, as well as analysing theatrical practitioners of the past and present to reach an understanding of what creates great theatre. Girls will develop skills in project management, public speaking, teamwork, creative problem-solving and textual analysis.

Course Content

In LVI, girls study a range of drama styles and techniques that will be applied to their own practical work. They will attend live theatre that will serve as inspiration for their own work and will also be the focus for written evaluations. Girls will complete their first examined unit of study, 'Devising' (40%) in which they will devise a piece of theatre inspired by the working practices of physical theatre company *Frantic Assembly*. This will be supported by a written portfolio, outlining research and development processes.

In UVI, girls complete two more examined units:

- Text in Performance (20%) – As a class, we will explore two play texts which excite and engage us. After participating in several workshops, girls will select a monologue from one text and a group piece from another to perform to a visiting examiner.
- Theatre Makers in Practice (40%) – A written examination which will test girls' understanding of two set texts - *Fences* and *Woyzeck* - as well as a live theatre performance and the practitioner Artaud.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

It is not vital to have studied GCSE Drama but an interest in Drama and Theatre is strongly recommended. Girls must be willing to work with others and be prepared to use their performance skills. Large components of this course include written analysis; teachers will provide support and guidance through this, but girls must be comfortable with writing extended essays.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“I would like to be a lawyer, and am finding that the course has helped me with my presentation and communication skills.”

“It is vital to be able to work well in a team as theatre making is a collaborative process.”

“You must be prepared to ‘have a go’; it’s more fun when you do.”

Additional Information

Students are encouraged to participate in school productions, performances for school events, and assemblies.

Syllabus

Edexcel

ECONOMICS

Economics can be combined with a wide range of other subjects. It gives students two main things: knowledge about how societies solve economic problems, and a set of analytical skills which can be built on and used throughout the rest of their lives.

Course Content

The specification is split into two main sections; the first section introduces students to microeconomic issues and the second section covers mainly macroeconomic issues.

The two themes are assessed via three examination papers:

- Paper 1 - Markets and Market Failure
- Paper 2 - The National and International Economy
- Paper 3 - Economic Principles and Issues.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

Girls do not need to have studied GCSE Economics, but they do need good mathematical skills and must enjoy manipulating and analysing statistical information. A Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics is desirable. Independent study is expected, girls must be keen to follow the news and read newspapers and journals.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“It’s both interesting and informative.”
“The topics are really relevant to everyday life.”

Additional Information

During the course we hear from visiting speakers and organise a field trip. We usually attend an Economic conference for students in London. There are several independent research opportunities, enabling girls to extend their ICT and research skills studying famous economic thinkers and behavioural economics. Throughout the course girls will be required to purchase relevant publications to support their studies.

Syllabus

AQA

One-Year Option:

This subject can also be studied at AS Level.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Studying English Literature is excellent preparation for a range of careers due to its development of interpretative and communication skills. It prepares girls to pursue a wide range of Humanities, Liberal Arts, Languages and Literature courses at university.

Course Content

Girls will study a range of texts covering prose, poetry and drama, ranging from Shakespeare to the present day.

There are three units:

- Love Through the Ages
- Texts in Shared Contexts (Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the Present Day)
- Independent Critical Study: Texts Across Time.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language and English Literature are prerequisites. Girls need to enjoy reading books, poems and plays, and enjoy writing about them.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“English A Level is a great subject. Learning how to analyse a wide range of texts is a challenge, but really rewarding, and effective preparation for English and related subjects at university.”
“Brilliant. I had no idea that you could learn so much by having so much fun.”
“This course has changed my whole outlook. I now want to read English Literature at university.”

Additional Information

Organised trips to theatres and cultural centres such as London, Haworth and Stratford are regarded as part of the course.

Syllabus

AQA Syllabus A

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

The EPQ is worth 50% of a full A Level and offers a valuable chance to study a fourth subject in the Sixth Form. Girls can complete the EPQ alongside their three other subject choices.

The EPQ is an opportunity for girls to extend their abilities beyond the A Level syllabus, stand out, and prepare for university. This is a standalone qualification which allows students to embark on largely self-directed projects.

Course Content

Through taking responsibility for the choice and design of an individual project, girls will:

- Become more critical, reflective and independent learners
- Develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- Increase their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- Learn to apply new technologies confidently
- Demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

The qualification can develop and extend from an area of study and/or from an area of personal interest. It includes a taught element of one timetabled hour per fortnight and so will involve extended autonomous work. The EPQ runs from the start of LVI to September of UVI, ensuring the EPQ is finished before A Level mocks and revision begins. Girls are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- Choose an area of interest
- Draft a title and aims for formal approval by the EPQ Coordinator
- Plan, research and carry out the project
- Deliver a presentation to a specified audience
- Provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment in the form of a Production Log, Assessment Record and Candidate Record Form
- The project product will include a written report and any other evidence, as appropriate, depending on the topic or subject area chosen.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

Intellectual curiosity and motivation along with a self-disciplined and independent approach to learning.

Additional Information

This qualification will enable the learning and transfer of important skills that are valued by Higher Education institutes. The EPQ is the only AS Level qualification that can be awarded an A*.

Syllabus

AQA

FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION (LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA)

An understanding of food science and nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Care providers and nutritionists in hospitals use this knowledge, as do sports coaches and fitness instructors. Hotels and restaurants, food manufacturers and government agencies also use this understanding to develop menus, food products and policies that support healthy eating initiatives. Many employment opportunities within the field of food science and nutrition are available to students who have studied this course.

Course Content

Girls will complete three units: two mandatory and one optional, over two years. The first mandatory unit: **Unit 1 Meeting Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups** will enable students to demonstrate an understanding of the science of food safety, nutrition and nutritional needs in a wide range of contexts, and through ongoing practical sessions, to gain practical skills to produce quality food items which meet the needs of individuals.

The second mandatory unit: **Unit 2 Ensuring Food is Safe to Eat** will allow students to develop their understanding of the science of food safety and hygiene; essential knowledge for anyone involved in food production in the home or wishing to work in the food industry. Again, practical sessions will support the acquisition of theoretical knowledge and ensure learning is a tactile experience.

Studying one of the two optional units; **Unit 3 Experimenting to Solve Food Production Problems** or **Unit 4 Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition** allows the opportunity to study subjects of particular interest or relevance, building on previous learning.

Additional Information

Girls will build on and extend their practical food preparation skills and each unit within the qualification has an applied purpose which acts as a focus for the learning. The applied purpose demands authentic work-related learning in each of the available units. It also requires students to consider how the use and application of their learning impacts on themselves, other individuals, employers, society and the environment.

Units 1 and 2 are assessed through external assessments (examinations). Units 3 and 4 are assessed internally; girls will need to respond to a set assignment brief which will be marked by their teacher and moderated by WJEC.

Syllabus

WJEC

One-Year Option:

Level 3 Certificate in Food Science and Nutrition.

GEOGRAPHY

A dynamic subject that straddles the Arts and Sciences, Geography allows girls to gain an in-depth understanding of the many contemporary issues that face the world in which we live and equips students with a core set of transferable skills.

Course Content

Students will cover both human and physical topics. They will be examined with three final papers and an independent investigation.

The topics include: Tectonic Processes and Hazards; Coastal Landscapes and Change; Globalisation; Regenerating Places; Superpowers; Human Rights and Intervention; Water Insecurity and Energy Insecurity.

Topics will be tested over two papers and then a separate paper will contain three synoptic themes and a resource booklet with information about the chosen geographical issue. 20% of the final qualification will be based on an independent investigation of 3,000-4,000 words from fieldwork undertaken as a group.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

Girls do not need a GCSE in Geography to study the subject at A Level but must have an interest in the world around them and in current affairs. They must also be committed to putting in extra work to develop the skills necessary for success.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“Geography has been really thought-provoking and has helped me to appreciate and understand the global challenges which will be faced by my generation.”

“I’ve really come along in developing my analytical skills and this has helped not only in Geography but also in my other A Level subjects.”

Additional Information

Fieldwork is seen as an integral part of the course and it will also form the basis of data collection for the independent investigation. Day trips to both rural and urban locations are undertaken. The cost of fieldwork across the two years would be no more than £120.

Syllabus

Edexcel

HISTORY

History teaches students about people and societies of the past, but just as importantly, it will equip them with the skills necessary for success in many Higher Education courses and in future careers. For example, it will help them to think critically and to argue and reason from evidence. Francis Bacon observed that “Histories make men wise”.

Course Content

There are four key components:

- A breadth study unit on Germany from 1919-63 - As well as essay skills, the unit assesses students' ability to compare the impact of important events from the period.
- A study of The Tudors from Henry VII to Mary - Essay skills are tested again, as is the ability to use source material to make conclusions about the past.
- An in-depth study on Civil Rights in the USA from 1865-1968, this unit will look at four key groups; African-Americans, Women, Native Americans and Trade Unions. Girls will once again be assessed on their essay skills as well as evaluating historical interpretations.
- A coursework unit on a topic of the students' choosing - Using source material from the time, as well as works of key historians, girls will need to independently research a question of their choice and then write an essay of 3,500 words with guidance from their teacher.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

No specific content knowledge is required, but girls who have not completed GCSE History will need to be committed to putting in extra work to develop the skills necessary for success in the subject. All girls must enjoy reading, and whilst the Department employs a range of teaching strategies to deliver content in a stimulating way, assessment is exclusively through extended writing and challenging analysis of source material.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“I have learnt some great research techniques and the ability to analyse and question, which will help me at university.”

Additional Information

The Department offers a trip to Fountains Abbey, where girls work with National Trust educators to complete historical research on the dissolution of the monasteries. International trips are also organised.

Syllabus

OCR

One-Year Option:

This subject can also be studied at AS Level.

LATIN

Latin enriches any combination of A Level subjects, and is respected by universities. Students learn more about the magnificent literature of the Romans and about how languages really work. As they develop their translation skills, girls will also improve their own powers of analysis and expression.

Course Content

The A Level includes four papers:

- Unseen Translation (33%) - Students will continue to develop the language skills learned at GCSE and practise further translation from Latin into English.
- Prose Composition or Comprehension (17%) - Students will consolidate their knowledge of the Latin language and will have the choice of either answering comprehension questions on a passage of Latin or translating a short paragraph of English into Latin.
- Prose Literature (25%) – We read a dramatic and fast-paced speech written by Cicero, the greatest Roman barrister. In a sensational case, Cicero defends his client Marcus Caelius, who has been falsely accused of poisoning his ex-girlfriend - the rich and fashionable lady, Clodia. This scandalous trial shook Roman society, and makes the Rebekah Vardy case look distinctly tame.
- Verse Literature (25%) – This year we are fortunate enough to read Book II of the Aeneid, the climax to the story of the Trojan War. The Greeks have apparently sailed away from Troy in despair, and the Trojans emerge from their city in relief, only to find that things are not what they seem. This is a chance to read some of the finest passages from the greatest Latin poem ever written.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

Girls will need to have studied Latin at GCSE.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“I enjoy the logic behind it.”

“It is really interesting and helps you with other languages.”

Additional Information

The Department aims to take students out to at least one study day each year.

Syllabus

OCR

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is a rich and fascinating subject in its own right. However, it also provides an important background to the study of many other subject areas. The study of Mathematics will help students to explore and analyse a variety of problems, and use powerful techniques to solve them.

Course Content

This course consists of three papers:

- Pure Mathematics 1
- Pure Mathematics 2
- Statistics and Mechanics.

Pure Mathematics can be thought of as a Mathematician's toolbox - the techniques that are needed to go about solving real-life problems. This will involve improving algebra and trigonometry beyond all recognition, as well as introducing new and very important ideas such as logarithms and calculus.

Mechanics is the study of forces and objects either in motion or in equilibrium, and is therefore of relevance to many practical situations. Statistics involves gathering, processing and interpreting data, and the study of probability theory.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

It is advisable to have at least a Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics. Girls should enjoy the challenge of problem-solving, and not worry about getting stuck from time to time. Resilience and perseverance are very useful qualities.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“The techniques you learn in Mathematics really help in other A Level subjects.”

“It has made me develop a creative approach to problem-solving.”

“There are lots of resources available and the teachers are very supportive.”

Additional Information

All Sixth Form Mathematics students take part in the UKMT Senior Challenge.

Syllabus

Edexcel

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Further Mathematics is recommended for able Mathematicians who enjoy their Mathematics and want to study each area in more detail. We also recommend this course to students who want to study Mathematics in some form in Higher Education, and to those thinking of applying for Mathematics, Science or ICT-based courses at Oxbridge.

Course Content

This course consists of four papers:

- Core Pure Mathematics 1
- Core Pure Mathematics 2
- Option 1
- Option 2.

Girls must also be taking the Mathematics A Level in order to take the Further Mathematics A Level. Core Pure Mathematics explores wider themes within Pure Mathematics, as well as taking familiar concepts to a much deeper level. There are two optional papers. Currently we study Decision Mathematics 1 for Option 1 and Further Mechanics 1 for Option 2.

Decision Mathematics is the study of algorithms (the systematic use of mathematical processes) and their application to problem solving. It is a recently developed area of Mathematics, designed to solve modern world problems, such as finding the shortest route a snow plough can take to cover a road network or the most efficient way to organise complex tasks, such as cooking Christmas dinner.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

It is advisable to have at least a Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics. Girls should be passionate about Mathematics, as they will be doing a great deal of it, and relish the challenge of problem-solving.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“I have greatly expanded my Mathematical knowledge and explored its applications in the real world.”
“Mathematics is its own language and I am developing my communication skills.”

Syllabus

Edexcel

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

France is our closest continental neighbour and Europe's most popular holiday destination. A knowledge of French is therefore useful both in the business and commercial world and practical when visiting France. Further study of the language will open the doors to an exciting cultural world of literature, cinema and art.

Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world and proficiency in a foreign language is highly valued by employers. Not only does it develop communication skills but also heightens cultural awareness of the Spanish-speaking world.

Course Content

These courses cover the following areas:

- Social Issues and Trends
- Political and Artistic Culture
- A Literary Text and a Film
- Individual Research Project
- Grammar.

The examinations consist of the following components:

Paper 1 - Listening, Reading, Writing

Paper 2 - Writing

Paper 3 - Speaking

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

The successful completion of the GCSE course in French or Spanish is a prerequisite for continuing with the subjects at A Level. A Grade 6 in French or Spanish is desirable. An interest in communication and in learning about the culture of the countries is essential.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“Taking a language has given me the skills to communicate with people from different nationalities and express my ideas.”

Additional Information

Girls studying Modern Foreign Languages at A Level will have weekly conversation classes. They are encouraged to watch some of the best foreign films and series and are advised to take part in a study visit to France or Spain. Girls will attend language-related events, and books and outings may amount to around £100.

Syllabuses

AQA

MUSIC

Not only will all areas of a girl's musical abilities be enhanced but skills including research, written and visual communication, analytical essay writing, performance and creativity, historical insight, IT and problem-solving skills will also be developed. These skills are highly valued by universities, whether girls go on to study a Music degree or any other humanities or creative subjects.

Course Content

- Performing Option A (35%) - 10-12 minute performance with a minimum of three pieces including at least one solo
- Performing Option B (25%) - 6-8 minute performance with a minimum of two pieces as a soloist or ensemble
- Composing Option A (25%) - Two compositions, lasting 4-6 minutes, one to be in response to a brief set by the Board
- Composing Option B (35%) - Three compositions, lasting 8 -10 minutes, one to be in response to a brief set by the Board. The second must reflect the musical characteristics of one different area of study. The third is a free composition
- Appraising (40%) - A written and listening examination testing aural analysis, historical and contextual understanding and detailed knowledge of three set works by Haydn, Debussy and Poulenc. The Western Classical Tradition is studied via the development of the Symphony and a range of 20th century genres are also studied. An elective area of study is also chosen from Rock and Pop, Musical Theatre or Jazz.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

A good grade in GCSE Music and/or ABRSM Grade 5 Theory and the ability to perform on at least one instrument to ABRSM Grade 5/6 level.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“Music combines serious academic study with something I am passionate about - it's a perfect combination.”

Additional Information

Queen Margaret's has a vibrant Music community and as A Level musicians, girls will have the opportunity to attend external professional performances, take part in masterclasses, concerts, productions and recordings. Girls will not only have access to individualised academic support but also to répétiteur sessions with our Head of Keyboard Studies. The Department offers a tailored support programme to vocational musicians who wish to study at conservatoire with past students attending the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music. We also have a strong history of students who have gone on to study academic Music degrees in highly regarded universities.

Syllabus

WJEC – Eduqas

MUSIC (BTEC)

National Extended Certificate in Music Performance

The course sees students develop as musicians with a holistic approach, enriching practical musicianship, theoretical knowledge, industry performance practices and ensemble skills. The course imparts cross-curricular skills such as presentation skills, problem-solving and critical thinking. This prepares students in conducting research projects, case studies and analytical writing - all common assessment methods encountered on any undergraduate course.

Course Content

Three compulsory units and one optional unit as follows:

- Unit 1 - Practical Music Theory and Harmony

An internally assessed unit in which students must demonstrate in-depth understanding of music notation, foundations of harmony and cadences for composing/arranging and command of musical elements demonstrated by research, reports, presentations and practical demonstrations.

- Unit 2 - Professional Practice in the Music Industry

An externally assessed unit in which students study professional practice, financial planning, bid and funding processes, networking, marketing and events/project management via a documented performance event, community project or creative enterprise.

- Unit 3 - Ensemble Music Performance

An externally assessed unit in which students must collaborate and direct the preparation of a performance recital consisting of bespoke arrangements in response to creative briefs. They will demonstrate and learn rehearsal skills, arrangement techniques and performance skills in an end-to-end documented process towards the final recital recording.

- Unit 4 (Optional) - Composing Music or Solo Performance

Students will choose from two options in this internally assessed unit. For composers, this will very naturally build on the skills learned at GCSE where students will develop and prepare a composition portfolio demonstrating mature stylistic techniques. Performers will prepare a short recital that demonstrates an understanding of practice, concert planning and performance.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

A good grade in GCSE Music and/or ABRSM Grade 5 Theory and the ability to perform on at least one instrument to ABRSM Grade 3/4 level.

Views from Sixth Form

“Hearing my own arrangements performed professionally is something I will never forget, I am grateful for the confidence that learning to perform and growing academically has given me”

Additional Information

Trips, performance opportunities, concerts and individual music lessons are all expected to holistically enrich our music students to the benefit of the course.

Syllabus

Edexcel

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This qualification addresses contemporary topics and increases understanding of the factors that affect performance and participation in sport. It can also lead to a range of future degree courses, from Sports Marketing to Psychology, and to careers as diverse as Physiotherapy and Events Management.

Course Content

Studying A Level Physical Education will enable students to become well-rounded academic individuals in the world of PE, Sport and Sports Science. Topics include:

- Cardiovascular, respiratory, neuromuscular and musculoskeletal systems
- Skill acquisition and the principles and theories of learning
- Sport in the 21st century and the impact of sport on society
- Diet and nutrition
- Training methods
- Biomechanical principles
- Psychological influences and effects on the individual and team
- The role of technology in sport and physical activity.

There are two written examinations and an assessment. Paper 1 (35%) - Section A: Applied Anatomy and Physiology; Section B: Skill Acquisition; Section C: Sport and Society. Paper 2 (35%) - Section A: Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics; Section B: Sport Psychology; Section C: Sport and Society and Technology in Sport. Non-examined assessment (30%) - Practical performance in one sport and written/verbal analysis.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

A good grade in GCSE Physical Education would be advantageous, but is not essential. The practical aspect of the course equates to 30% of the overall grade and therefore a good level of experience and sporting ability would be beneficial.

Additional Information

All girls are strongly encouraged to read around the topic of sport and actively follow sport within the media. Previously, A Level Physical Education students have also completed the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (further details of this course can be found at the back of this booklet).

Syllabus

AQA

PHYSICS

Physics will open the door to a wide range of careers - from law to cosmology, and from business to medicine. It can truly be the key to your future. The skills developed, coupled with the ability to draw logical conclusions, give students a very powerful set of tools that can be developed and used for the rest of their lives.

Course Content

- Developing Practical Skills
- Foundations of Physics
- Forces and Motion
- Electrons, Waves and Photons
- Newtonian World and Astrophysics
- Particles and Medical Physics.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

It is advisable that a Grade 7 or above is achieved at GCSE in Physics or Combined Science, and Mathematics to study Physics at A Level.

Views from the Sixth Form at QM

“I love the fact that doing Physics A Level means I know things that most people don’t.”

“It’s eye-opening and the concepts we learn about are actually really interesting.”

Additional Information

The course uses practical work and multimedia simulation to describe and explain the sometimes abstract concepts involved. Students will also attend topical lectures and visit university Physics Departments. All students are strongly encouraged to read *Physics Review* magazine regularly.

Syllabus

OCR syllabus A

One-Year Option:

This subject can also be studied at AS Level.

POLITICS

Politics identifies how governments work and how people interact with their political system. We examine the political systems in the UK and the USA at a period where both systems appear to be under considerable pressure. The course identifies where power lies, as well as how we, as individuals, can shape political decisions and examine the different ideological traditions which shape most of our political parties today.

Course Content

The course has three components:

- Component 1 - UK Politics and Core Political Ideas - Examining how politics functions in the UK and how we can affect politics. We start by looking at the concept of democracy (direct versus representative), elections and referendums. We examine the different electoral systems in the UK and how individuals can become politically active through pressure groups. We will look at the main political parties in the UK, as well as the main ideological traditions which have shaped these parties - Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism.
- Component 2 - UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas - We will look at where power lies in the UK and examine the UK Constitution, whilst exploring the debate about whether it is fit for purpose. We examine the three branches of government - the Legislature (Parliament), the Executive (Prime Minister and Government) and the Judiciary (Supreme Court). Finally, we study one non-core political ideology - Feminism.
- Component 3 - Government and Politics in the USA and Comparative Approaches - We examine the politics of the USA and study the same topics we have examined in Components 1 and 2. As we do this, we will compare the similarities and differences between the UK and USA political systems.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

No specific content knowledge is required, but students need a good standard of written English because of the essay-based nature of the subject. The course is well suited to students who enjoy reading and have the commitment to keeping up to date with often rapidly-changing political events. The Department employs a range of teaching strategies to deliver content in a stimulating way. Assessment is exclusively through extended writing and challenging analysis of source material.

Additional Information

The Department offers a trip to London, either to Parliament or to a Politics conference, and organises international visits.

Syllabus

Edexcel

One-Year Option:

This subject can also be studied at AS Level.

PSYCHOLOGY

Have you ever wondered if the experiences you had before the age of five really do shape the person you are today? Psychology gives students an understanding of the way people think and why people behave in certain ways. They will learn a variety of skills including analytical thinking, improved communication, problem-solving and many more.

Course Content

The A Level includes three written examinations:

- Introductory Topics in Psychology - Social Influence, Attachment, Memory, Psychopathology
- Psychology in Context - Approaches in Psychology, Research Methods, Biopsychology
- Issues and Options in Psychology - Issues and Debates in Psychology, Schizophrenia, Relationships, and Forensic Psychology.

Girls will be studying human behaviour as well as developing their analytical skills. They will have the opportunity to take part in debates, analyse behaviour, and understand the way the brain works, as well as finding an explanation for why we behave in a certain way. A feature of the Psychology A Level course is that candidates must be able to demonstrate their knowledge of psychological principles, terminology, concepts, empirical research and psychological methods in relation to the main topic areas. In addition, girls must develop an ability to question the theoretical and methodological approaches upon which they are based.

What Prior Knowledge is Required?

Psychology is a diverse subject that can be thought of as the scientific study of animal (human and non-human) behaviour and cognitions (information processing). No specific content knowledge is required but girls need to be committed to putting in extra work to develop the necessary skills for success in Psychology. A basic understanding of Mathematics would be an advantage.

Additional Information

Students will have the opportunity to attend a Psychology Brain Day where they will be able to learn about cutting-edge research in neuroscience from a leading expert.

Syllabus

AQA

One-Year Option:

This subject can also be studied at AS Level.

EXTENDING THE CURRICULUM

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Queen Margaret's offers international students the traditional British boarding experience with the academic rigour and supportive environment that will prepare them for their next step.

With students representing 14 different nationalities, our international girls integrate extremely well and build lifelong friendships. QM has its own International Coordinator who lives onsite and plays a key role in helping our international girls to settle in well and feel at home. As part of the enrichment programme, girls can be part of the International Council that organises events throughout the year for the whole QM Family to celebrate many cultural festivals.

The historic City of York is just minutes away, and on weekends girls have the opportunity to experience theatres, art galleries, cinemas, shopping, a variety of museums and the famous city walls that date from the 12th century. Within Yorkshire, girls can experience beautiful British landscapes including coastline and three national parks. London and Edinburgh are just two hours away by direct train.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

If English is not a girl's first language, they will be assessed by our expert English as an Additional Language teachers on joining QM. The non-UK/EEA full boarding fee includes EAL support (as well as routine weekend activities and the services of a counsellor to support our overseas girls both pastorally and academically). Provision is made for girls to study for examinations in their native language where this is desired, and many of our international girls take both GCSE and A Level examinations in their own language.

To enhance Higher Education applications, our international students who wish to apply for university in the UK and who do not have GCSE English Language at the required grade will be given the opportunity to study for a qualification in English as an Additional Language (such as IELTS) in addition to their A Level programme. Conversation Club is also available and open to all.

PSHE

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) education is a subject through which students develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society.

From making responsible decisions about alcohol to succeeding in their first job, PSHE helps students manage many of the most critical opportunities, challenges and responsibilities they will face growing up.

PSHE in the Sixth Form aims to revisit topics covered in previous years with the intention of building on the knowledge and experiences gained, and covering topics in greater depth and relevance. The programme helps to support our girls on their journey to independence.

The PSHE programme aims to develop skills and attributes such as resilience, self-esteem, risk-management, teamwork and critical thinking in the context of three core themes: Health and Wellbeing, Relationships, and Living in the Wider World (including economic wellbeing and aspects of careers education). The girls have opportunities throughout Sixth Form to learn and develop the skills increasingly valued by employers. The Relationships and Health aspects of PSHE education became compulsory in all schools from 2020.

At QM, PSHE links with the provision of Careers, Higher Education and Life Skills for the girls. It works in conjunction with these topics and the wider curriculum to provide a well-rounded education for the girls and to support them in their preparations for their life beyond QM.

Example Programme

LVI

- Health and Wellbeing
- Personal Finances
- Safety and Diversity
- Drugs and Risk
- Positive Wellbeing and Careers.

UVI

- Emotional Wellbeing
- Personal Finance
- Relationship and Sex Education
- Drugs and Risk.

EQUINE STUDIES

An Equine Studies option will consist of a bespoke programme for students based on their experience and future aspirations. Girls interested in exploring this option should speak to their Senior Tutor or to the Admissions Team.

LIFE SKILLS

Life Skills has been designed to complement the academic curriculum by providing girls with the opportunity to learn key life skills which they can use both whilst they are at QM and beyond.

This programme runs throughout Sixth Form, providing girls with a well-rounded and detailed schedule of learning containing key transferable skills.

Girls have the opportunity to sign up to three different Life Skills classes each year and spend a term developing their skills and knowledge in each area. As each girl has the opportunity to choose their own sessions, it means each programme is bespoke to the individual and their needs.

Some examples of the sessions offered include:

- Cooking at University
- Future Learn Courses
- Spanish for Beginners
- Car and Household Maintenance
- Personal Finance and Budgeting
- Academic Writing
- CV and Interview Skills
- First Aid (Basic Course)
- IT Skills
- Touch Typing.

This programme is not examined or assessed and is designed with the sole purpose of developing life skills.

ROYAL LIFESAVING SOCIETY: NATIONAL POOL LIFEGUARD QUALIFICATION

From pool rescues and CPR to customer service skills, students will learn skills during the NPLQ course that they can use throughout their life.

This course gives the opportunity to progress to a career within the Leisure industry. Indeed, most Leisure Managers start off as pool lifeguards. Girls work as part of a team and, as the NPLQ is recognised around the world, there is potential to work and travel. Finally, the NPLQ course will provide essential life skills, including first aid. The course must run for a minimum of 38.5 hours. This qualification is regulated by Ofqual, it is subject to sufficient interest and pool availability.

LAMDA

The process of preparing for and succeeding in LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) examinations helps girls develop a broad range of skills that will serve them through life, whatever their ages or aspirations.

Examinations develop a student's ability to:

- Read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- Expand vocabulary to improve powers of self-expression
- Improve confidence in speaking and listening
- Memorise and recall information
- Research and create persuasive formal presentations
- Create and defend arguments
- Engage in constructive informal conversation
- Work both alone and as a member of a team.

LAMDA qualifications on offer include; Acting, Speaking in Public, and Speaking Verse and Prose.

Girls choose to study LAMDA at QM to build confidence, to support and develop their debating skills, to support their training in Performing Arts, to develop their public speaking skills, to develop techniques for their IELTS examinations, and as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. As a recognised qualification worldwide, girls also study LAMDA to develop their communication and soft skills for their future careers.

The LAMDA qualification takes approximately 12 hours of one-to-one teaching and the willingness to work independently outside of lessons.

DANCE

Vocational Dance Qualifications can be taken following the syllabuses of The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) - Ballet, Cecchetti Association - Ballet, and The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance (ISTD) - Modern and Tap dance. These are awarded UCAS points and develop skills not only in dance technique and performance but in personal discipline, timekeeping and organisational skills. Freestyle Hip Hop and Jazz and Contemporary dance classes are also available.



Scan to view our full enrichment programme.

SIXTH FORM DRESS CODE

Sixth Formers are not required to wear a uniform but they must take pride in their appearance. They are expected to dress in a manner that is smart/casual, comfortable yet purposeful, and suitable for a school working day.

Guidelines:

- Clean footwear - trainer type shoes allowed but no sport trainers or sliders*
- No frayed or ripped clothes, or holes in clothes
- Smart denim jeans are acceptable
- No jogging bottoms/loungewear**
- Skirts must be of an appropriate length
- Appropriate tops (eg shirts, jumpers, roll-necks, cardigans, smarter jumpers) and no bare midriff showing
- In Chapel - respectable dress - shoulders should be covered. Appropriate wear if cold eg jackets/blazers/ jumpers/cardigans - no outdoor coats
- Light make-up, if any
- Piercings - ear piercing and one discreet side nose stud allowed. Other piercings should not be visible during the school day
- Sportswear is not appropriate for academic lessons.

Please note:

For Open Days, end-of-term services, concerts, confirmations, tours and generally when representing QM whether at school or elsewhere: All Sixth Formers should have a smarter outfit, for example a tailored jacket/blazer or smart cardigan, jumper, tailored shirt, smart skirt/trousers/dress and suitable footwear.


*All students should have a 'non-trainer' pair of shoes/boots in school.

**Casual clothes and loungewear can be worn in the boarding house when not in lessons.

Sixth Formers are regarded as role models for students lower down the school and their appearance should reflect this.



The courses outlined in this Sixth Form Prospectus will run providing there is sufficient demand. The exam boards referenced may make changes to a subject syllabus before a course begins.



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